

Game: **Breaking Chains**

Discussion: **The bondage of sin**

Scripture : **Romans 6:6-7**

YOU WILL NEED: *Colored paper slips about 1 inch by 6-8 inches with which to make paper chains, pencil or crayons, and glue or tape.*

*(NOTE: The activity below is great for children of all ages. However, the discussion given below is intended for older children although it could be adapted for younger ones as well by discussing how to keep away from sin-i.e., how not to get "trapped" by sin.)*

### **Breaking Chains**

*Give every child in your class several slips or paper. Ask them to write on it things that they have done wrong. (You can expand this to have them write any sin also.) Then have them loop and glue or tape their paper slips together to make a chain that is long enough to wrap around your whole class.*

**ASK: What are some sins that you wrote down?**

**ASK: Why do you think people do wrong things?** (We have all sinned and we are all born with a "sin nature." In other words, we were all born with a tendency to do wrong things.)

*Have your class stand in a circle. Take the paper chain you have made and wrap it around your students. Have them slip their hands inside the loops or twist them around their arms, but tell them to be careful not to break it.*

**SAY:** Just like you are tied up in this chain, sin is a bondage and a trap that will always bring pain and death. But the problem is, you can't set yourself free from sin. Only Jesus can set you free. On the count of three, say, "Only Jesus can set me free from sin."  
Practice once. Then tell them after they say it to break the chain.

*Have them throw the paper chain away and return to the circle.*

**SAY:** We ruined the chain we made. Don't let sin ruin the life God has made for you. Only Jesus can wipe your sins away. That's why He died and rose again, to make a way to take your sins away and to set you free from sin.

### **Read Romans 6:6-7 from your Bible**

**ASK: Who do you think the "old man" is?** (This is talking about your sin nature. When you give your life to Jesus, the Bible calls your "new" Christ-like nature, the "new man." Your tendency to sin is the "old man.")

**ASK: What happened to your "old man"?** (You old nature was crucified with Jesus and since it is dead, you are free from sin. Now, this doesn't mean that you won't struggle with temptations or sin, but it does mean that you now have "new" desires that will guide you to be like Christ. )

