



Rescuer – Lesson 4

4K and 5K

Divine Attribute: God is Rescuer

Heart Response: Worship him

Memory Verse: John 3:16 NIRV

“God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”

Points of Emphasis:

1. We need to be rescued from our sin.
2. God loves us.
3. God sent his Son, Jesus, to rescue us.
4. We should worship Jesus.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

The Christmas season is a time of joy and excitement. But it can also be a time of stress and busyness. As you prepare to share this lesson with your class, take a moment to read Luke 2 and Matthew 1:18-25. Reflect on the extraordinary events of Jesus' birth while remembering the extraordinary love and purpose of Jesus' life. God chose ordinary people, Mary and Joseph, to be the parents of his extraordinary Son. Jesus was fully God, but he was also fully human and experienced life the same way that we do.

God also chose ordinary people, the shepherds, to proclaim his Son's extraordinary birth. After Jesus' birth, the angels praised God before the shepherds. These ordinary men responded by going to meet Jesus and worshiping God for his birth. Their joy was so great that they went on to tell everyone they could find about this amazing good news.

In light of this, how does it make you feel to know that although Jesus was God, he also lived an ordinary life on earth and understands what you experience? How do you respond to what God has done for you through Jesus? Do you share in the shepherds' reaction—a heart of worship, praising God for the gift of his Son?

The story of Christmas is one of the ordinary being invaded by the extraordinary. God sent his Son to ordinary people in an ordinary world and through him, God brought the extraordinary into their lives. As you share this lesson, look for ways that God can use someone ordinary, like you, to bring the extraordinary message of Jesus to the children in your class and to others.

CENTER TIME

10-20 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

To help the children transition into class, please use a center format at the beginning of each service. Set up three centers in your classroom to allow children options of activities. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

1. Read books on the floor.
2. Color at the table.
3. Play with blocks on the floor.
4. Play with puzzles at the table.
5. Play with Play-Doh at the table.

OPENING ACTIVITY

10 minutes at the start of service

The following activity is provided to begin engaging the children for the upcoming lesson. As the teacher of your class, you have an important opportunity to come alongside the parents of these children to teach them about God.

Play Dough Stars

Supplies:

Star cookie cutters (five per bin)

Play-Doh (already in room)

Let the kids cut out stars and tell them we are going to be learning about a special star that helped the wise men learn where to find Jesus. Ask them—if they could follow their star to get to baby Jesus,

what gift would they give him? Then, have them each share one way they can help other people learn about Jesus.

BIG GROUP TIME

please check your classroom schedule

Please talk to your class about the purpose of this time—to have fun worshiping God together. Give your class practical ideas of what this means (obey the teachers up on the stage, sing and praise God with a happy heart, keep your hands to yourself, etc.). Teachers, you are crucial in helping create a peaceful, orderly environment to worship God during this time. Thank you for your help!

SMALL GROUP TIME

25-30 minutes

Bible Story

Supplies:

Lesson picture - wise men (one per bin)

Rescuer CD with “Joy to the World” (one per bin)

Who remembers our memory verse? (Allow time for responses.) **Yes, the verse is: “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” John 3:16. Let’s say the verse again, and then I want to see who can say it by yourself. “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” John 3:16. Now, who wants to try it?** (Allow time for children to try the verse. Encourage and help those who attempt to say it, and give all children who want to say it a turn to try.) **Great!**

(Teachers turn in your Bible to Matthew 2:1-12.) **Our lesson today comes from the book of Matthew in the Bible. Remember, last week our lesson was about the shepherds hearing from the angel that Jesus had been born. The shepherds went to see Jesus and worshiped him. This week, we are going to hear about some other people who knew that Jesus was going to be born. These men followed a star to find Jesus!**

The Bible calls these men wise men. (Show the lesson picture.) **Their job was to watch the stars, and they had seen a special star in the sky. This star signaled to them that the King of the Jews had been born. They decided to go find this king and worship him. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Herod was the king. Can you say “Herod”? (Repeat “Herod” with the children.) When the wise men arrived in Jerusalem, they asked King Herod where the King of the Jews was, whose star they had seen.**

Herod was very upset by this because he did not want anyone else to be king. Herod found out that Christ was to be born in Bethlehem. He sent the wise men to Bethlehem to find Jesus, but he told them to come back and tell him where Jesus was, so he could go and worship Jesus, too. Herod did not really want to worship Jesus—he just told the wise men that so he could find out where Jesus was.

When the wise men left Herod, they again saw the star that they had seen in the East, and they were very happy! The star led them straight to the house where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were living. They went into the house, found Jesus, and worshiped him.

What is the best gift you have ever received? (Allow the children to answer.) **Those are all great gifts, but the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus were the kind you would give a king. The wise men gave him some very special gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. All of these gifts were very special and cost a lot.**

When the wise men left the house where Jesus lived, they went somewhere nearby to spend the night. That night, God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back and tell King Herod where Jesus lived. So they went back another way and returned to their own country.

Jesus is God’s Son, and he was sent into the world to rescue us. He lived a perfect life and died to pay for our sins. Jesus was not going to be the king of a country on this earth like Herod thought. Jesus was going to be the King of the

whole world. He came to be King of our lives. He can be King of our hearts while we are here on earth, and he can be our King forever in Heaven.

We give gifts to each other at Christmas to show our love. God gave us a special gift of Jesus that is better than any other gift. We can worship our Lord Jesus by singing a song about him. We can also worship by praying together.

Prayer

Prayer time may not be appropriate immediately following story time. If this is the case, we ask that you be intentional about praying spontaneously or formally with the children at other times during class.

Lord, thank you for sending Jesus into this world. We want to worship you every day. As we start the new year, help us remember that Jesus was the best gift. Amen.

Shining Star

Supplies:

Wooden star (one per child)
Spool of twine/ribbon – approximately 12” per child (one per bin)
Bag of sequins (one per bin)
Hole punch
White glue

Teachers, put small dots of glue on one side of the star and have children put sequins on the glue. Help each child put the yarn through the holes to make a loop. Tell the children that the wise men followed the star to find Jesus and worship him. They can take the stars home and hang them in their rooms or on their trees as a reminder that we should worship Jesus. He is our Rescuer and gave himself for us, which is the greatest gift anyone can receive.

***Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn't matter if they place the label or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is. ***

SNACK & ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

last 30 minutes

Please wash the children's hands before snack time and say a prayer thanking God for the food. As they are eating their snack, please take time to go over the review questions.

Review Questions

1. **What did the wise men see in the sky that let them know the “King of the Jews” had been born?** (A star.)
2. **What did the wise men want to do when they found Jesus?** (Worship him.)
3. **Who was the king in Jerusalem at the time when Jesus was born?** (Herod.)
4. **What did the wise men bring to Jesus?** (Gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.)

The Journey

Supplies

Flashlight (one per bin)

Blocks (already in room)

Have one child sit in a chair in one corner of the room (pretending to be Jesus). Have the other children each get a block and line up on the other side of the room. They will pretend to be the wise men who followed the star to worship Jesus. Tell them to pretend the blocks they are carrying are their gifts for Jesus. Tell them when you flash the light on their feet they may follow the “star” shining in front of them. When the light goes off, they have to freeze right where they are. When they reach Jesus, they get to set their gift in front of him. Jesus gave us everything we have and made us all that we are and we can worship him just like the wise men. When we love Jesus and all of his creation, it is our gift and offering back to him.

The Wise Men Traveled from Afar (Finger Play)

The wise men traveled from afar, (walk fingers using index and middle fingers)

Following the Christmas star. (put together two index fingers and two thumbs to make diamond and move it in arch across body)

When it stopped, they jumped for joy! (move fingers in diamond shape in front of face and stop; then jump)

And worshiped baby Jesus boy. (cradle arms like rocking a baby)

