



Rescuer - Lesson 4

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: Matthew 2:1–12

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 short-ened 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 the book of Matthew in the Bible. **There were some** people the Bible calls **wise men who knew that Jesus was going to be born** (1). **They decided to go find Jesus and worship him by following a special star** (2). These men studied the stars, and this special star in the sky signaled to them that the King of the Jews had been born.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Herod was the king. **When the wise men arrived in Jerusalem, they asked King Herod, “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews?”** (3) For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him.” **Herod was** very **upset** by this **because he did not want any-one else to be king** (4). Herod asked the Jew-

ish priests and found out that Christ was to be born in Bethlehem. **Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem to find Jesus**, but told them to come back **so they could tell him where Jesus was** (5). King **Herod said he wanted to go and worship Jesus too, but he really wanted to kill Jesus to keep him from being king** (6).

When **the wise men left** Herod, they again saw the star, which they had seen in the East, **and** they were very happy! **The special star led them** straight **to** the house **where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were living** (7). They went into the house, found Jesus, and worshiped him. They also brought Jesus three gifts, the kind you would give a king. **The wise men gave Jesus** some very **special gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh** (8). All of these gifts were very special and cost a lot. **When the wise men left to return to Jerusalem**, 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** (9). **So they went back another way** and returned **to their own country** (10).

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 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.

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

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.)

ACTIVITIES:

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. ***

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.

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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)