

ROOTED AND REACHING NOTES
WEEK 2

Our goal in this week's message is "to bring you face to face with the biblical responsibility of not keeping the Good News of Jesus to yourself in order to move you to action." In brief, "You've been rescued to rescue."

Share it

Because of the floods in Texas and Florida, the news showcases many rescues. We all need rescuing of some kinds. What are some that you have needed? Who helped?

NOTES TO LEADERS: We have all been rescued many times. It begins when we are children and continues throughout our lives. Some kinds include physical, financial, and emotional.

Study the Bible

What does the Bible say about our need for rescue and God's choice to rescue us?

Ephesians 2:1 – **We are dead in your sins, without means**

Romans 3:23 – **All have sinned. This means that we are under the wrath of God. We are going to miss the glory of God.**

Luke 19:10 - **Jesus came to seek and save (Literally "rescue") the lost (spiritually separated from God). To seek includes being zealous to find for purposes of rescue.**

Galatians 4:4-5 – **God, at the right time, sent His own Son to redeem us and bring us into His family as sons and daughters. Again, we see God's desire to rescue us. But it goes beyond a rescue to adoption.**

Titus 3:3-6 – **These verses indicate our hopeless and sinful condition when we are without Jesus. But Jesus, out of mercy and kindness, came to redeem us and purified us through the Holy Spirit.**

What does the Bible say about our role in God's rescue mission?

John 13:34-35 – **The world will recognize God's love as they see us love one another. This is the presenting edge of our witness to the world.**

2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 20 – **We have been given the role as ambassadors of Christ, motivated and driven by His love with the message that He died in our place and rose again so that we might be reconciled to God and rise to live with Him forever.**

Discuss Together

What evidence is there that we live in a world broken by sin?

NOTES TO LEADERS: There is a plethora of evidence. It runs from any relationship to world wars, from the smallest lie to deception of Satan. It's everywhere.

What does the Bible say was God's motivation to rescue us? (See Exodus 34:6; John 3:16; Titus 3:4)
How can this be a driving force in our lives?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Throughout the Old (Exodus 34) and New Testament, God's motivation was always love. His goal was to bring us into His goodness and glory. This should be our motivation – to love enough to have compassion on those who do not know Christ AND to make God known to others that they might glorify Him.

J. I. Packer wrote, "The Gospel centers on justification [i.e. being declared righteous], the truly dramatic transition from the status of a condemned criminal awaiting a terrible sentence to that of an heir awaiting a fabulous inheritance." If we understand and believe this, how should it motivate us to live?

NOTES TO LEADERS: I am convinced that the key to helping us stay motivated and engaged is by keeping our eyes on Jesus and His amazing kindness toward us. The picture of this statement is factual, not fanciful. If we miss either side of the equation (criminal or inheritance) will miss the grace and goodness of God.

Apply It This Week

Reflect on God's rescue of you personally. What and who drew you to Christ?

Ask God to help you assess your compassion for those without Christ. Do you feel engaged in God's mission to rescue others?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This is a call to self-assess. I think this is healthy for us to do. It is not aimed at guilt or shame but rather the joy of seeing what Jesus has done for me and letting it motivate me to pass it on.

Grace to you all,
Steve