

Bible Study Teaching Plan for July 8, 2018
Rescue & Redemption, Lesson 6, Psalm 27
Teaching plan by Dr. Williamson

CONNECT WITH LIFE

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you use this story, please get news updates on Sunday morning before teaching your class.***The situation is changing daily***It is a desperate situation. If this ends tragically, I recommend NOT USING this story. Brad

1. SAY: if you've been following the world news, you know there is a group of 12 teenage boys in Thailand who are trapped in a cave, and have been for two weeks. The cave evidently flooded after they went into it. The only adult who went with the boys was their assistant soccer coach. It took nine days for rescuers to locate them. Fortunately, they are all still alive, as of Friday, July 6, although one rescuer has died. Now rescuers are trying to determine how to get the boys out. They are working fervently to find a solution. It took trained navy seals 2.5 hours to swim to the boys. The boys are in a real predicament and need of rescue as more rain is expected.

SAY: Let's talk about how we think the parents and boys must be feeling in this terrible situation.

Use these (or similar questions) to keep the conversation going:

- ASK: When did you first hear about this crisis situation?
- How do you think the parents felt when their boys didn't come home originally?
- What do you think you would you have done if your child was one of the missing boys?
- How do you imagine the boys felt when the water trapped them?
- How do you imagine the boys felt when they went longer than a week with no contact with the outside world, and no food?
- When the rescue team finally found them, how do you think the boys felt?
- What do you think went through their minds?
- How do you think they feel about learning to swim, and having to risk going underwater in order to get out?

2. Stop the discussion and pray for the boys, the searchers, their parents and families. Ask God to provide a rescue for them.

3. Rescue is a real need in our world--and in our lives--both literally and spiritually. We're going to look at God's word--and David's plea for help--for not only the rescue of the boys in Thailand, but to rescue us (and others) in our needs as well.

GUIDE BIBLE STUDY

4. SAY: Most of us wouldn't immediately think that David, the king of Israel--a man after God's own heart--would ever needed rescuing. When we think about the life of David, "rescue" is not what immediately comes to mind. We think of him being a valiant warrior, or the greatest King over the Israelites. With that said, let's try and think of some issues or times in David's life, when David needed God's help, or to be rescued. Discuss.

Possible answers: When Saul was after him, trying to kill him; When he was a shepherd boy and the bear and lion encounters; when he was a warrior in battle; When he faced Goliath; when he got himself in trouble with Bathsheba. When his son, Absalom, revolted against him.

5. SAY: In some ways, David was just like us. Although he was a king and leader, he too needed God's rescue at times. He needed God's strength to keep going, just like we do.

6. Divide the class into two listening groups.

- Group 1 will listen for the challenges that David felt were upon him.
- Group 2 will listen for the signs that David trusted in God to be his deliverer.

Have volunteer read Psalm 27:1-6. Afterwards, have groups take turns sharing the troubles revealed in David's life; and the indications of faith David had in God.

CHALLENGES

Evil-doers challenge him
He feels as if he's being "devoured"
Foes all around him
Armies and war are upon him
In times of trouble

INDICATORS OF FAITH

The Lord is my light
The Lord is my salvation
My heart shall not fear
I will be confident
God will hide me in his shelter, or place me on a high rock

7. As groups call out answers, supplement their answers with thoughts from our commentary, or ask additional questions.

- "Light" was often a symbolical indication of "following God."
- "Darkness" was a sign of evil.
- What is it about "light" that helps us dispel fear? What about "darkness" that causes us to be afraid?
- Do you think David was talking about "spiritual salvation" or "physical saving" in verse 1? How would we compare New Testament salvation with what David experienced?
- How would "dwelling in the house of the Lord" bring courage and confidence?
- Do you think David was simply trying to talk himself into feeling confident? Or were these words statements of faith, based on God's action? Why or why not?
- What do David's "words of faith" tell us about his relationship with God? Discuss.

8. Have volunteer read vs. 7. SAY: The commentators point to a shift in attitude and verb tense between verse 6 & 7, moving from confidence to concern. It's like David is calling out to God, "Hey, I need your help down here. I can't do this on my own."

Continue reading vs. 8-12.

ASK: In what ways are our cries of desperation to God, also an indicator of our faith? Discuss.

SAY: Sometimes parents have experienced their children crying out, even saying hurtful words towards them. But what the kids were doing was crying out in their hurt to someone they knew loved them and that they knew they could trust.

SAY: Bottom line: God wants to hear from us, even if it is our negative thoughts and words. He is big enough to handle anything we bring Him. Obviously, he prefers it when we bring Him our words of

worship and confidence, but this Psalm (and others) show that we can share ANYTHING with God. We can cry out to God (even Jesus cried out to God in the Garden of Gethsemane, and on the cross).

APPLY TO LIFE

9. What are times when God used His word, or Christian songs, to bring you courage or strength in times of need? What hymns or songs of faith have you found encourage you in times of need? Possible answers: "It is well"; "You're an Overcomer;" Cry Out to Jesus.". Option: play or sing one of these hymns or songs of faith.

10. SAY: Sometimes, bad things happen that we prayed would not happen. Sometimes we feel like God doesn't even hear our prayers. Have volunteer read vs. 13-14.

SAY: When we pray, asking God for something, we would usually prefer an immediate answer. However, the longer you've been a Christian, the more you come to understand that God's timing isn't our timing. Sometimes God answers our prayers with "yes." Other times it is "no." And sometimes, the answer is "wait."

11. Close in prayer. Take prayer requests. Include the boys in Thailand who need rescuing.