



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: God is Our Rescuer  
Summer Year 2, Lesson 2

# God Is Our Rescuer—We Will Not Perish

**Primary Scripture:** John 3:16-18

**Key Verse:** John 3:16, “God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”

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

Children need the security of protection, especially knowing God’s protection over them. When we refer to God as a rescuer, we are communicating that God sends Jesus to save kids from that which would harm them. Yet, kids, like adults, experience the bumps and bruises of life. Where is God when those things happen? Today’s truth points out that God has sent Jesus to be our rescuer so we would not perish. This refers to spiritual death. When we trust Jesus as our rescuer, we experience spiritual life. We are rescued and our soul has life with God. Even though we outwardly face bumps, bruises, or death, inwardly we are rescued and are being made to be more like Jesus.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Regardless of circumstances, nothing can separate us from the love of God that is ours in Jesus. See Romans 8:31-39.

**Jesus in us:** Just as Jesus took in his body persecution and suffering and ultimately turned it to good, so Jesus lives in our lives that we may be able to withstand persecution and tribulation as well.

**Jesus through us:** The more we see Jesus rescuing us spiritually when we are going through hard times, the more we can follow him and reach to rescue others.

Kids Church Year 2 – Lesson 2 - 1

## 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.*

Capture the children's attention by helping them focus on the worship theme for the day. Use objects used in rescue such as fireman's hat, nursing cap, doctor's bag, cell phone for emergencies, etc.

**What is something that might happen to you where you might need a rescuer? Here are some clues on the table.**

Invite children to share their different responses. Fire, crime, homework, bully on the playground, etc.

**Today we're going to talk about God sending his Son to be a rescuer for us. What do you think God wants to rescue us from? (*The power of sin, our own selfishness, Satan's influence on our lives, etc.*)**

**If I were to call a rescuer like an ambulance, I would use a telephone and dial 911. What would I use to call God to rescue me from problems I have because of my own sin, selfishness or temptation?**

**I wouldn't need a telephone to call God. Instead, I'd go to him in prayer. Then I would read from the Bible to find out how he has rescued me and believe what it says. That's what we will be doing today in our worship. In worship, let's praise God for being a rescuer and ask him to rescue us from any problems we have. Let's learn from the Bible what he has to say to us – to hear the promises he has**

for us so that we can be rescued and free to live our lives serving him.

Let's go to him in prayer right now.

Dear Lord, thank you that you are the rescuer. You sent your own Son, Jesus, who rescued us from our sin. Help us now to worship you and to know that you are our rescuer. Help us to come to you with all of our problems or worries or sin. Keep our attention and our thoughts on you, God, so we hear what you are saying to us this day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## **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.*

**How many of you have ever had a cat or dog escape and run toward the street? Were you really worried a car would hit it?**

**Has this ever happened to you? When you chased after your cat or dog, trying to rescue it from being hit, the animal actually ran further? It's because it didn't understand that you were trying to help. It didn't understand it was in danger of getting in the street and maybe getting hit by a car. Does anyone have a story like that?**

Briefly, take one child's story. Let them know ahead of time that there will be time for one story so that other children won't feel left out.

**Do you know that sometimes we might be like that pet dog or cat that was running toward the street? Sometimes when we are doing something wrong, we want to run away from God and hide from him. Or maybe we want to forget about him, altogether, and do what we want to do.**

**That's very much like a pet that runs away when you're trying to help it. Instead, we need to know that God is always calling to us and, if we have done something wrong, we need him to rescue us, forgive us and take away our sin. We need his power in our lives. That's why**

**we can come back to him and pray in the name of Jesus. We know that, through Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we are rescued.**

**Lets pray,**

**Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. Because he went to the cross for us, he rescued us from any of the bad things we have done against you or others. We need his rescue. Right now we are thinking of some of the things that we might have done that are wrong. We want you to know that we are sorry and need your forgiveness.**

With the microphone, you may roam in the audience and let children confess specific wrongs.

**We know that you can rescue us and help us do better next time. We remember your promise that God loved this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that anyone who believes in him won't die but has eternal life. We believe in Jesus so that our sins will be forgiven, and when our life is over, we will have eternal life with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **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. Talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Position a hula hoop on the floor and have the offerings placed in the center of that circle. Invite several children to stand inside the circle to give a prayer of thanksgiving. This is a picture of us offering our whole selves to Jesus.



# 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.*

### **The Great Marshmallow Rescue**

This game is a group challenge involving teams of six to eight kids. Kids will be challenged to work out a rescue plan and implement it. It is not so much a competition between teams as a test for each team to work together to accomplish its task. When they accomplish their assignment, give each child a marshmallow.

In a large room, have two parallel lines of masking tape on the floor as far apart as possible (up to 30 to 40 feet). Two hula hoops will be needed for each team. Have all kids gather in their teams along the same line of masking tape on one side of the room. Have one volunteer from each team go to the other line of masking tape, directly across the room from his team. Tell the kids:

**You are standing on the banks looking at a giant river of hot chocolate. If anyone steps into that river they will be swept away and lost forever. Each of your teams has one of your teammates stranded on the opposite riverbank.**

**Here is the problem: The sand on the opposite riverbank is slowly sinking. Before long, the hot chocolate river will overflow and sweep your stranded teammate away. An additional problem is a chocolate monster has blindfolded your stranded teammate and he/she is not able to take the blindfold off.**

As you say this, put a blindfold on each stranded child.

**These are especially powerful blindfolds. No one wearing a blindfold is allowed on the safe side of the river. And no one person can take the blindfold off. Every person on your team is needed to get to the other side before his blindfold can be removed. You can then bring your stranded teammate back to the safe side of the river.**

**How can you get across a river of hot chocolate? What floats in hot chocolate? That's right—marshmallows! What we need are some giant marshmallows!**

Hold up some hula hoops.

**You may think these are hula hoops but they are not. They are giant marshmallows and each team gets two of them. You can place a giant marshmallow into the river and it will not float away. As long as someone is standing in the circle, that person is safe. *However*, the marshmallow cannot move when someone is standing on it. How can you get across to the other side?**

Throw a hula hoop out into the “river” and step into it. Then say:

**Remember, you cannot move a marshmallow if someone is standing in it.**

Now step back onto the “bank” and pick up the hula hoop. Say:

**Once I stepped off the marshmallow I was able to move it.**

**You can move marshmallows and place them anywhere in the river that you want and step onto them. Every person whose stranded teammate is rescued will get a marshmallow (including the stranded teammate).**

There is more than one way to solve this challenge. Don't help the kids figure it out—at least not at first. Let them work on their own for a while. Here are two possibilities:

1. The groups could decide to work together (unlikely) and lay all their hula hoops in a line across the river. The kids could just walk across and rescue their stranded teammates.
2. More likely, each team will work separately. In this case, they will need to lay one hula hoop marshmallow into the river, all step into it, and then lay the next one into the river toward the sinking bank. Everyone then steps into the hula hoop marshmallow, picks up the first, and places it into the river toward the sinking bank. This continues until they are all on the sinking bank. If anyone during this process steps out into the river, they need to be swept away and put back on the original bank. Then the group has to decide how that person will be brought over to the sinking bank.

After all teams have accomplished the assignment, ask them how the game was like our Christian life. Here are some possible connections:

1. Jesus is our Rescuer. He comes to our sinking sand of sin and he takes off our blindfolds of sin. He takes us to heaven where we will be safe forever. The marshmallow you ate is a little sample of how wonderful heaven will be.
2. Each small group was like a family in a neighborhood. There are people in your neighborhood that need to be “rescued” from the darkness of sin. You and your family can bring them to church and lead them to Jesus.
3. Just as our stranded teammates couldn’t take off their own blindfolds, people can’t save themselves from their spiritual blindness. We all need a savior. God sends us to help people escape the darkness of sin and set them free by telling them about Jesus.
4. Each small group is like a church. There are people in our town that need to be rescued from the darkness of sin, and the people of our church can work together to bring them to God. (Talk about how your church does that through special Christmas and Easter services, weekly worship, youth groups, family events, and Kids Church. )
5. We’re all called to be rescuers. In this game, every team member was needed before the blindfold could be removed. In real life, too many times we tend to think it is the pastor’s job or \_\_\_\_\_’s job to lead others to Jesus. But it is *your* job. God calls *you* to be a part of his rescue team.
6. If one group had loaned or given its hula hoop marshmallow to another group, that would be like the church sending money to do mission work in another part of town or in another country. Did any group think to do that? What are we doing with our mission money this month that helps people learn about Jesus?

## Bible Presentation:

*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.*

 Read John 3:16-18. Explain this, keying in on the concept of what it means to be rescued. Say:

**Jesus rescues us from the punishment of our sin. The punishment for sin is eternal separation from God, or to live eternally in hell. This is what it means to spiritually perish. If we do not have Jesus, this is what would happen when we die.**

Explain how Jesus rescues us through his death and resurrection and we receive it by faith.

**Some people believe that since they are believers and since Jesus has rescued them, nothing bad will ever happen to them. Is that true? (No.)**

**Let's say that someone got sick and died. Before he died he prayed that God would rescue him from sickness but God chose not to. Does that mean this person was not rescued since he died? He went to heaven so he did not perish. Take a look at it this way.**

## **Application:**

*For the following illustration, you will need a clear transparency, a package of flash paper (available [http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel\\_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=9562351&rrc=N&aff=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7013&cat=&catstr=](http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=9562351&rrc=N&aff=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7013&cat=&catstr=)), a small construction paper heart, tape, and a paper clip.*

Beforehand, draw a figure of a person onto a transparency and cut it out. Next, cut out a similar pattern on the flash paper and tape it over the transparency cut out. Only tape the figure at the top so the flash paper is loose against the transparency.

Tape to the heart an unfolded paper clip that will be used like a handle. Tape the heart and paper clip handle to the opposite or backside of the transparency person. You now have a transparent figure with flash paper taped to the front and a heart with a handle taped to the back. Use this to make the following point.

**We can look at the character from the front and see a paper cut out person. This is very much like how we are as people. Others see that which is on the outside. When we receive Jesus, though, we are rescued so the part of us that lives forever can live forever with God. Someone might say, "Oh no. God is not here to rescue me," when his body is hurting or maybe even when he dies.**

**The truth is this...**

Strike a match and light the bottom of the flash paper. It will flash burn quickly, leaving no trace.

**Though the outward side wastes away, your heart and your soul really do not perish. It lives forever with Jesus. This is just what has happened to this person I am holding in my hand. See how the paper is burned up? See what is left? The person's soul did not perish.**

**Today's Bible verse says, "God so loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." God sent his Son into the world to rescue us.**

At this time, it would be appropriate to lead the children in a prayer of faith if they are in any way uncertain that Jesus is their rescuer. If they are uncertain if they would go to heaven when they die, encourage them to place their trust in the finished work of Jesus. If they would like to pray, have the children repeat the words after you speak them.

**Dear God, I admit I am a sinner. I am sorry for my sin and the way I have disobeyed you and have done wrong things. I know Jesus gave his life to die for the punishment of my sin. Since I believe in him, I will not perish but I will have everlasting life. Thank you for giving me that gift, and I receive it right now. In Jesus' name. Amen.**



# 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.*

Ask if anyone has reached out to a friend by bringing him or her to church or by talking with him or her about Jesus this past week. Commend them for their efforts and encourage the kids to remember that they are a part of God's rescue team.

## 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.*

## Blessing:

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

## Song of Sending:

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

# Supplies:

## Offering:

- hula hoop

## The Power of the Cross:

- funny glasses or oversized sunglasses (optional)

## Learning Game:

- two lines of masking tape, one at each side of the room—this could cover 30-40 feet in distance.
- four hula hoops
- large marshmallows

## Bible Presentation:

- a clear transparency

## Application:

- a package of flash paper ([http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel\\_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=9562351&rrc=N&aff=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7013&cat=&catstr=](http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=9562351&rrc=N&aff=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7013&cat=&catstr=),)),)
- a small construction paper heart
- tape
- paper clip
- marker
- matches

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