



Exploring and Investigating- The Biggest Rescue Easter Extravaganza 2018: Is this the Great Rescuer?

Overview



John 4: 42: “Now we know, that he is indeed the Saviour of the world.”

The Jesus Storybook Bible p.149 “The rescuer will come. Look for him. Watch for him. Wait for him. He will come!”

p.202: “John said... I have good news- the Rescuer is coming! Make your hearts ready for him. Yes! Get ready, because your King is coming back for you.”

Our one big aim: To give children the opportunity to discover more about God’s Great Rescue Plan.

This year we are exploring God’s great rescue plan revealed in the Bible. We often introduce the Bible by sharing it’s big, overarching narrative- the story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them. This year we will be focussing particularly on the rescue: what is it all about? Who is this great rescuer? Did God need to rescue his people? Is it really good news? We aim to provide resources and space for children to begin exploring and connect together more of their understanding of key parts of the Christian faith. As previously, it is hoped that each child will be able to seek, question and explore further from whatever their starting place, previous understanding or learning journey so far.

For this session we ask ‘*Is this the great rescuer?*’ and ask students to look at a series of different clues from God’s Big story (told in the Bible) which unlike any other mystery are not haphazard or left behind accidentally but purposeful and perfectly orchestrated. As detectives, students will be encouraged to go on a thinking journey starting in the Old Testament (written hundreds of years before Jesus was born) and on into the New Testament looking for the signs that point to a Messiah or a rescuer and that ultimately lead to God’s son Jesus. Along the way we will be asking them: What can we find out about Jesus? Is he the one the people had been expecting for so long? Does the evidence point to a mighty King and a rescuer? And what was that rescue all about? For those that are able to piece together the clues from the Bible may also see that this story is not complete, there is more to discover but the Bible evidence also points to more mystery to come!

Some parts of stories are taken from the Jesus Storybook Bible which are based on the accounts of the Easter story from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Some old testament promises (from Genesis, Micah, Zechariah and Psalms) will also be used.

Our aims:

- To remind students of, or introduce them to the one big story told in the Bible: The story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them
- To invite students to discover the central piece of God’s one big story- Jesus, and to find out more about His story
- To encourage them to use various inquiry skills and to seek, question and explore along the way
- To use different resources to appeal to a varied set of thinking and learning styles (of volunteers and children)
- To provide time and space for children to continue to journey more from whatever their starting place
- To help children piece together their understanding within God’s one BIG story: **The story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them**

Our Learning Outcomes:



We hope that all students are given the opportunity to **wonder** about the big story of the Bible; about Jesus and about God’s Great Rescue Plan



that some will discover more about Jesus through his story (told in the Bible);



and others may make further connections and **respond** individually to the things they discover (even in the form of further questions).

SESSION SEQUENCE: Is this the Great Rescuer?

	<i>Broad structure (name badges to be given to students as they come in)</i>	Who?	Time?
SEEK	<p>1. Arrival activity: Bibles scattered around for students to look at, a few clues from the session also placed around for students to explore with some thinking questions attached.</p> <p>2. Introduction to the year. Big Bible story reminders or introductions. Introducing detective theme and skills needed to find the clues in God's story.</p> <p>3. Orientation: On a mission.MOV to link back to the Christmas rap (He's coming, it's time...) with a detective theme.</p>	All/ leader led into groups with volunteer	10
	<p>4. Split into Bible story puzzles in small groups for youngest students, opening Bibles and briefly thinking about some introductory questions (Who is Jesus? What is this book?). For older students- creating mimes/actions in small groups to go with Bible timelines, my name is introductory puzzle and sharing ideas about Jesus/the Bible.</p>	leader led -	
QUESTION	<p>5. At each station, students will be encouraged to use some detective skills to piece together some of Jesus' story. Each station will include some Old Testament references pointing to Jesus and saying in effect "Here's what he will look like. Here's what he will do. Watch for Him. Pay attention. The Messiah is coming." They will then follow the Easter story, including both Jesus' death and resurrection. Those students able to piece together all of God's clues about Jesus may be encouraged to look to what's next, to perhaps see that the story is not complete and there is more mystery to come!</p> <p>a. He's coming/ It's time: students will build up a storyboard of pictures, words and items which will compare the picture of God's rescuer promised in the Old Testament with Jesus as he came, in his death and resurrection</p> <p>b. The one for all to see: following on from some Old Testament clues asking people to "look for him, watch for him, wait for him" students will be using a story dice to help them piece together some more clues about Jesus in his birth, life, death and resurrection. Was Jesus the 'one for all to see?'</p> <p>c. The mighty king: as the magi questioned "where is the King of the Jews?", as Pilate asked "are you the King of the Jews?" as the soldiers mocked "So, you're the King of the Jews!" students will be looking in more detail at the evidence for a king and attempting to answer their own questions along the way.</p> <p>d. The rescuer: What is a rescuer, or Saviour? What is this rescue all about? Students will be acting out (or retelling with story sticks) the story of Jesus and Barabbas and reflecting on what it's all about? Should Jesus have died? Was there a bigger purpose here? Is this the end of the story?</p>	in 4 small groups. Each volunteer led	20-30 mins
EXPLORE	<p>6. He's here for you and me! To finish, students will be given a moment to listen briefly to others sharing some of their evidence and think about what this may mean for them.</p> <p>7. Summary/Conclusion (this is the big story of what Christians are celebrating at Easter)</p>	All groups back to the start/ leader led	15 mins