



3rd – 5th

April 19-20, 2014

DATE

Easter

LESSON TITLE

Mark 14-16; John 13-21

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus rescued us so that we can be close to him.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

You may have a lot of new kids, some of whom only attend church on Easter. Make an effort to welcome and get to know every single kid. Invite kids to join you or other kids in an activity/game the moment they step into the room.

check-in/out

As kids leave, make sure to give parents a parent page. We hope it will spark important conversations during the week, and give kids an opportunity to share what they learned in Kids' Club.

large group heads up

Read the story of Easter ahead of time. You can find it in Mark 14-16 or John 13-21. You can also watch the video kids will see during large group. It's called "God's Story: Easter" and you can find it at crossroadskidsclub.net.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

FOIL IMAGINATIVE GAME

- Give each kid a **piece of foil** (these are precut sheets!)
- Have them draw the coolest place they can imagine
- They can make it up: anything goes!
- Have kids share some of the things they are creating
- Ask kids about the best/worst parts of their week
- *Leave the foil creations in small group areas. Kids will need it for small group.*

Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) retell the story of Jesus' rescue, (2) recognize that Jesus' rescue overcame death (so that it no longer separates us from God), and (3) understand that when we believe in Jesus' rescue, we are a part of God's family.

Why? We want kids to understand the good news of Jesus' rescue.

Tip: Kids might ask hard questions. It's OK to say you don't know. Encourage them to ask their parents, read their Bibles (give them one if they don't own one) or even ask God to show them.

small group

*Mason and West Side, please fill a **pitcher of water** before small groups begin. Use the pitcher to fill the bowls for each individual group. Discard all water before you leave.*

REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER

1. What does it mean to be rescued?
2. Who needs to be rescued? Why?
3. 30-second story retelling:
 - a. Hand the **poster** to a kid (tell them not to look at the back!)
 - b. Give him/her 30 seconds to start telling the story (use the **stopwatch**)
 - c. Pass to the left every 30 seconds and continue where the prior kid left off
 - d. Help fill in gaps using your key—interject/ask questions/etc. to make sure kids recall the whole thing
4. *How* did Jesus rescue/save us? (got rid of death, which allows us to be part of God's family and one day spend forever with him)
5. *Why* did Jesus rescue/save us? (show kids the **verse card**)

REPENTANCE ACTIVITY

- Give each kid one piece of **dissolving paper**
- Have kids **write/draw** one (or more) wrong things they've done
- One by one, have kids drop their paper into the water.
 - As they watch the paper dissolve, say “_____ (kids' name), Jesus rescued you! He took your punishment and got rid of it by coming back to life! Because of what Jesus did, you can be free from the wrong things you've done and can be part of God's family.”*

**Be careful not to use language that makes assumptions about what's going on in kids' hearts. This activity is designed to help them understand Jesus' sacrifice and what it can*

mean for them, as well as give them an experiential way to make the choice to believe Jesus' overcame the wrong things they've done—IF that is a choice/belief they are ready for.

IMAGINE GOD'S PLAN

- **SAY:** Even though we have to live in this imperfect world, one day, God will re-create the world into a perfect place for his whole family. Jesus rescued us so we can be part of God's family and share that perfect home. Let's imagine our foil worlds getting even better (*refer to what kids created during Connect Time*).
 - Have kids write down one of the hardest/worst things about this world.
 - Have them share and plop into the dissolving water. Celebrate that all those things will be gone because of what Jesus did.
 - Remind them NOTHING is too wrong. No matter what we've done or what others have done, Jesus' can rescue us and God will forgive us.
 - If you have time, do one more round of writing down things you want to be gone, tossing them into the water, then praising Jesus for saving us.
- "Revise" or add details we've talked about to foil creations.

****Then pray together and thank Jesus for his rescue.**

PLEASE RINSE THE BOWLS AND RESUSE FOR SUBSEQUENT SERVICES.

Extra time? Pull out a big piece of foil and create a home for God's family as a small group. You can design it or write words to describe it. Make sure to emphasize that it's possible through Jesus' rescue.

special notes

One goal of today is to help kids really understand what it means when we say “Jesus rescued us.” So we’re talking a lot about the idea of a “rescue.”

Preview the support video (Bolt Rescues Mittens) here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PlzwYJHTB8g>

presenter tips

Today, we have the opportunity to directly share the Gospel with kids. Before you present, ask the Holy Spirit to speak through you.

script

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN, TEAR OFF A LONG SHEET OF THE FOIL/PARCHMENT. PREPARE TO USE THE PARCHMENT SIDE FIRST. AT THE END OF THE LESSON, DISCARD.*

Hi everybody, welcome to Kids’ Club! It’s great to see you here today. Today is Easter, which is a celebration for us. It’s when we celebrate Jesus’ Rescue! But before we talk about that, I have a question: Does anybody know what it means to rescue someone? (Let kids respond.) Yes, it means to save them!

WHAT IS A RESCUE?

Let’s think about people who rescue others all the time. What if we accidentally jump into the deep end of a pool and we can’t swim? Who might rescue us? (Let kids say: lifeguard.) Yes, a lifeguard. And what if we’re stuck in a smoke-filled room and there’s a fire outside the door? Who might rescue us? (Let kids say: firefighter.) That’s right!

And if we need a rescuer in a pool, the lifeguard jumps *into* the water to save us. If we’re stuck in a smoke-filled room, a firefighter will come *into* the burning building to save us. The rescuer often goes *into a scary situation*, just to save somebody.

In the movie Bolt, we see this happen. A cat named Mittens gets caught by Animal Control, who put her into a cage! Even though Bolt could get caught himself, he goes *into Animal Control* to rescue her. We’re going to watch a clip of the rescue. As you watch, see if you can figure out WHY Bolt would go in to rescue Mittens:

Video: Bolt’s Rescue

Woah, Bolt sure got lucky he didn’t get caught! He was able to knock out the security guard and get away. But why do you think he risked his own safety to get Mittens? (Let kids respond.) Yes, he must have *liked* Mittens, if not loved her. And, if you watch the movie, you’ll see, he



script continued

wants her to come along on a journey with him. He wants to *be* with her.

WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD (IMAGINE PART I)

So you know who else needs to be rescued? *You and me*. (**Set down the large piece of foil/parchment with the parchment side up** and stand on it). See, we live in a world that's pretty scary sometimes.

Close your eyes for a second. Give me a thumbs down if these things have happened to you:

- Thumbs down if you've been sick.
- Thumbs down if you've been injured.
- Thumbs down if you've been sad.
- Thumbs down if someone has been mean to you.
- And here's a hard one: Thumbs down if you've done something wrong, like lied or taken the best for yourself.

(Pause.) Now open your eyes and look around (have your thumbs down for when they open eyes). Yep, every single one of us knows the world is full of wrong things...and every single one of us *has done* wrong things. Including me. (*Leave the parchment there. You'll refer to it later.*)

WE NEED A RESCUE

The problem is, all those wrong things deserve punishment. And punishment separates us from God, because he's perfect. But God loves us *WAY* to much to leave us *stuck* in a broken world, separate from him. Just like Bolt loved Mittens too much to leave her stuck in Animal Control. Remember how much he loves us from our verse in Zephaniah 3:17:

SLIDE: Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is with you.

He is mighty enough to save you.

He will take great delight in you.

The quietness of his love will calm you down.

He will sing with joy because of you."

God is mighty enough to save us. So he sent his very own son, Jesus, to be our rescuer and our savior. Jesus left his perfect home in Heaven to come live in this awful, broken world. He took the punishment for all the meanness and death and wrong choices in the world, even though he had never done anything wrong. And then he came back to life, which means he's *stronger* than death! He **OVERCAME** death, kind of like how Bolt knocked out the guard.

JESUS RESCUED US

Let's watch a video about Jesus' rescue. As you watch, try to figure out WHY Jesus would be willing to go through all that to rescue us.

Video: God's Story / Easter (about 4 minutes)

Wow, Jesus was arrested, made fun of, and brutally killed...just to rescue us. To save us. **WHY** would he do that? (Let kids respond.) Yes, because he loves us! And wants to be close to us.



script continued

Re-summarize the Gospel for kids: Because of the wrong things we've done, punishment (death) separates us from God. But when Jesus took our punishment (death) and then came BACK to life, he got rid of death! It's like he knocked it out, completely conquered it. Now we can say to Jesus, "I know I've done wrong things, but I believe *you* took MY punishment! I want to be close to you." When we choose to believe that, we instantly become a part of God's family!

THE BEST PART (*IMAGINE PART II*)

And even though we live in a world where we suffer and die, the best part is, one day, God will re-create a new perfect world for his entire family to live in forever...like the video said, Jesus will come back for everyone who follows him—everyone in God's family.

(Turn over the parchment to the foil side.) And in that world, there aren't any wrong things. Close your eyes and imagine THAT for a second. (Let kids close eyes.) We'll never be tired, never sick, never hungry, never scared. We're always free and happy and laughing and having fun. All our friends will treat us well. In fact, *everybody* will be nice to us and love us. Even the weather is always perfect. It'll be even more wonderful than what you created on foil during Connect Time. And the MOST amazing part, which we can't even fully understand yet, is that we'll get to live *with* Jesus and God!

WORSHIP

Open your eyes and let's sing about how Jesus took our place and gave us freedom, because he beat death and is ALIVE—and how he wants us to be close to him always by following him!

Music Video: Alive (Hillsong video)

Music Video: Come With Me (learn hand motions ahead of time)

PRAY

Let's talk to Jesus now and thank him for rescuing us so we can be part of God's family!



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

One 12" sheet of foil per kid.
markers

small group supplies

- Markers/pens
- Bible
- 1 stopwatch per small group
- 1 sheet of colored card stock with the verse printed on it
- 3 pieces of dissolving paper per kid
- Water in a bowl (Mason and West Side will need a pitcher)
- paper towels (in case water spills)
- Extra foil for each small group to tear off a long strip
- 1 Easter poster per small group (PDF in curric folder but may have leftovers from two years ago)

large group supplies

Bible
A roll of the foil/parchment (one side is foil; one is parchment)

a/v needs

1. Video: Bolt Rescues Mittens (Videos>Misc)
2. SLIDE: Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is with you.
He is mighty enough to save you.
He will take great delight in you.
The quietness of his love will calm you down.
He will sing with joy because of you."
3. Video: God's Story / Easter
4. Music Video: Alive (Hillsong United)
5. Music Video: Come With Me (with musicians)

connect questions

Tell me about Easter.
Why did Jesus rescue us?

parent page

NEW APRIL PARENT PAGES