



Helping Kids Celebrate God's Rescue God's Way

When Jesus Saves Someone It's Always Good News

Lesson Aim

Kids will learn that God's rescue is a gift through Jesus, and they can celebrate when anyone—no matter how late—turns to Him.

Scripture Focus

- “And he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ And he said to him, ‘Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.’” Luke 23:42–43, (ESV)
- “Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:10, ESV)

Connect

- **Connection Point:** Ask: “Have you ever joined a game last, but still got to play or even win a prize? How did that feel?”

Teach

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell The Good Thief on the Cross (Luke 23:39–43)

When Jesus was on the cross, two men were next to Him. One of them made fun of Jesus, saying, “If you’re really the Messiah, save yourself and us!” But the other man spoke with honesty. He admitted they had done wrong, but Jesus had done nothing wrong. Then he turned to Jesus and said, “Remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

That simple request showed real faith. The man couldn't go back and fix his mistakes. He couldn't do anything to earn God's love. All he could do was trust Jesus. And Jesus answered him with love and kindness: "Today you will be with Me in paradise." In one moment, the man's life was changed forever—he was rescued by Jesus.

This story shows us what the Bible calls salvation. It's not about being "good enough" or following Jesus for a long time. It's about trusting Him, no matter when it happens—even at the very last moment. That might seem "unfair" to us, but God's love is bigger than fairness. Every salvation is a reason to celebrate, and heaven rejoices whenever someone turns to God.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think the thief asked Jesus to remember him?
2. What does Jesus' answer show us about His love?
3. How can we celebrate when someone turns to God?

- **Explain:**

- Salvation is a gift through faith in Jesus.
- Heaven celebrates every person who turns to God, no matter when.

Model

- **Teacher shares:** A personal example of someone you know who came to faith later in life, or a time when you chose to celebrate someone turning to God instead of being jealous.
- **Student activity:** Invite students to act out or draw (Charades or Pictionary) short scenarios such as a kid joining a game late but being welcomed, a sibling admitting wrong and saying sorry, or a friend deciding to start coming to church so they can experience how God's rescue looks lived out in everyday life.

Pray

- "Jesus, thank You for rescuing us. Thank You that it's never too late to turn to You. Help us celebrate when others believe in You. Amen."

Craft/Activity

- **Celebration Crowns:** Kids make paper crowns with the words "Heaven Celebrates!" and draw/write someone they are thankful God has saved.

Key Takeaway

- Heaven celebrates every person who turns to God.