



Discipleship Course

The Big Story of the Bible

Session 5: The search and rescue God



The Big idea

Most people love a good rescue story- but admitting that you need rescuing yourself is another question! The story of the Bible reveals both that we are in great need of a rescue, and that wonderfully, God has 'rescue' as part of his DNA. We will see by looking at the story of the 'exodus' and how it points forward to the biggest rescue of all through Jesus.

Introduction: How to get out of a hole...

- *Climb out yourself...*
- *Follow instructions to climb out yourself...*
- *Get lifted out...*



*I waited patiently for the LORD;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the LORD
and put their trust in him*

Psalm 40:1-4

1. God's great rescue pictured: The Exodus (Ex. 6:2-8, p. 62)

- *Helpless slaves*
- *Mighty rescue*
- *The blood of the lamb*
- *Relationship with God*
- *Long journey*
- *Promised land*

"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you are to celebrate it as a festival to the Lord"

Exodus 12:14

"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other Gods before me..."

Exodus 20:1 (The Ten Commandments)

2. God's great rescue promised: The prophets (Isaiah 53:4-12, p. 740)

3. God's great rescue performed: Jesus

"Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord"

Luke 2:10

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost"

Luke 19:10

➤ *Helpless slaves... to sin*

➤ *Mighty rescue... from the just punishment our sin deserves*

- *The blood of the lamb... **Jesus' death on the cross***
- *Relationship with God... **a genuine relationship with God now through the holy Spirit***
- *Long journey... **Christians journey through life's hardships with God's guidance and provision***
- *Promised land... **of God's eternal and perfect kingdom***

Three big applications

- a. Make **God** your saviour (not other things)

"A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine"

Psalm 33:17-19

- b. Make God your **saviour** (not just your coach)
- c. Always remember: we are a rescued people

Small Groups

Discussion questions from the talk

- Knowing God as our rescuer is wonderful- but why could it also be humbling?

Bible study- Exodus 12

God has promised to get his people out of Egypt. Nine plagues later, we come to the final and most dreadful plague: the death of every first-born in the land. But God will rescue his people from it in an amazing way.

1. Can you think of any events that we make a point of remembering each year? Why do we do it?

Read Exodus 12:1-32

You'll see how this chapter is structured in the table below.

	Instructions for the first Passover	Instructions for commemorating the Passover
God's instructions to Moses	Exodus 12:1-13	Exodus 12:14-20
Moses passes message on to the elders	Exodus 12:21-23	Exodus 12:24-27

2. Look at the two sections that deal with the instructions for the Passover (the orange column)

- In the table, jot down the key instructions- do any of them stand out?
- What is God's reason for striking down the first-born? (v12)
- What was the purpose of the painted blood? (v13, 23)

3. In what sense did the lamb 'take the place' of the eldest sons in the Israelite households?

4. Look up 1 Peter 1:18-19. How did the Passover lamb point forward to Jesus?

5. Look now at the sections that deal with the commemoration of the Passover (the blue column)

- In the table, jot down the key instructions- do any stand out?
- What would the commemoration teach their children? (v26-27- see also ch. 13:8-10)
- Why, once they were in their own land (v25) was it important for them to remember the events of the Passover?

Read Luke 22:14-23

6. How does Jesus show himself to be the true Passover lamb- a substitute for our sin?

7. Why is it important for us to keep remembering Jesus' death for us? How are we to do that?

8. The people were told in v17 to 'celebrate'. Is Jesus' death something you celebrate publically, and in your heart?

Taking it further in the week

Reflect

- Have you come to realise just what a need you have for God's rescue?
- How often do you remember that Jesus died on the cross to rescue you?

Read

Exodus 15:1-21 is a wonderful song of praise for God's rescue. Read it, and then think of things from Jesus' rescue of us that you could praise him for.

Respond

- Thank God that he has always been a God committed to rescuing his people.
- Thank God for his rescue of us through Jesus, and pray that it would shape you more and more.

Next Discipleship Course: 16th June- for "Jesus, the ultimate prophet"

Published Q&A will now take place on 7th July

Prayer points