Date: 7/1/17

Title: Liberty and Justice for All

Theme: Jesus died to set us free from sin.

Object: Flag, Firecracker, Cross.

Text: John 8:36 (NKJV) Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Who knows what holiday we’re celebrating this weekend?

The 4th of July comes on Tuesday this year, and it is a very important day in the history of our country.

Every year on July 4th, we celebrate the birthday of our country.

It is called Independence Day. It is the day our country declared its independence from Great Britain.

Great Britain is a country way across the Atlantic Ocean, and when people first came to live in America, they formed colonies in 13 different states.

And Great Britain claimed that these colonies belonged to them, and that we had to obey their king and pay the taxes that the king said we had to pay.

After a while, the people living here in America didn’t want to obey the king of Gr. Britain anymore, and they were sick of paying taxes to him.

So the 13 colonies got together and declared themselves free from the king of Gr. Britain.

On July 4th in 1776, they voted to accept the Declaration of Independence.

On that day (July 4, 1776), the United States of America was established as a free and independent country, where we don’t have to obey the king of Gr. Britain or pay him taxes.

This year, on July 4th, our country will be 241 years old.

Today, everyone is happy that we can live in a free country, we can make our own laws, and we can be free from the king.

Now on the 4th of July, you will see some things that remind us of our freedoms.

I have brought some of these reminders in my bag today.

[Flag, Firecracker, Sparklers, Glow Stick, Stars and Stripes Forever …]

It is a wonderful thing to live in a free country like ours.

I hope we always remember to thank God for the freedoms we enjoy in this great country He has given us.

But you know the Bible talks about something even better than living in a free country like ours.

The Bible tells us that someday, if we love God and trust in Jesus, we can live in the Kingdom of God.

It is like a giant country where Jesus is the King.

And someday, God is going to set up this kingdom right here on the earth.

In God’s kingdom we’re going to be free.

We’ll be free from all the things that make life difficult now.

There will be no more sorrow, no more pain, no more disease, no more death, no more old age, no more wars, no more bad people, no more killing, no more stealing, no more hate, no more sin.

Remember what our Bible verse said today? “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

Just like we have symbols for our country, God has a symbol for His kingdom. Would you like to see it?

[Show cross]

This is what it took to forgive our sins and make us free.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins so when we say we’re sorry, He can forgive us.

The only way we can get into God’s Kingdom is to love Jesus and ask Him to forgive our sins.

Would you like to be free to live in God’s Kingdom today? (I sure would!)

Let’s tell Jesus we love Him and ask Him to save us a place to live in His Kingdom.