

GOD IS OUR RESCUER

STORY: REDEMPTION / YEAR: VALUE

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS OUR RESCUER

1 Samuel 2:8-9; Psalm 3:8; 35:10; 91:1-6; Isaiah 43:1-5; 45:21-22; Ephesians 1:7

BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 19:10

“For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin takes us captive.
- We cannot rescue ourselves.
- God is the only one who can rescue us from sin.
- God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

BIBLE STORY: 2 KINGS 19

King Hezekiah was a king who sought to obey and please God. He ruled the Israelites when the Israelites were under the siege of the Assyrians. The Assyrian king did not follow the true God. Hezekiah knew he could not save the Israelites by himself. Only God could rescue them from the Assyrians. Only God can rescue us from our sin. He is our Rescuer.

STORY: REDEMPTION

Thankfully, God does not just leave us in the broken world, but is repairing the brokenness through His Son. From the very beginning of time, God promised He would fix creation, and He kept His promise by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to live on the earth and willingly died on the cross so that sin’s power over creation would be broken forever.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God has provided a rescue plan for us through Jesus



Every child should feel:

- A desperate need to be rescued from sin and death



Every child should:

- Remember that God proved He is more powerful than sin and death through Jesus



Every child should want:

- To be rescued by Jesus who is our Savior

FAMILY DEVOTION: JESUS TO THE RESCUE

We are all sinful and separated from God. We cannot save ourselves. There’s nothing we can do to help ourselves. Jesus came to our rescue. He gave His life for our sin so that we might be saved. He is our Rescuer.



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BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 19:10

“For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Every person is in need of a rescuer.

- We are all sinful.
- We all have a sin nature and we rebel against God.
- There is no person besides Jesus who is without sin.
- We are all separated from God and in need of someone to save us.
- Zacchaeus was separated from God because he was a sinner.
- He needed Jesus to rescue him. He could not save himself.

God sent Jesus to rescue the world.

- Jesus became a man to be like all people.
- Mankind owes a sin debt to God because of our sinful hearts.
- In order for God to forgive our sin debt, there had to be a sinless man as a sacrifice.
- Only Jesus could be that sacrifice and He became that for all people .
- Jesus became the Son of Man so He could be like us in nature, but without sinning.
- Because He lived a perfect life, He could pay our sin debt.
- God saw the death of Jesus as a good payment for our sin.
- Jesus came to rescue us because we could not rescue ourselves.
- He died on the cross to pay our sin debt so that we could be reconciled to God.
- He is our Rescuer.

BIBLE STORY: 2 KINGS 19

King Hezekiah Trusts God

Opening Illustration:

Use craft sticks or small wooden dowels to create a scepter. Cut a crown out of cardstock and connect the ends and then attach it to the top of the scepter. Before attaching it, allow the children to decorate their crowns. Next, attach streamers to the scepter. Talk with the children about how God is the ruler of everything. He is fixing our broken creation, showing us grace and mercy and rescuing us through Jesus.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN TAKES US CAPTIVE.¹

What does it mean to be a captive? (It means you are a prisoner or held against your will.)

Because we are all born sinful, we all sin.

- Each person is born with a sinful heart.
- These sinful hearts lead us to rebel against God.
- We seek our own way instead of seeking God's way.
- We are in bondage to our sinful hearts.
- We sin against God because our hearts are sinful.
- We seek out our selfish ways. We seek to do things that please us and make us happy.
- Often we don't even think about how our actions make others feel.
- We are sinful and focused on ourselves.



Use a bandana to blindfold the children. Ask them to find a designated spot with their blindfold on. Let each child try to find the spot with the blindfold. When they can't, remind them that being blindfolded is like being blind to our sin.

We are captive to our sinful hearts.

- Our hearts lead us to sin.
- We rebel against God because of our hearts.
- Our sinful hearts cause us to sin.
- We sin because we only know sin until we have saving faith in Jesus.
- Our sin makes us blind and keeps us from seeing the truth.
- We are blind to our sin until God shows us that we are sinners.

How are we held captive by our sin? (Our sin makes us blind and we don't see the truth.)

Who helps us see the truth? (God opens our eyes and helps us see the truth.)

1. 2 Corinthians 4:4: Our sin blinds us and holds us captive. We are separated from God and blind to our sin.

BIG IDEA: WE CANNOT RESCUE OURSELVES.²**No person is able to save himself.**

- Only Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life.
- No other person has or will have lived a perfect, sinless life.
- We all are guilty of rebelling against God.
- We all have sinful hearts.
- It's impossible for us to rescue ourselves because we don't even realize we need rescuing.
- Hezekiah knew he was not able to save Judah alone.
- He knew that they needed God to save them.



Help the children make a list of different community helpers who save lives, such as firefighters, nurses, doctors, policemen, etc. Talk with the children about how each of these people rescues people when they cannot rescue themselves. God rescues us because we cannot rescue ourselves.

We are all guilty before God.

- There is no person born without a sin nature.
- There is no person who does not sin.
- We all are guilty of sin.
- We all have broken hearts and are unable to rescue ourselves.
- King Hezekiah couldn't rescue Judah.
- He was not able to save Judah from the Assyrians just like we cannot save ourselves from our sin.
- We are not strong enough to overcome our sin.
- Even when we try to do good things or have good thoughts, our sin still overtakes us.
- We still sin even when we do good things, because we aren't doing them for the glory of God.

Why can we not rescue ourselves? (We are all sinful and unable to overcome our sin.)

2. Ephesians 2:1: *We are all dead in our sin. We are unable to overcome it because it takes us captive.*

BIG IDEA: GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN RESCUE US FROM SIN.**God is our rescuer.**

- Because we all are sinful, none of us can rescue ourselves from sin.
- Only God can rescue us because only He has the power to rescue us.
- We are not powerful enough to defeat sin and overcome it by ourselves.
- We do not have the power to break free from it. We cannot save ourselves.
- King Hezekiah could not overtake Assyria alone.
- Judah was not strong enough to rescue themselves from Assyria.
- They did have enough people or the strength to overtake Assyria.



Help the children make shields using poster board and markers. Ask the children to decorate the shield with words or pictures that describe them. Talk with them about how we cannot save ourselves, but God can. Only He can rescue us. Only He can set us free.

God alone gives us freedom from our sin.³

- We cannot set ourselves free from our sin because we do not have the power.
- Our sin weakens us and makes it difficult to overcome it on our own.
- God holds all the power and He gives us power to overcome our sin.
- He helps us become free of our sin by making our hearts new.
- He releases us from our captivity when we have saving faith in Jesus.
- God doesn't leave us in our sin. He rescues us from it.
- He didn't leave Hezekiah and Judah in captivity to Assyria.
- He defeated the Assyrians and set Judah free.

Who is the only way to have freedom from sin? (God is the only way to be free from our sin.)

3. John 8:36: Jesus is the only way to be free from our sin. He sets us free through His blood on the cross.

BIG IDEA: GOD SENT JESUS TO BE OUR SAVIOR.⁴**Jesus came to redeem us from our sin.**

- Jesus is God's Son and He is God.
- He came to the earth to live a sinless, perfect life so that He might pay our sin debt.
- We are all held captive by our sin and are in need of rescue.
- We cannot rescue ourselves, so we must be rescued by a perfect sacrifice.
- Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for us when He died on the cross in our place.



Bring in a rope or long string. Take turns using the rope to tie the children's hands behind their backs. Ask the children to try and undo their tied hands. When they cannot, remind the children that we cannot save ourselves either. Jesus came to be the Savior of the world.

Jesus is the Savior of the world.

- Just like God fought for Judah and helped set them free from the Assyrians, He sent Jesus to redeem us and to set us free from our sin.
- Jesus came to save us from ourselves.
- We are sinful and selfish and blind to our sin.
- Because of our blindness, we cannot save ourselves.
- Just like King Hezekiah could not save Judah from the Assyrians, we cannot save ourselves from our sin.
- God sent Jesus to save us when we could not save ourselves.
- Jesus is the Savior of the world because He paid our sin debt and now we can have freedom through Him.
- Who did God send to be the Savior of the world? (He sent Jesus.)

Who is the only way to have freedom from sin? (God is the only way to be free from our sin.)

4. 1 Timothy 1:15: *Jesus came to save man from his sin. He is the only Savior of the world.*

HOOKS

**Ancient Press Conference**

Hold a press conference with two students acting as Isaiah and Hezekiah. Before you begin, help the children come up with questions about the story of Isaiah and Hezekiah. Once they have decided upon some questions, have them ask the questions to the two students acting as Isaiah and Hezekiah. Once the children finish the press conference, talk with them about how Hezekiah couldn't save Judah alone, but God could do it. We cannot save ourselves, but God can save us.



- Hezekiah trusted God. He had faith in Him.
- Hezekiah knew that he could not overcome the Assyrians.
- We cannot overcome our sin, but God can.
- Only God can rescue us.

**Rescue Charades**

Write down different charades related to the story and have children take turns acting them out. Divide the children into teams and keep score if you like. Once the game is over, talk with the children about how God is the only one who can save us from our sin.



- Hezekiah couldn't save Judah from the Assyrians, but God could.
- Hezekiah trusted God and knew God could save them from the Assyrians.
- We cannot save ourselves, but God can.
- Only God can rescue us from our sin.
- Only He can set us free from our sin.