



Date: _____
Series: God is Our Rescuer
Summer Year 2, Lesson 3

Sign Up for the Rescue Team

Take Home Point: *God calls us to help with his rescue. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Exodus 2:11-4:17.

Key Verse: John 20:21. "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.'"

We will help kids know:

- God called Moses to be a helper in God's rescue plan for Israel.
- God calls us as helpers in his rescue plan of salvation for people who do not know him.
- The resource that God gives us to rescue people is his name: "Who ever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."




We will help kids feel:

- Honored that God would call them to be a part of his rescue plan.
- Compassion for the people in the slavery of sin who need God's rescue.

We will help kids do:

- If they don't know Jesus as their rescuer, to respond to him and then receive him by faith.
- Help them clearly hear God's call to help him in the rescue plan.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	<p>This exciting game of Rescue Finder helps children to understand that God speaks to us through his word and asks us to be a part of his rescue team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rescue finder (A retractable pen or a capped pen with a 15-foot tail of flagging tape or yarn attached to the pen. At the end of the tail, securely tape or knot a piece of paper with the secret message.) the secret message (see appendix p. 10)
Large Group 	4 6-7 8 8-9	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Gordy on the Rescue Team.”</p> <p>Video: <i>Prince of Egypt</i>. Start 42 minutes after the opening title.</p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Gordy on the Rescue Team.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy fireman’s hat labeled “God Rescues” sandals wooden staff video, <i>The Prince of Egypt</i>, distributed by DreamWorks Home Entertainment, 1999—order from your local video store or www.amazon.com
Small Group Application 	4-5	<p>Sharing the answers to the application questions is the way to win this tic-tac-toe game. Winning results from good team effort. This reinforces the take home point, * <i>God calls us to help with his rescue.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> masking tape observation, inter-pretation, and application questions for each tic-tac-toe board (p. 11-13) two sets of nine tokens for each group each set a different color. The tokens can be two different colored sheets of paper, lids, or diecut X’s and O’s.

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies:

- *rescue finder* (A retractable pen or a capped pen with a 15-foot tail of flagging tape or yarn attached to the pen. At the end of the tail, securely tape or knot a piece of paper with the secret message.)
- *the secret message* (see appendix)

Combine or divide small groups to create two or more teams of 7-12 children. Have each team line up in a straight line. For each team you will need a retractable or capped pen with a 15-foot “tail” of flagging tape or yarn tied to it. At the end of the “tail” is securely taped or knotted a rolled up piece of paper with a secret message. This special pen is called a “rescue finder.”

The object of the game is to link the team together using the pen, “the rescue finder,” through at least one article of clothing on every person. The pen could be passed through one sleeve of a shirt and out the other sleeve, it could go through a belt loop or even down the legs of a trouser. As the “rescue finder” is passed, the challenge will be to continue to feed the tail so that it does not tear and so the team can accomplish its goal by having the pen with the tail pass through all of the players on the team. Encourage creativity in passing!

Once the “rescue finder” has successfully linked all the kids together, unwrap the message and follow its directions using the pen. This final task will be completed with plenty of excitement and chaos. (The secret message asks the children to sign the back of the paper if they would choose to be a part of God’s rescue team.)

After untangling the kids, bring them together and say:

God’s call to be part of his rescue team goes through all his people. God called Moses to help be part of his rescue team. He did that by speaking to Moses through a burning bush. God is also calling *us* to be part of his rescue team. Today God speaks to us through his word and he says the very same thing, “I am calling you to be a part of my rescue team.”

Our point for today’s lesson is **God calls us to help with his rescue.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy on the Rescue Team”—Gordy wants to help rescue by putting out the burning bush with a super soaker.

Video: *The Prince of Egypt*—Show the section of Moses being called by God speaking from a burning bush through the section of Moses speaking to his wife, Zipporah (5 minutes, 40 seconds). This section begins 42 minutes after the opening title.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Gordy on the Rescue Team”—Gordy learns how God chose Moses to be a rescuer for his people, the Hebrews. He also learns that God sent his Son Jesus to be the rescuer for *all* people and **God calls us to help with his rescue.*

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Application Activity:

Supplies:

- *masking tape*
- *observation, interpretation, and application questions for each tic-tac-toe board (See the end of the lesson.)*
- *two sets of nine tokens for each group. Each set a different color. The tokens can be two different colored sheets of paper, lids, or die cut X's and O's.*

Tape a large tic-tac-toe pattern on the floor using masking tape. You will need two sets of nine different colored tokens for your group. The tokens can be two different colored sheets of paper, lids, or diecut X's and O's.

Divide your small group into two teams to play three different tic-tac-toe games. The first game involves observation questions about today's story. The second game involves interpretation questions. The third game asks application questions. For the observation questions, you can have kids refer to Exodus 2-4 in their Bibles.

Each team will mark the square of its choice after it has correctly answered the question. If the team does not answer the question correctly, the space is left open and the other team may try for that space if it chooses.

After a team has chosen a square to place its token on, you will read the question for the corresponding square from the key sheet (see attached). It is not necessary for the children to have a copy of these questions because it is easier for you to read the questions to them.

To answer a question, a child may consult other members on his team. A new person from the team answers each time.

After playing all three games, wrap up with the following discussion:

Today, we learned how God called Moses to help with his rescue. We also learned that God has a rescue plan for us through Jesus. What did Jesus do to rescue us? *(He died on the cross and rose again.)* How do we receive that rescue gift? *(We receive the gift by trusting Jesus as our Savior.)*

****God calls us to help with his rescue. John 20:21 says, “Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.’”***

Who do you think God is calling you to help rescue by sharing the message of Jesus? Let’s pray for those people today.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for rescuing us by giving us your Son Jesus. If there is anyone here who doesn’t know and trust Jesus, we pray for that person to know that we all need a Savior. Also help them know that Jesus is your Son who gave his life on the cross to take the punishment of our sin. Help that person to receive that gift and be rescued by you.

We also pray for other people who may not know Jesus. We will silently name those people in our hearts right now. Help them learn to trust Jesus.

And, now, we bring our other special requests as we speak those out loud...(Kids, if you have special thanksgivings or requests, pray them out loud now.)

We pray all of this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Gordy on the Rescue Team Puppet Presentation

Throughout this series, the presenter will wear a fireman's hat labeled "God Rescues." Today's script also calls for Gordy to have a squirt gun.

The conclusion of the puppet presentation reinforces the main learning point and does so using some special props: a wooden staff, and a pair of sandals.

Supplies:

- Gordy
- fireman's hat labeled "God Rescues"
- sandals
- wooden staff
- video, *The Prince of Egypt* (DreamWorks Home Entertainment, 1999)

Presenter: Good morning, kids! Welcome to Kingdom Quest where, like my hat says, "God rescues." That's our theme for these weeks. Today we will discover that **God calls us to help with his rescue.*

Gordy: (Appears.) Hi, _____ ! (Insert presenter's name.) What's with the fireman's hat?

Presenter: We are talking about how God rescues. Today we hear that God invites us to be part of his rescue team.

Gordy: Oh, yeah? Who are we talking about?

Presenter: Moses and the burning bush.

Gordy: Burning bush! Here, I can help! *(Ducks behind puppet stage and a squirt gun is squirted at the presenter.)*

Did that put out the burning bush?

Presenter: Gordy, the burning bush is the Bible event of God calling Moses to help with God's rescue.

Gordy: Like I said, I can help with the rescue. I can put out the burning bush. *(Ducks behind puppet stage and squirts again.)*

Presenter: Gordy, will you give me that squirt gun?

Gordy: *(Hands the presenter the squirt gun.)* But what about the burning bush?

Presenter: The burning bush is how God showed himself to Moses. This lesson is how God saw the misery of the Israelites' slavery, he *heard* their cries for help, and he was *concerned*. So he came down to rescue his people. From the burning bush, God asked Moses to help rescue his people.

Gordy: So what did God give Moses to help pull off such a big rescue of all those people in slavery? How could Moses do it? Unless, of course, God gave him a super soaker. That would put out anyone's fire—even the Egyptians'.

Presenter: Gordy, let's find out what the Bible says. To do that, we will watch a short section of *The Prince of Egypt*.

Gordy: Cool! I like that movie.

Presenter: It's very close to what the Bible says, but we will also add the Bible parts that it leaves out.

Here is what has happened so far. As a baby, Moses was an Israelite, or Hebrew, who was to be killed by the Egyptian pharaoh. However, his mother hid him in the Nile River and an Egyptian princess found him. She adopted him and he was raised as a prince in Egypt.

When Moses was older, he defended an Israelite from an Egyptian who was beating him. He killed that Egyptian and had to flee from Egypt. He ended up far away in the land of Midian. There he was married and became a shepherd.

While Moses was a shepherd, this is what happened to him beside Mount Sinai. Let's roll the video.

Video

Show the video, *The Prince of Egypt*. View the 5 minute, 40 second section of Moses being called by God speaking from a burning bush through the section of Moses speaking to his wife, Zipporah. This section begins 42 minutes after the opening title. After the video, the script continues.

Gordy on the Rescue Team Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: Wow! Moses couldn't believe that God would choose him to help rescue the Israelites.

Presenter: Did you see what God gave Moses to help?

Gordy: I didn't see any super soaker. What did God give him?

Presenter: The first thing was that God appeared to Moses in the burning bush. He told Moses, "Take off your shoes for you are standing on holy ground." Show the audience the sandals. God was showing him his presence.

Gordy: Yeah, and Moses was afraid.

Presenter: Exactly. But God said, "I will go with you." God wanted Moses to know that he would be all that Moses needed to help with God's rescue.

Gordy: So then did Moses say he would do it?

Presenter: Not yet. Moses said, "When they ask, who should I say sent me?" Then God gave Moses the name God wanted Moses to share with others. He said, "Tell the people, 'I AM sent me.'" God said his name is: "I AM who I AM." Moses was to use God's name.

Gordy: So God promised to be with Moses and gave him the power of his name. Anything else? Didn't God also tell him to use his staff?

Presenter: Yes, he did. Show the audience the wooden staff. In fact, God told Moses to throw his staff down and his staff turned into a snake. Then God told Moses to pick the snake back up, and when he did, it turned back into a staff. It was one of the miraculous signs that God would use to show people God was with Moses.

Gordy: Wow! That's cool. I sure wish I had a stick I could throw down and make into a snake. Then maybe I could help with God's rescue.

Presenter: God doesn't need someone today to help rescue people from Egyptian slavery. God has another rescue in mind.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Presenter: God sent his Son Jesus to be the rescuer for all people.

Gordy: Oh, I knew that. Jesus rescues us from sin.

Presenter: That's true. But did you know that we can help with that rescue?

Gordy: What do you mean?

Presenter: When we tell others about who Jesus is and what he has done for us...

Gordy: I know that! Jesus died on the cross and rose again.

Presenter: Right, Gordy! When we tell people this, God will use his word to rescue them. Their sins will be forgiven and they can be part of God's family, too.

Gordy: God would even use us kids?

Presenter: Of course. You can tell others about Jesus just like I can.

Gordy: I guess I can. But it would still be kind of cool to have a stick that turns into a snake or, at least, a super soaker.

Presenter: Gordy, let's just be happy that **God calls us to help with his rescue.* Why don't you close us with prayer?

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you for going with Moses so he could help you rescue the Israelites from slavery. Go with us, also, so we can help others with your rescue. Help us think about this today and learn what we can do to help with your rescue. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

I am calling all of you to be part of my rescue team.

If you want to be part of the rescue team, turn this paper over and sign your name on the back.

<p>Moses was a Hebrew, yet a prince over Egypt. How did he get to be a prince when he was born a Hebrew? <i>(Exodus 2:1-10. Moses' real mother rescued him by putting him in a basket in the Nile River. Pharaoh's daughter found him and raised him in Pharaoh's palace.)</i></p>	<p>Why did Moses leave Egypt and go into the desert? <i>(Exodus 2:11-15. Moses killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave. When Pharaoh heard about this, he tried to have Moses killed.)</i></p>	<p>What was Moses' job when he was in his new land? <i>(Exodus 3:1. Moses was a shepherd. He took care of his father-in-law's, Jethro's, sheep.)</i></p>
<p>What did Moses see on the mountain that made him want to get closer to look? <i>(Exodus 3:2-3. He saw a bush on fire.)</i></p>	<p>What was strange about the bush that Moses saw? <i>(Exodus 3:3. The bush did not burn up.)</i></p>	<p>What is one of the things God told Moses from the burning bush? <i>(Exodus 3:5-22. "Take off your sandals because this place where you are standing is holy ground." I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt...I have come to rescue them." "I will be with you." "I AM Who I AM.")</i></p>
<p>God showed his power by doing something to Moses' hand. Tell about it. <i>(Exodus 4:6-7. The Lord told Moses to put his hand in his shirt, and when he pulled it out its skin was diseased. When God told him to put his hand back inside his shirt, it became healthy again.)</i></p>	<p>God showed his power by doing something to Moses' staff. Tell about it. <i>(Exodus 4:3-4. God turned the staff into a snake when Moses threw it down. When Moses picked up the snake, it became a staff again.)</i></p>	<p>Who did Moses marry when he came into the new land? <i>(Exodus 2:21. Jethro's daughter, Zipporah, a Midianite.)</i></p>

Do you think it was easier for Moses to be a prince in Egypt or a shepherd in the desert? Why or why not?

How do you think Moses felt when he was running away from Egypt?

How do you think Moses felt when God spoke to him in the burning bush?

Do you think someone can really run away from God, like Moses ran away from Egypt?

Why do you think God showed his power by doing something to Moses' staff?
(To give Moses courage.)

What do you think it meant for Moses to take his shoes off when he was talking to God?
(To show honor and respect standing before a holy God.)

Why did Moses leave Egypt and go into the desert?
(He was afraid for his life. He was ashamed. He no longer wanted to be an Egyptian.)

After Moses talked to God, do you think he wanted to go back to Egypt?

Why do you think God showed his power to Moses by changing his hand?
(To show Moses how powerful God is.)

Tell me about a time when you felt too young or too small to do something.

Name one thing at home you could do to help someone else. Is this like being part of God's rescue team?

Can you think of someone in your neighborhood that doesn't know Jesus? Does this person need Jesus? Tell about it.

How do you think God talks to you today?
(His word, other Christians in prayer, listening for his voice.)

What would be the best thing about being Moses in this Bible event?

Have you ever felt what it is like to be rescued by God?

What kind of power will God give you to be a part of his rescue mission?

What is one thing you could do at school to help with God's rescue plan?

What is one thing you could do at home to help with God's rescue plan?