



THE RESCUE

Week 1

BREAKING THE ICE

Have you ever been lost in a crowd and searching for someone? How did you feel in that moment?

What is your favorite movie or book about a rescue?

MAIN CONTENT

We are all drawn to a rescue. When we are trapped in crisis and things look catastrophic we are looking for a rescue to save us. The Bible is full of rescue missions; Moses, Joshua, David, Jesus....

1. What is your favorite rescue story in the Bible?

Pastor Kevin said, "Rescue happens in one night but recovery takes time". God wants to rescue us, sometimes it's immediate, sometimes it takes time.

In Psalm 40 David talks about being in a pit. He needed to be rescued from the pit. He could have chosen to stay where he was or to receive God's help out of the pit. When we ask God to help us out of our pit we have a story of rescue to tell.

2. Talk about a time when God rescued you from a pit or troublesome situation? What did you gain on the other side of that?

God rescues us from many things. Our enemies, lies we believe, addiction, our selfishness, our ego, etc. - God wants to rescue us from all of them. Jesus came to the world to complete the ultimate rescue mission, to restore us back to our Creator. But we also need Jesus to rescue us from things we battle every day. Things like pride, believing our worth is what others say about us, selfishness, our temper, appearance, insecurity and shame. We can be rescued from anything when we confess them to Jesus and ask Him to rescue us from it. From there, The Holy Spirit empowers us to change.

We all need a rescue from something. We just need to recognize our need to be rescued and cry out to Jesus.

3. What do you need Jesus to rescue you from?

Read Luke 19:1-7

Another great story of rescue is the story of Zacchaeus. He was desperate to see Jesus. Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a tree just to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was embarrassed and full of shame but he knew he needed a rescue from the only person who could save him.

4. What are some ways you have tried to rescue yourself? How has that worked out for you?

We can try and rescue ourselves but willpower will only get us so far. Jesus is our only true rescue. Zacchaeus was tired of trying to rescue himself so he sought out Jesus for help.

Zacchaeus didn't have any friends, he was the most hated man in Jericho. That didn't matter to Jesus, He saw Zacchaeus and chose to love and accept him just as he was. The religious people were angry that Jesus chose to be with a sinner like Zacchaeus but Jesus didn't care. Jesus puts relationship with us above the mess we've gotten ourselves into.

5. When and how have you felt the unconditional love of Jesus like Zacchaeus did?

Read Luke 19:8-10

Jesus saw Zacchaeus and Jesus sees you, right where you are. You may be in a pit feeling overlooked, undervalued, and rejected but Jesus wants to rescue you out of it.

God is always pursuing us. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to rescue us from the small pits AND the large ones. When we surrender to Jesus, He heals us from our brokenness and makes us whole in our relationship with Him.

CLOSING PRAYER

God thank-you for the rescues we read about in the Bible. You are faithful and true to rescue us. Will you show us where we are stuck in a pit? Will you help us stop depending on ourselves and trust in you. We are in need of a savior, we are in need of you Jesus. Rescue us from anything that keeps us from You. Amen.

ACTION STEP

+ Pray and ask God where in your life you're in need of a rescue. Then ask Him to rescue you from those things.

+ Pair up and share with a group member where you need God to rescue you. Commit to praying for each other this week and keep each other accountable to what God is wanting you to give to Him.

+ Share with someone your story of how God has rescued you and offered you salvation.