

Week of Sunday 1/3 – Saturday 1/9



RESCUER

Preparing the Way

Bible Activities

- Bible story video
- Puppet show video
- Jesus is baptized craft
- Jesus is baptized coloring sheet
- Read the Bible story together
- Share the Bible story with a friend
- Table Talk Questions



Check out the website for videos and digital copies of the curriculum.

Worship Together

- “Go Tell It on the Mountain”
- “Away in a Manger”
- “I Find My Joy”
- Memory Verse
- Pray together

Family Fun Activities

Honey & Bugs

- Enjoy a treat together! Eat your honey sticks and bug crackers.
- Talk about how you can tell others about Jesus, just like John the Baptist did.

Jesus Says

- Have the whole family play “Jesus Says” (same rules as Simon Says).
- Practice listening closely to what Jesus is telling you to do.

Bible Story

Rescuer: Preparing the Way

Heaven Breaks Through - The Jesus Storybook Bible (pg. 200-207)

Reference: Matthew 3, Luke 2:5-25, John 1:6-42

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The day John was born, his dad knew God's promise to Abraham was coming true—God was sending the Rescuer. And he was so happy he sang a song:

Because God loves us with a Never Stopping,
Never Giving Up, Unbreaking,
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He is sending us a Light from Heaven
To shine on us like the sun
To shine on those who live in darkness
And in the shadow of death
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

So John grew up and—well, to tell you the truth, he was a bit unusual. He lived in the desert. He wore itchy-scratchy outfits made of camel hair. He had a big, big, bushy beard and long, long, scraggly hair. And here is the oddest thing of all—he only ate locusts (short for big, creepy, crunchy, grasshoppers), which he dipped in honey (to disguise the taste, probably).

But God sent John to tell his people something important. “Stop running away from God and run to him instead,” John said. “You need to be rescued. I have good news—the Rescuer is coming! Make your hearts ready for him. Yes!

Get ready, because your King is coming back for you.”

Great crowds listened to John. They were sorry they had sinned, and they wanted to stop running away from God. They wanted to be rescued. So John baptized them—which means he plunged them in and out of the water. It showed that they wanted to follow God and begin a new life.

One day, John was baptizing people in the Jordan River as usual when he looked up and saw a man walking down to the water’s edge.

God spoke quietly to John, “This is the One!”

John’s heart leapt. This was the moment he’d been waiting for all his life.

“Look,” John said, as Jesus came down into the water. But his voice came out in a whisper. He couldn’t make it any louder. It was all he could do to even speak. “The Lamb of God...God’s best lamb...who takes away the sins of the whole world.”

“Will you baptize me, too?” Jesus asked.

“Who am I,” John asked, “to baptize you?”

“It’s what God wants me to do,” Jesus said.

So John baptized Jesus.

Suddenly, it was as if someone had drawn back curtains in a dark room, as if heaven itself had opened, because a beautiful light broke through the clouds and shone down on to Jesus, bathing him in gold. Beads of water glittered and sparkled like tiny diamonds in his hair.

A white dove flew down and gently rested on Jesus.

And a voice came down from heaven. It was clear and strong and loud so everyone could hear. “This is my own Son. And I love him. I am very pleased with him,” God said. “Listen to him.”

Heaven had broken through.

The Great Rescue had begun...

Questions & Prayer

1. Do you want to be rescued by God? Why?
2. How can you practice telling people about Jesus, just like John the Baptist did?

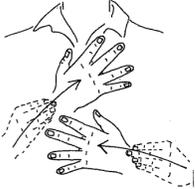
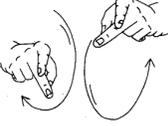
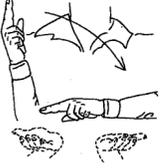
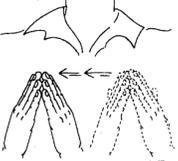
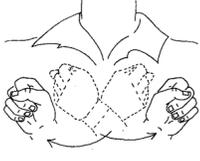
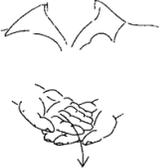
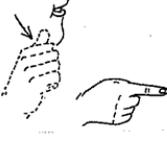
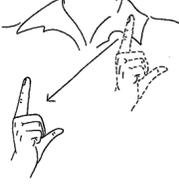
Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to rescue us! You are a good God. We love you and we can't wait until you return again.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Memory Verse

			
But the angel said	to them,	“Do not be afraid.	I bring
			
to you	good news	that will cause	great joy
			
for all	the people.	Today in	the town of David
			
a Savior	has been born	to you;	he is
		Luke 2:10-11	
the Messiah,	the Lord.”		

John baptizes Jesus.
Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11;
Luke 3:21,22; John 1:29-34



Rescuer: Preparing the Way

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