



Rescuer – Lesson 2

Memory Verse: “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 (NIRV)

Key Point: God sent his Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sin!

Bible Verse: Luke 2:1–7

SCHEDULE:

Center Time

around 10 minutes

Help the individuals transition by actively engaging them from the beginning. Try setting up centers to color, play with blocks and Play-Doh, or do puzzles.

Memory Verse

Use the Memory Verse page and images to go over the memory verse by placing them in the correct order on the board (personal or pocket chart).

Activity/Coloring Sheet (optional)

Big Group Time (optional)

Lesson

- Read through the lesson below. For a shortened version, just read the bolded words.
- Within the lesson, there are numbers that correspond to the story point pictures. For example, (1) corresponds to the first story point and picture, and so on.
- Allow individuals to place pictures on the board (personal or pocket chart) in sequential order.
- Key Point
- Use the review questions to check for understanding.

Video (optional)

Repeat Key Point & Memory Verse

Use the activities below for repetition of the story points, key points, and memory verse.

- Act out the Story.
- Bean Bag Toss: restate part of the story, memory verse, or key point when tossing.
- Hangman: play hangman using key points or parts of the story.

Activity/Coloring Sheet (optional)

Five Finger Gospel (optional)

LESSON:

This is a story from Luke chapter 2 in the Bible. **The Roman emperor, Augustus**, says that he **is going to count the people in the Roman Empire** (1). So all the people have to go back to the towns where their families are from to be counted. Mary is going to marry a man named Joseph, and Joseph's family is from Bethlehem. So, **Mary and Joseph have to leave Nazareth**, where they live, **and travel to Bethlehem to be counted** (2).

By this time, it is very close to when Mary is going to give birth to Jesus. Back in those days, people did not have cars, buses, trains, or planes to ride in. Most people traveled by walking. This trip probably takes Joseph and Mary between four days and a week! It is not an easy trip. **Mary most likely rides** for part of the trip **on a donkey and Joseph walks beside her** (3).

When Mary and Joseph reach Bethlehem, they are very tired. **They look for a place to stay, but all the rooms are taken** (4), so they **stay in a stable with the animals** (5). **Baby Jesus is born while they are staying in the stable, and Mary** wraps him in strips of cloth and **lays him in a manger** (6). A manger is the place where the animal's food is placed. **Mary** puts clean hay in the manger and gently places baby Jesus in it, on top of the hay. She **worships God**, thanking him **for sending his Son, Jesus** (7).

Last week, we talked about the reason Jesus was sent into the world. We have all done things that God has told us not to do. That is called "sin." God is holy and cannot be around sin. So **our sin separates us from God** (8). In order to be able to talk to God and be friends with God, we need someone to take away our sin. We are not able to do this for ourselves. Jesus, God's Son, **came to the world to live a perfect life and die to take away our sin** (9). That is the only way we can be friends with God again and go to Heaven.

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus who came to the world to rescue us and save us from our sins. **Jesus was God's gift to us because he loves us so much** (10)! We should worship Jesus.

Key Point: God sent his Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sin!

Review Questions

| Group A | Group B |
|---|---|
| Did Joseph and Mary have to travel to Bethlehem to be counted by the Roman emperor, Augustus? (Yes) | Where did Mary and Joseph have to go to be counted? (Bethlehem.) |
| Where do Mary and Joseph stay because there are no rooms available? (a stable) | How did they get to Bethlehem? (They walked or rode a donkey.) |
| Where does Mary lay Jesus after he is born? (a manger) | Why did Mary and Joseph stay in a stable? (There were no rooms available.) |
| Does Mary worship and thank God for sending Jesus? (Yes) | What did Mary do after Jesus was born? (She wrapped him in cloths and put him in a manger.) |