



Helping Kids Celebrate God's Rescue God's Way

When Jesus Saves Someone It's Always Good News

Raising Christ-Centered Kids | Faith | God's Rescue

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"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*)

Key Takeaway

Heaven celebrates every person who turns to God.

The Biblical Meaning of God's Rescue

The Bible shows us that God's heart is to rescue people—not just from danger or trouble, but from our mistakes, selfishness, and the things that separate us from Him. Think about someone being pulled out of deep water or saved from a fire—that's what the word "rescue" brings to mind. That's exactly what Jesus does for us. He saves us from everything that keeps us apart from God and gives us new life with Him. The Bible calls this salvation: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10, *ESV*). Salvation is never something we earn. It's a gift God gives freely when we put our trust in Jesus.

One of the clearest examples is the thief on the cross. He had no chance left to make things right or prove himself. All he could do was call out, "Jesus, remember me." And Jesus, full of mercy, promised him paradise that very day. This story reminds us that God's rescue isn't about being "good enough" or having lots of time. It's about trusting Jesus—whether at the very beginning of life, in the middle, or even at the very end.

Understanding God's Rescue: Why It's Always Good News

Kids (and parents) sometimes wonder if it's "fair" that someone could live their whole life without following God and still be rescued in the end. But Jesus flips that question around. God's rescue



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is never about fairness—it's about His love. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son..." (John 3:16, *ESV*). Heaven doesn't complain when someone turns to God. The angels celebrate!

That's what we are called to do, too. Instead of feeling jealous, we can choose to celebrate when others experience God's love. Maybe it's a sibling who finally says sorry, a friend who starts coming to church, or someone we never expected to follow Jesus. Every salvation story is a reason to celebrate. Teaching kids to see God's rescue as good news for everyone helps them grow generous, joyful hearts that reflect God's own.

Practical Steps: Celebrating God's Rescue

1. **Tell the Story** — Read Luke 23:39–43 together. Talk about how Jesus rescued the thief on the cross, even though he came to God at the very last moment.
2. **Celebrate Small "Turns"** — When your child or a sibling admits wrong or chooses kindness, pause and celebrate it as heaven does.
3. **Use Everyday Examples** — Connect rescue to daily life: a lifeguard saving someone, a firefighter, or even being picked up when you fall. Show how Jesus rescues us in a greater way.
4. **Name the Gift** — Remind your child that God's rescue is a gift. We don't earn it by being good; we receive it when we trust Jesus.
5. **Practice Gratitude** — At bedtime, thank God together for His rescue and pray for friends and family who still need to know Him.

Scripture for Parents and Kids

- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (*John 3:16, ESV*)
- "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (*Luke 19:10, ESV*)
- "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." (*Ephesians 2:8, ESV*)

Encouragement for Parents

You don't have to explain everything perfectly or make sure your kids believe "early enough." Salvation doesn't depend on you—it depends on Jesus. What matters is modeling faith, celebrating small steps toward God, and trusting that His love for your kids is greater than your own. God's timing is often different from ours. A child may seem slow to respond, but He is always at work in ways we can't see. Keep pointing them to Jesus with patience and love, knowing that heaven celebrates every single heart that turns to Him.

CTMP Corner: Kingdom Kids in Action

- **Connect:** Share a time you needed help or rescue and how you felt.
- **Teach:** Explain that Jesus rescues us from sin and gives us new life.
- **Model:** Celebrate when others turn to God, even in small ways.
- **Pray:** Thank God for rescuing you and ask Him to rescue others you love.