



Rescuer - Lesson 3

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 2:8–20

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. **Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a stable** (1). Mary, Jesus’ mother, wrapped him in some cloths to keep him warm and placed him in a manger. At Christmas, we celebrate the gift God gave us of his Son, Jesus!

When Jesus was born, **there were shepherds out in the fields** around Bethlehem **taking care of their sheep** (2). Shepherds didn't leave their sheep alone, so they were spending the night out in the fields with their sheep.

That night, **an angel came to the shepherds in a bright light** (3) and they were very afraid! **The angel said, “Do not be afraid. I bring great news** (4)! **Today in Bethlehem a special baby**

was born and he is the one God promised would come to be the Savior of the world (5). You will find the baby wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, there were many more angels praising God together and saying, “Glory to God in the highest (6), and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”. When the angels had gone away into heaven, the shepherds said, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and find this baby that the angels told us about!” (7) They rushed to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and saw baby Jesus lying in a manger (8). The shepherds worshiped Jesus, and they told Mary and Joseph what the angels had said. Then, the shepherds returned to the fields praising God (9) for all that they had seen and heard.

This is an amazing story about how God told the shepherds about his very special gift of his Son, Jesus. They worshiped Jesus, and we should also worship him as we celebrate the wonderful news of Jesus’ birth at Christmas. There are many ways to worship Jesus. We can sing songs about Jesus’ birth, we can retell the story to our family and friends, and we can pray and thank God for sending Jesus to be our Rescuer.

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

Review Questions

- 1. Who came to the shepherds in a bright light while they were watching their sheep?** (An angel.)
- 2. What did the angel tell the shepherds?** (The angel said a special baby had been born who would be the Savior.)
- 3. What did the shepherds do when the angels went away?** (They went to see baby Jesus.)
- 4. Where was baby Jesus?** (He was wrapped in cloths in a manger.)
- 5. What did the shepherds do when they saw Jesus?** (They worshiped him and told Mary and Joseph what the angel had said.)

ACTIVITIES:

Build a Shepherd

Supplies:

- Piece of green construction paper (one per child)
- 1/8 of a paper plate cut in triangle shape (one per child)
- 1 ½” white circle cut out (optional) (one per child)
- Bag of cotton balls (one bag per bin)
- Mini candy cane (one per child)
- Glue sticks

Hand out the green construction paper and help the children glue the paper plate triangle to the middle of the paper to represent the shepherd’s body. If white circles are available, have each child glue one to the top of the triangle, for the shepherd’s head. If white circles are not available, children should draw the shepherd’s head and face on the construction paper. Next, have them glue 2-3 cotton ball “sheep” onto the “field” beside the shepherd and then draw faces, arms, and legs on the sheep. Lastly, give out the candy canes (in the wrapper) and let them glue them to the paper to act as the shepherd’s crook. Keep the wrapper on, so that the children can eat the candy after church if parents decide to let them.

As you pass out the candy canes, talk with the children about how the candy cane is a “J” that stands for Jesus, and when you turn it the other way, it looks like a shepherd’s crook which is used to keep the sheep from wandering away from the shepherd. Remind them that Jesus came to rescue his lost sheep (all of us). The white color in the candy cane is for Jesus being the spotless lamb and how he never sinned, and he can forgive our

sin and make us white as snow. The red stripes on the candy cane represent the stripes Jesus received on his back when giving up his life for us so we could have eternal (everlasting) life. The Bible says that by these stripes we are healed.

***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. ***

Finger Play

Below, you will find a finger play about Jesus' birth and the shepherds. Use this with the children to reinforce the story. Have them do the motions with you as you read the poem.

Jesus was sent from God above, (point up)
Sent to rescue because of God's love! (hug yourself)
Wrapped in cloths, laid in a manger, (roll hands around each other)
God watched over and kept him from danger. (place index fingers and thumbs together to make "glasses" and put over eyes)

Shepherds were watching their sheep nearby; (place hand on brow, as if looking out)
Soon they saw a bright light in the sky! (flick fingers)
An angel came with great news to tell! (flap arms like angel wings)
Glory to God and on earth goodwill. (place hand way up high, then low)

God the Father sent Jesus his Son, (point up; hold arms as if cradling a baby)
To be born in the world and save everyone! (sweep arm out and point to everyone)
To be our best friend, he came to forgive. (point to yourself)
He loves us so much and helps us to live! (hug yourself)