



Easter Weekend: March 26-27, 2016

****Click to play intro music***

Hey everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. We're so glad to have you here. It's Easter weekend, and around here that means it's time to celebrate! Today we're talking about how God created the most amazing rescue plan of all time, and it's for us! Before we get to that, let's talk about superheroes! **(Click to show slide of superhero.)**

SUPERHEROES TO THE RESCUE

Raise your hand if you would like to have a superpower! *(Let kids respond.)* Me too. If I could have a superpower, I would...*(insert your own answer)*. It would be so awesome! I could do all these extra-cool things that I would never be able to do if I was just a regular human. You know what else you and I could do? We could rescue people. Raise you hand if you would like to be able to do that? Me too.

We're going to watch a video about a rescue. As you watch, pay attention to what these superheroes are using their powers for.

VIDEO: THE INCREDIBLES

Were the heroes in that video just using their powers for fun? *(Let kids answer 'no'.)* Then why did they use their powers? *(Call on a kid to answer.)* That's right, they used their powers to defeat the big robot and rescue the city! Now, raise your hand if you think the heroes ALSO needed to be rescued in that video? *(Let kids respond.)* That's right, they did. Even though they were strong and could do really cool things, even THEY needed to be rescued.

WE ALL NEED A RESCUE PLAN

Superheroes aren't the only ones who can rescue people. We have a rescuer that is more powerful than any hero we could imagine. Who do you think that is? *(Let kids answer 'God' or 'Jesus'.)* You're right! God is the most powerful rescuer of all, and he came up with a plan to rescue every one of us.

The question is, why do we need to be rescued? To answer that, we have to go all the way back to the beginning of the Bible, when God created Adam and Eve. God let Adam and Eve choose whether they wanted to obey God or not, and they decided to *disobey* God. That's when sin entered the world. Sin caused sadness, loneliness, and anger. Sin separated us from God. It created a big gaping hole between us and Him.

Everyone take a minute to close your eyes and think about the kindest, bravest, most perfect person in the world. Someone who you think always does the right thing, or always helps people in need. Got it? Ok, open your eyes. Raise your hand if you think even that person needs to be rescued? (*Let kids respond.*) Yes, you're right! Everyone needs a rescuer, because every single person sins.

SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD

Let me show it to you this way. (***Place two chairs next to each other in your presentation area.***) This first chair right here, let's say this is where God is (*point to one chair*). And this chair next to it, this is where we are (*point to the other chair*). You see this space between us? That's where sin gets in between God and us. And guess what? When we do wrong things, and feel sad or angry or ashamed, that space gets bigger and bigger. (*Push the two chairs further apart.*)

The thing is, God came up with a way to cover this distance between us and Him. He sent someone down to the world to bring us close to God again! Let's watch a video to learn just what God's rescue plan is. As you watch, pay special attention to why Jesus went through all these things to rescue us:

VIDEO: GOD'S STORY/EASTER

That's an incredible story. Jesus went through unimaginable pain to rescue us. But why did he do it? (*Let a kid answer.*) That's right, it's because he loved us. Loved us enough to die for us!

JESUS WILL RESCUE US NO MATTER WHAT

Jesus knew that this would happen. He knew that some of his own friends would turn their backs on him. But even then, Jesus still chose to love them. That's because no matter what we do or how much we mess up, he will always love us.

Let's talk about the Bible for a minute. You may not have read it before, and that's okay! It's a book filled with stories. Stories about all kinds of different people; some who made right choices, and some who made wrong choices. We all make wrong choices

sometimes, I know I do! The thing is, no matter what wrong choice we make, Jesus still died for us, and he still loves us.

- Here's one story about a guy named Jonah. God said to him "I want you to tell others about me!" But guess what? Instead of listening to God, Jonah ran away and hid. Even though Jonah made a wrong choice, would Jesus still die for him? *(give me thumbs up if he would!)*
- One story is about a man named Cain. Cain was really angry with his brother Abel, because Abel gave a better gift to God than Cain did. You know what happened? Cain killed his brother Abel. Now, would Jesus die for Cain, even though he did such a bad thing? *(Give me a thumbs up if he would!)*
- Here's one last story. There was a king named Saul who had a huge kingdom. God told Saul the best way to rule this kingdom, but Saul thought he knew better than God, so he tried to rule his own way instead. Would Jesus die for Saul, even though he didn't want to listen to God? *(Give me a thumbs up if he would!)*
- You may not have made the same choices as these guys, but we all make wrong choices. You might have lied, or disobeyed your parents, or maybe you've been mean to someone at school. Did Jesus die for you too? *(Give me a big thumbs up if he did!)*

The reason God gave us all these stories is to show us how EVERYONE makes wrong choices, but God still loves us, and he still sent his son to die for us. (Tell kids a personal example of a wrong choice that you've made, and how you realized that Jesus was the only way to be rescued from it).

JESUS IS OUR RESCUER

Jesus rescued every single one of us when he chose to die for all the wrong things in the world. Jesus is the ultimate rescue plan that God made to save us. Let's all read this verse together as loud as we can:

SLIDE: Isaiah 41:10: "So do not be afraid. I am with you. Do not be terrified. I am your God. I will make you strong and help you. I will hold you safe in my hands. I always do what is right."

Remember how we used these chairs to show how God wants to rescue us? There's a big distance between us and God when we do wrong things, but he loves us so much, that's he's sent his son Jesus to be like a bridge between us. Jesus took the punishment that should have been yours and rescued you by bringing you close to God!

The thing is, we need to accept that rescue. And it's really easy to do. Let's all close our eyes. I want you to think about how it feels when you're far away from God. *(Wait few*

seconds before continuing.) Now think about how it feels to be close to God because Jesus has rescued you. If you want to accept that rescue, you can decide that right now. (*Give kids a few more seconds of silence.*) Alright, everybody open your eyes.

Knowing that Jesus can rescue us from anything means we don't have to be afraid! Let's watch a music video about how Jesus gives us bravery:

VIDEO: Bravery

Now let's sing about how Jesus wants us to follow him. We can go with him anywhere and he will always be with us!

VIDEO: Come With Me

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for dying on the cross for everyone, no matter how bad we think they are. Thank him for rescuing us.