



Laugh Your Way out of Prison Michael Jr.

Focus We need Jesus, but we may not feel worthy enough to invite Him into our lives. Be assured that Jesus wants to have a relationship with us. When we come to Him to repent, we are cleansed, forgiven, and loved for all of our days. That is something to rejoice about!

Fun The Bible tells us that a joyful heart is good medicine (Proverbs 17:22). What have you belly laughed about lately?

Review Key Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1–3

1. The Right Place

Sometimes we are in a place where we do not know what to say or do, yet it is the right place. When this happens, we can ask Jesus to show us the way, and He will guide us to the Father. When we listen to His voice, He can do amazing things for us and through us.

2. Our Purpose

When we are walking toward our purpose, God can either open doors or keep them shut tight. When we ask Jesus to come into our lives, He opens the doors we are meant to go through and directs our path. He brings us great joy.

3. Our Relationship with Jesus

Sometimes we keep Jesus outside when He is asking to come into our lives. We may feel that our lives are too messy for Him to come in, or we may feel that other people in our lives can help clean up our messes, but only Jesus can. Some may even have begun a relationship with Jesus, but He no longer holds an important place in their lives. Here is the key—when we give Jesus full access, the right doors open and we come to know true happiness.

Group Dynamics Idea Life brings with it many humorous experiences that often teach us a greater truth. Share a truth you have learned from a laughable situation.

Discuss

1. Read Isaiah 61:1–3. Who are these verses talking about?
2. In today's message, Michael Jr. spoke of the "good room," a place in a home that is only used occasionally and kept tidy for appearance's sake. Did you or a family member ever have a good room in your home? What was it used for? Was it used often?
3. We all have skills, talents, and abilities given to us by God. Has there ever been a time when you felt blocked from using them? How did you feel?
4. Have you ever felt a shift in your circumstance when a door suddenly opened that was once closed to you? If so, please explain how it enabled you to use your skills, talents, or abilities?
5. After we invite Jesus into our lives, His Helper, the Holy Spirit dwells within us. If you are comfortable doing so, share what you would like the Holy Spirit to do in your life.
6. Take a quiet moment to come before God. If you have not invited Jesus into your life, you can pray: Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son to take my penalty for sin. I believe that Jesus died, rose again, and is alive today. I give You full access to my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- Jesus wants a real relationship with us.
- We need to give Him full access to our lives.
- When we give Jesus full access, we find great joy.

Prayer

Lord, I want to have a deep, continuing relationship with You. Help me stay focused and be faithful to Your call. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip As a new semester approaches, make sure that those who might want to join your group know the day you are beginning, the time, and the place where you will be meeting, plus any other pertinent information they need to have. If appropriate, encourage them to bring a friend.