

Jesus to the Rescue

The Nativity Story



happyland

Resource Booklet

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Click on the codes to take you to the NIV Bible
from www.biblegateway.com



Matthew 1

Matthew 2



Luke 1

Luke 2



Watch the animation on Youtube

A Very Big Surprise - Song



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Jesus to the Rescue

All Age Resource

Theme: The Nativity Story

NB: Invite people to come dressed as a hero. This could be someone they admire, a family member, a particular job or a superhero



Song Play a superhero theme tune or 'Superhero' by Hillsong Kids as people enter

Connections: PowerPoint slide with people/animals in need of help/rescuing on the screen as people come in e.g. someone who has fallen over, a cat stuck up a tree, a child in deep water etc.

Welcome and Introductions

Connections: What do the pictures have in common? (People who need rescuing/helping)

Introduce Theme

Today we are thinking about how we often need help! Sometimes we need to be rescued and so we're going to find out who helps and rescues us when things go wrong.

NB: Comment on how amazing everyone looks and tell them that you'll be coming round to take a closer look shortly

Opening Prayer

Father God, thank you that we can be together and that you are with us.

We're sorry for the mess we make and the scrapes we get into.

Thank you for the people who help and rescue us when we get stuck.

Please be with us now as we explore how you sent Jesus to our rescue.

Amen



Song

Nothing's Too Big, Big, Big

Doug Horley

[\(113\) Nothing's Too Big - YouTube](#)

Activity: Who Rescues Us?

Go back to the connections slide. Who helps us in each situation? E.g., Paramedics, Fire Fighters, Life Guards.

Do we have anyone here dressed as any of these people? You could even act out (or get volunteers to act) a few scenarios and encourage people to guess what it was that they needed rescuing from, and who it was that was rescuing them.

Isn't it great we have people around us who will rescue us if we're in need of help? Well, did you know Jesus had a rescue mission of His own... to save each of us?



Confession

God is perfect and amazing. We are not God, we are amazing but we're not perfect and all the messy things we do that mean we're not perfect, get in the way of us being friends with God. It means we often get into scrapes that we need rescuing from or help with.

Sometimes others do messy things to us, and sometimes messy things happen because the world is broken. BUT the great news is, God can turn all this mess around, and turn it into something GOOD, thanks to Jesus and His love for us! God is a forgiving Heavenly Father and he will always wash us clean!

So, when we say sorry, we aren't just saying sorry for the messy things we've done wrong, maybe when we've been cross or shouted angry words. We're saying sorry for not being perfect, for being humans who do messy things and not God. We're saying sorry and asking Jesus to rescue us so we can live more like him.

NB: This confession involves mimed actions

1. Gently mime washing their eyes

We're sorry God for the things people see us do, or the things we see other people do that are wrong and mess up your world.

2. Mime washing ears

We're sorry God for the things we hear, or other people hear us say that are wrong and mess up your world.

3. Mime washing mouth

We're sorry God for the things we say that are wrong and mess up your world.

4. Mime washing mind

We're sorry God for the things we think that are wrong and mess up your world.

5. Mime washing heart

We're sorry God for the things we feel that are wrong and mess up your world.

6. Mime washing hands

We're sorry God for the things we do that are wrong and mess up your world.

7. Invite people to give their hands a shake and to hold them out open in front of them

Father God, please make us clean and help us to live clean for you in your world.

Amen

Bible Story

Today's Bible story is from the new part of the Bible, called the New Testament, in Luke 2:1-20 (show Bible). This was a very long time after God, our special 3 in 1 God, created the world, a very long time after He washed the world clean. The world was still messy, and people had forgotten about God's friendship. But God had a plan...



Animation

Watch Happyland 'Jesus to the Rescue'

<https://youtu.be/HCpFYeD-dpo>



Song

A Very Big Surprise

<https://youtu.be/cVVak9WG9tU>

Talk

Adapt these points to suit but encourage a conversational approach where families chat and respond together

- What's the biggest surprise you've ever had?
- Show a selection of surprises on screen.
- The way God chose to rescue the broken world was a VERY big surprise.
- Why was it a surprise?
- We are used to watching superheroes in films and on TV who sweep in dramatically and sort everything out with their superpowers.
- God didn't send a superhero. God sent a baby! A tiny baby.
- Why? Surely it would have been quicker to come as an adult, like a superhero, and just sort out everything that's broken. God's an Almighty, powerful God after all. Nothing's impossible for him.
- No, instead, God chose to become like us, to become a human being, born as a baby.



- A human being who would understand our world and what it's like.
 - A human being who could form relationships.
 - Jesus showed people what God is like. He showed them the right way to live, he made people better and he helped people in danger. Jesus showed people a way back to being friends with God.
 - God came to earth, simply as a baby. Jesus grew into a man, gave people time and a choice to get to know him and be his friend.
 - If God had turned up like a superhero, and scooped us up with his superpowers, without giving us a choice, it just wouldn't mean as much!
 - And we still have that choice today.
 - Jesus might not have worn a cape or had super gadgets like some superheroes, but he did have a superpower. Can you guess what it is?
 - Jesus' superpower is LOVE. Can you imagine choosing to leave the magnificence of heaven to be born as a human baby? Jesus chose to become a human baby because he loves us and wants to rescue us. Baby Jesus grew into a man who loves us so much that the Bible says he died for us, all so he could rescue us.
- Jesus the rescuer, fixed what was broken in the world and in us humans. When Jesus died on the cross, he sorted out the mess we make, he took the punishment for the things we do wrong.
- We now have a choice about whether to accept, believe and follow Jesus...or not.
- The world still looks broken, but the end of the story is certain. The Bible tells us that one day Jesus will come back – much more dramatically, perhaps even like a superhero – and everything will be put right.
- Those who choose to follow him will live forever in a world that is perfect, fixed and brand new, as it was meant to be. And best of all, we can be friends with God forever!
- It's like a football match where your team are winning 10-0 with 5 minutes to go. The outcome is certainly going to be a win, but the team play on and only stop when the referee blows the whistle.
- Likewise, we know the winning outcome to life, and whilst we wait, we can 'play on', following Jesus. We can share his love with others, giving them the chance to choose whether they want to be friends with Jesus.
- When the final whistle comes, will we be on the winning side, Team Jesus, our rescuer?

Prayers: Jesus to the Rescue

Are there situations in the world and in your life that you need Jesus to help with, to rescue you from? Invite people to write their responses on sheets of paper placed round the building, with the following themes:

- World
- Community
- Family
- Me

Dear Jesus,
Thank you that you came to fix the broken world.
Thank you that you are the best rescuer.
Thank you that you want to be my friend.
Please help me to be your friend too.
Amen



Song

Jesus You're My Superhero (Hillsong)

[\(113\) Jesus Is My Superhero - Hillsong Kids \(Lyrics Video\) - YouTube](#)

Blessing

Jesus the rescuer came to fix a broken world and he uses us!
Jesus the rescuer, as we leave this place may we know you as our rescuer.
Help us work with you to be good news in the world, showing people the right way to live,
helping those in need, reflecting your glory to the world.
Amen

Possible Extra Songs



Big Family of God Nick and Becky Drake

[\(113\) Big Family Of God \(Official Lyric Video\) - Nick & Becky Drake // Worship For Everyone - YouTube](#)



The Incredible Song Doug Horley

[\(113\) The Incredible Song - Doug Horley/Duggie Dug Dug \(Official Video\) - YouTube](#)



Giant of Faith Pete James

[\(113\) Giant of Faith - YouTube](#)

Or you might choose to sing Christmas carols instead!