



Date: _____

Series: God is Our Rescuer
Fall Year 2, Lesson 26

God Saves Us in the Nick of Time

Primary Scripture: Romans 5:6

Key Verse: Romans 5:6, “Look at it this way: At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

This lesson reviews the general concept we've been celebrating since lesson one: Jesus Is Our Rescuer! Kids can relate to helplessness. Even the most self-assured and capable boy or girl will occasionally face a situation too big to handle. It will help them to realize that even adults face circumstances “bigger than they are.” It's a comfort to know that God loves to rescue us and that we can trust him to care for us – especially with the biggest challenge of all – what to do with our sin?

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Because of our helplessness to overcome sin, God sent Jesus to die in our place. He is our rescuer for all eternity.

Jesus in us: Not only did Jesus come to earth for us 2,000 years ago, he promises to live inside us every day when we trust him for our salvation.

Jesus through us: We can be a source of rescue to others. With Jesus living in our hearts, we can speak powerful words of invitation to our friends – Jesus' words! Through our invitation, God will bring others to know and love him, too.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Have any of you ever been lost?

Let kids tell about a time when they or someone they knew was lost. Talk about how it felt. Tell a story from your past that helps everyone remember what it is like to be in trouble. A story of being saved "in the nick of time" just before disaster happened would be extra helpful.

One day Jesus looked out at the crowd who followed him. He said they were like sheep without a shepherd.

Read Matthew 9:36.

What did Jesus call all those people? *(Sheep without a shepherd.)*

How did he feel about them? *(He loved them.)*

How do you think he feels about us? *(He loves us.)*

How do we know he loves us? *(He died for us.)*

Jesus calls himself the "Good Shepherd." We are his sheep. He gave his life so we can live with him forever.

Let's sing praises to Jesus for loving us that much.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Hold up a shepherd's rod. Ask:

Who knows what this crook is for on the end of this staff? *(It is used to hook sheep and keep them from straying.)*

That's right – sheep without a shepherd are very helpless. What could happen to a sheep if it strayed away from the shepherd and the rest of the flock? *(It could get eaten by a pack of foxes or wolves or other wild animals.)*

Do we ever stray from Jesus, our Good Shepherd? *(Yes.)* **What happens then? Does he let us go, to be eaten by the wolves? Let's see what the Bible says about that.**

Read Romans 5:6

"Look at it this way: At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people."

Who did Jesus die for? *(Ungodly people just like us.)*

Without Jesus, we are helpless and ungodly. But that doesn't mean he turns his back on us and walks away. Just the opposite – because we are so helpless, he comes to rescue us!

On our own, we are trapped in our sin. But with the help of Jesus, our good shepherd, we can resist temptation and be set free from guilt and punishment.

Lead the children in prayer, confessing sins of selfishness and striving to live life as though we can do it on our own with no help from him. Thank God for the gift of Jesus, who gave his life unselfishly so that our sins could be forgiven. Jesus came and filled our life with his presence so we could be unselfish.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Hide the offering plate before Kids Church starts. Indicate that it is lost to the children, and have them find it. Once it is found, tell them that Jesus is the Good Shepard and looks for those who are lost. WE are thankful that he looks for the lost and we want to show our thankfulness with our offerings. Let the children know that the money they give may go to support others who are “looking for lost sheep” and sharing the Good News that Jesus died for their sin.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Because of the length of today's movie, there will be no learning game

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Luke 15:4-7 says, "Suppose a man has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the 99 sheep grazing in the pasture and look for the lost sheep until he finds it? When he finds it, he's happy. He puts that sheep on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says to them, 'Let's celebrate! I've found my lost sheep!' I can guarantee that there will be more happiness in heaven over one person who turns to God and changes the way he thinks and acts than over 99 people who already have turned to God and have his approval."

Application:

Show the *New Adventures of McGee and Me* video "In the Nick of Time" (42½ minutes).

Ask questions like the following:

What lessons can we learn from this video?

- *Tell the truth.*
- *We can face challenges knowing God will help.*
- *We can encourage others when they struggle.*



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Who do students know that need to hear about Jesus' love? Let them talk about it.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Pray for the people around us who need to know the love of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

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Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- nothing needed

The Power of the Cross:

- shepherd's staff

Application:

- “*In the Nick of Time*” – *McGee and Me!* video from International Bible Society, 1992, Episode 10. Distributed by Focus on the Family and Tyndale House Publishers