

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 **PLAN**
2. The right **PEOPLE**
3. Innovative **METHODS**
4. Perfect **TIMING**
5. Flawless **EXECUTION**

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 BEHIND 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 **FREE!**

2. **Jesus has a PURPOSE 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 **NEEDED!**

3. **Jesus promises you a POSITIVE 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 **WORTHY!**

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.

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God's "Special Ops" team to execute His plan

- The Magi
- Zacharias and Elizabeth
- Mary
- Joseph
- Quirinius
- Shepherds
- Simeon
- Anna

Three specific truths to treasure and apply:

Truth #1 –

- **INTELLIGENCE** and **ABILITY** are overrated
- **WISDOM** and **AVAILABILITY** are underrated

Truth #2 –

- **POWER** and **POSITION** are overrated
- **HUMILITY** and **FAITH** are underrated

Truth #3 –

- **KNOWLEDGE ABOUT** God is overrated
- **KNOWLEDGE OF** God is underrated

Discussion Questions:

1. What struck you about the people God chose to execute His plan to rescue humanity?
2. What characteristics did these people have in common?
3. Why does God use “unlikely” people to accomplish His purposes?
(See 1 Corinthians 1:18-31)
4. In view of Gods’ rescue plan, what hope do you have that God can and will use you?
5. What’s your next step?

Introduction: Jesus' last night with His disciples

- He **CARED** for them –

"...do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house there are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you. For I go to prepare a place for you."

John 14:1-2

- He gave them **HOPE** –

"I will come back again and I will receive you to Myself."

John 14:3b

- He gave them **PURPOSE** –

"Where I am there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."

John 14:3c-4

- He told them the **WAY** –

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me."

John 14:6

JESUS is:

The WAY, the PATHWAY, the ROAD.... to eternal life with God.

Jesus modeled 5 new paradigms to show us how to get on / stay on...
....the PATHWAY to eternal life with God:

1. **Jesus' Birth = New LIFE**

He modeled: Radical HUMILITY

2. **Jesus' Family = Genuine LOVE**

He modeled: Radical DEPENDENCE

3. **Jesus' Journey = Personal GROWTH**

He modeled: Radical OBEDIENCE

4. Jesus' Relationships = Lasting **GREATNESS**

He modeled: Radical **SERVICE**

5. Jesus' Measure = Unquenchable **JOY**

He modeled: Radical **GENEROSITY**

God's rescue plan for humanity was born - to BE the pathway back to Him.

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:12

... but small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:14

Discussion Questions:

1. Are you on God's pathway to eternity, following Jesus?
2. Are you on your pathway to eternity because it seems right?
3. If you're ready to follow Jesus, pray in humility from your heart:

Dear God, I've been doing life my way, not following Jesus. I confess that I'm a sinner and I know there's nothing I can do to save myself or work my way to heaven. Right now, I'm telling You that I believe Jesus was born on earth, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross to rescue me. I believe Jesus was raised from the dead to prove You were satisfied with His sacrifice. I trust that He did all that will ever be necessary for me to stand in your holy presence. From this moment forward, I promise to follow Jesus all the days of my life. I'm so relieved to be off my path and onto Yours because Yours is the only path that leads to eternal life with You. In the name of Jesus Christ, who is now my Lord and Savior, Amen.

If you just prayed this prayer, please give us a call at 1-888-333-6003, we'd love to talk with you and get a free resource in your hands. If you prefer, go to our website, livingontheedge.org, you'll find the same New Believer's resource at the bottom of our homepage. Welcome to the family!