

Introduction: What is a rescue?

Rescue: to save someone from a dangerous or distressing situation; to keep from being lost or abandoned; retrieve.

What do great rescues have in common?

1. A great _____
2. The right _____
3. Innovative _____
4. Perfect _____
5. Flawless _____

God's great rescue involved...

1. **A great plan**

For consider what He has done – before the foundation of the world, He chose us to become, in Christ, His holy and blameless children, living within His constant care.

Ephesians 1:3

For God has allowed us to know the secret of His plan, and it is this: He purposes, in His sovereign will, that humanity shall be consummated in Christ, that everything that exists in heaven and on earth shall find its perfection and fulfillment in Him.

Ephesians 1:11

2. **The right people**

Part 2 of this series

Luke 1-2; Matthew 2

3. **Innovative methods**

Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a Son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

4. **Perfect timing**

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law...

Galatians 4:4

5. **Flawless execution**

"I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."

Job 42:2

God rescues us out of darkness into the light...

No matter how imprisoned you have been...

1. **Jesus will put your past** _____ **you!**

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us.

Ephesians 1:7-8a

New Hope: YOU ARE _____ **!**

2. **Jesus has a** _____ **for your life today!**

In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him, with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth.

Ephesians 1:8b-10

New Hope: YOU ARE _____ **!**

3. **Jesus promises you a** _____ **future!**

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose Who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we, who were first to hope in Christ, should be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:11-12

New Hope: YOU ARE _____ **!**

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there a movie, book, or real life rescue experience that this message reminds you of?
2. What motivates individuals, groups, or nations to attempt rescues?
3. Does viewing the Christmas story through the lens of “rescue,” change your attitude toward the holiday?

If so, how?
4. Which of the 3 “New Hopes” most resonates with you today? Why?
5. Who, this Christmas, do you long to see rescued by Christ’s love and deliverance?
6. Figure out an easy method by which you can remember to pray for them regularly.