

The Great Rescue November 1, 2026
Main Passage: John 3:17-18

1. Honor Christ; Sent to Save

- The greatest rescue story puts on display the heroism of Jesus Christ. Jesus, the King of kings seated upon the throne of thrones, was sent down to save sinners like us. Jesus Christ is the Messiah who came down, and was sent from God. As God the Father sent Jesus, we believers are sent by Jesus into the world to engage others on behalf of Christ (John 20:21). It is not an option, but a command. Jesus came as a Savior to save not the righteous, but wicked sinners (John12:47; Lk 19:10; 5:31, 32). We honor Christ by accepting we are sinners before a Holy God, and drawing near to seek His rescue. We honor Jesus Christ as both Savior and Judge.

A) What is the significance of understanding how spiritually wicked or sick we really are? Why is it dangerous to not understand that we need rescued? _____
_____

B) How can you be tempted to minimize sin in your life? What areas do you need accountability in repentance? _____
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2. Consider the Horror of Condemnation

- The rescue is from the condemnation of eternal hell. Condemnation is a threat to all human beings, and the gospel is the only hope we have to avoid the wrath of God. Jesus will judge with justice and a sharp sword with which He will strike down the nations (Rev 19:11ff; 1 Cor 15:25-27). We should fear God because He will judge us eternally (Lk 12:5). If we deviate from His grace and commands, we will suffer indefinitely under the rule of His judgement. Satan does not rule hell but is the chief captive. Rejecting salvation in Jesus Christ stirs up the wrath of God. Hell is not the absence of God, but the presence of the sobering wrath of God, His eternal torment to unbelieving souls.
- The Horrors of Hell
    - Satan is the chief captive of hell (20
    - Condemned by the Judge (Matt 25:41)
    - Bodily punishment (John 5:29)
    - Agony (2 Pet 2:4)
    - Eternal (Mark 9:48)
    - Torment (Rev 14:10, 11)
    - Wrath (John 3:36)

C) What does someone's refusal to submit to Christ tell us about their heart? How could you communicate this to them? _____
_____

D) Describe how Jesus is honored in judging the world? _____
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3. Call on Christ to be saved

- John uses the verb 'believe' 98 times in this gospel. Believe and you will be born again. It is imperative that we believe. We must understand and thoroughly apply what it means biblically to "believe".
- Understanding Saving Faith
    - Intelligence (Noticia) – Facts and Head
    - Reliance (Fiducia) – Reliance and Heart
    - Allegiance (Assensus) – Ascent and Hands

E) Describe in your own words how "belief" in a true believer is reflected in their head, heart, and hands? _____
_____

F) What is your weakest area of belief? List some verses to which you can cling to renew your mind? _____
_____

4. Realize the Power of Rescue

- Saved, delivered, and rescued – this is an important word group to understand what happens in salvation. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Col 1:13, 14). We have been delivered from the state of condemnation and have been indwelt with the Holy Spirit for our good. He does not save us and then leave us in the state of spiritual emptiness. He rescues us and changes our lives for all time.
- The great lie in 'American evangelism' is that we can be saved but continue to live unchanged lives in unrepentant sin. The Lord will rescue us from every evil deed and temptation and will bring us into His heavenly kingdom (2 Tim 4:18; 2 Pet 2:9, 10).

G) Why is it important to understand this word grouping (saved, delivered, rescued) in salvation? _____
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H) How would Jesus describe someone who professes Christ, but lives in unrepentant sin? _____
_____

I) What ways has the Lord has changed your life? Take a moment to prayerfully reflect on these and share with your LG. _____
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