



Rescuer - Lesson 2

2s and 3s

Memory Verse: “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Any-one 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).

Coloring Sheet

Big Group Time

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.

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.

Activity

5-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

1. **Where did Mary and Joseph have to go to be counted?** (Bethlehem.)
2. **How did they get to Bethlehem?** (They walked or rode a donkey.)
3. **Why did Mary and Joseph stay in a stable?** (There were no rooms available.)

4. **What did Mary do after Jesus was born?** (She wrapped him in cloths and put him in a manger.)

ACTIVITIES:

Jesus is God's Gift to Us

Supplies:

- Rounded slot clothespin with a face drawn on (one per child)
- Strip of white/off-white cloth (one per child)
- Small paper gift bag with 2/3 of the top cut off (one per child)
- Bag of brown crinkle paper (one per bin)
- Christmas stickers to decorate the bag (two per child)
- Small gift-wrap bow (one per child)
- Crayons

Today we are going to wrap baby Jesus in a cloth like Mary did and put him in a "manger." This is to remind us that Jesus is God's gift to us. Let the children color on their "mangers" and put the stickers and bows on them. Then give each child a clothespin and strip of cloth. Demonstrate how to wrap the clothespin with the strip of cloth and have the children wrap their clothespins. Have children put a pinch of crinkle paper in the bag and put the wrapped clothespin Jesus on top of that in the "manger." Remind them that the greatest gift we've been given is God's gift of Jesus Christ!

***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. ***

Room for a Savior

Supplies

- Set of 1 stable and 15 “X” cards (one set per bin)

Children will act out the story of Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem. Have two children volunteer to play Mary and Joseph (or assign two). The other children will play the people of Bethlehem. Each of the “people of Bethlehem” children should blindly pick a card from the set – choosing either an X or the stable. Make sure they keep what’s on their cards a secret!

Have the children with cards spread out around the room. Then have “Mary” and “Joseph” pretend to carry bundles and travel around the room to get to Bethlehem. “Mary” and “Joseph” will go from child to child, asking for a place to stay. Remind them that Mary has traveled a long way and is very pregnant with baby Jesus and needs a place to rest and give birth. When the couple reaches a child with an X card, that child will say, “There’s no room at the inn!” When they find the child with the stable card, he or she will tell the pair that they must stay in the stable with the animals.

Remind the class that Mary and Joseph were thankful and happy to have a place to stay, so the Savior of the world could be born and rescue us! Play as long as time allows, with other children playing the parts of Mary and Joseph.

Teachers – Please clip the set of cards back together and put them back in the bin at the end of the activity.