

THE RESCUE

discovering how the Gospel
rescues and redeems us

PART 2: THE GOSPEL RESCUING ME lesson 15 : *The Rescued Me: A New Purpose*

What we want students to learn: That when they are rescued through faith in Christ, they become completely new creations, leaving behind their old selves and embracing their new lives.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To embrace the principles of their “new life,” practically seeking to live out their faith in real ways.

Scripture Focus: 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:5-15

Overview: One of the most powerful truths about God's Rescue Plan is that it doesn't merely take away the debt of our sin and leave us unchanged. No, when we are rescued through faith in Christ, something amazing happens. We are transformed. We are renewed. (The wonderful theological term for this is “regeneration.”) Something new is born out of something old. The Gospel doesn't make us improved versions of ourselves. It destroys our old self that was wrapped in sin's chains, and it births a new self, born into the freedom that only the Gospel brings. This new life is saturated in Christ-likeness! Through the Spirit, we're empowered to live as Christ, impacting the world around us. This is the challenge for your students. They will be led to grasp the truth of being new creations and challenged to boldly live out their new lives.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Each Rescue lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your Rescue lesson 15 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 15, and click on the “Background” tab. You'll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The Bible Background is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details gives you background info for each book. The Setting informs you of what's happening in and around the passage. The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by “context”?** In every ym360 Bible Study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By “context” we mean at the very least helping students know who wrote the book, when it was written, and why it was written.
- **What's the big deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a “big picture” understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the Bible Background to help summarize the context.

THE RESCUE



discovering how the Gospel
rescues and redeems us

THE DETAILS

- **Author:** The Apostle Paul wrote 2 Corinthians to the church in Corinth.
- **Time frame:** Paul wrote 2 Corinthians from Macedonia around A.D. 55 or 56, a year or so after writing 1 Corinthians and a year before he wrote his letter to the Romans from Corinth.
- **Purpose:** According to the ESV Study Bible, the main theme of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians was "the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit in Paul's apostolic life, ministry, and message."

THE SETTING

Paul is writing to believers in the churches of Corinth, Ephesus, and Colossae to challenge them to part ways with their old way of life and embrace a new way of living as Jesus works in them to transform them to become more and more like Him.

THE MAIN POINT

The main point we want to make is that God is the one who makes us into new creations as we continually surrender to Him and let Him work in and through our lives.

LESSON PLAN

The Lesson Plan contains three elements: an introductory activity called The Lead In; the Bible Study section called The Main Event; and an application-focused segment called The Last Word.

THE LEAD IN

- **Goal:** To help students begin to think about the change that should naturally happen to someone whose life has been radically changed by Jesus.
- **Set-Up:** None

FIRST, begin by explaining to students that you're going to paint a hypothetical situation for them to think about. Say something like:

- **Imagine for a moment that you were born in a far away country and because of some unfortunate situations, you became an orphan. Due to the rough situation in your village, there is nowhere for you to go, so you find yourself living on the street. If you want somewhere warm to sleep, you have to find it. If you want something to eat, you must find it. If you**

THE RESCUE



discovering how the Gospel
rescues and redeems us

need protection from a bad situation, it is up to you to defend yourself. You have no advocate. No one is there for you.

THEN, ask something like:

- **How would you feel? What would be going through your mind? What would you do?**
 - Answers will vary.

Continue the story by saying something like:

- **Now, imagine that one day, a family from another country comes to your village. You find out that they are here to adopt you. You would be going home with them to experience a new life in a new world where you go from someone who has no one to someone who has a family. Your life will totally change.**

THEN, ask something like:

- **So what would be going through your mind at this point? What are the pros? What are the cons?**
 - Answers will vary.

NEXT, finish the story by saying something like:

- **Once you arrive at your new home with your new family, many things are different. You now have a home, food, and someone to provide for your needs and be your advocate. Your new family is loving and safe. Your life as you know it has been totally changed.**

THEN, ask something like:

- **Would it make sense to leave your new family and go back to your old way of living? Explain.**
 - Answer: No, it wouldn't make sense to leave safety, provision, and care only to return to danger, loneliness, and harm.

FINALLY, explain to students that the transformation that we have gone through if we have placed our faith in Jesus is an even greater transition than the story we just read. Say something like:

- **We have been brought from death to life in Christ. We have been freed from our sin and restored into a relationship with God. Our life has totally been transformed, yet we so often want to go back to the decisions, mindset, and lifestyle that we had before Jesus changed us. We want to keep living life like we are alone when we have been given a new life to live through our relationship with Jesus. Today, we are going to explore the idea of becoming**

THE RESCUE



discovering how the Gospel
rescues and redeems us

a new creation and living a new life because of Jesus' work in saving us and changing our lives.

Transition into The Main Event portion of the lesson.

THE MAIN EVENT

- **Goal:** To help students learn that when they are rescued through faith in Christ, they become completely new creations, leaving behind their old selves and embracing their new lives.
- **Set-Up:** Students will need Bibles or Bible apps. You may find a dry erase board useful, though it is not necessary. If you choose, you may want to display the “Rescue Unit 2 Overview” as a way of showing students what you will be covering over the next few weeks. The PDF is provided if you would like to print a copy or copies. The JPG is intended for electronic display.

FIRST, if you choose, begin your time together by setting up what you will be covering the next few weeks. We've provided a visual of this entitled the “Rescue Unit 2 Overview” in both PDF and JPG formats. (You'll find it among your lesson 15 documents.) Use the “Unit Overview” to cast a little vision for where you'll be heading the next few months.

NEXT, begin by asking students some questions like:

- **What would you think if I told you that I had been hit by an 18-wheeler right before I walked in to church? Would you believe me? Why or why not?**
 - o Answer: Of course no one would believe you. If you had been hit by a Mack Truck, you would be dead or on the way to a hospital. You definitely wouldn't be sitting in front of them teaching a lesson like nothing had happened.

THEN, say something like:

- **The Bible doesn't teach the idea of coming to Jesus without your life being changed. Just like you would know if I had been hit by a Mack Truck or not, we should be able to tell if someone's life has been changed by Christ. You can't say that you trust Jesus but your life doesn't look any different. It can't work that way. Today, we will be exploring the call to live a new life, where the power to live this new life comes from, and what a new life in Jesus looks like.**

NEXT, have students turn in their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 5 and have a student read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

THE RESCUE



discovering how the Gospel
rescues and redeems us

Then, ask the following questions:

- **Why is becoming a “new creation” necessary? What’s wrong with the old us?**
 - Answer: Apart from Christ we are dead and slaves to sin. We have no hope and we’re perishing.
- **What does it mean for the old life to pass away for someone who has become a Christian?**
 - Answer: It means that you are no longer who you once were. The priorities, passions, and goals that once defined who you were and what you were about have been fundamentally changed.
- **What are some things that you have seen as part of your own life that have passed away since you started to follow Jesus?**
 - Answers will vary. This is a personal question that may be difficult for some to answer. As the teacher of the lesson, you may want to lead with a personal example from your life to open the door for others to share.

NEXT, have students turn in their Bibles to Ephesians 4:20-24. Before you read the passage, ask something like:

- **Have you ever been in a pair of clothes that were just absolutely filthy? I’m talking filthy to the point you can smell yourself. When was it? What was the one thing you wanted to do?**
 - Answers will vary. The idea here is for them to remember what it was like to be in a pair of filthy clothes and wanting to get a shower and change into something clean.
- **How did you feel once you got to take a shower and put on a clean pair of clothes?**
 - Answers will vary. Most people will say that they felt refreshed and clean.
- **Instead of a shower and clean clothes, what if you just sprayed yourself down with Febreze (or Axe Body Spray for the middle school boys)? Would you feel as refreshed? Why not?**
 - Answer: No, that just masks the smell. It might make it a little more bearable for a moment, but it won’t last.

THEN, read or have a student read Ephesians 4:20-24 and ask something like:

- **How does the image Paul uses in this passage relate to getting out of those filthy clothes?**
 - Answer: He tells us to “put off” our old selves and to “put on” our new selves. He describes the old self as corrupted and the new self as being “like God in true righteousness and holiness.”
- **How does this imagery help us fight against the idea that what we really need is to just be a little**

THE RESCUE



discovering how the Gospel
rescues and redeems us

better or try a little harder? How does it help fight against the belief that we just need a little spray of Febreze?

o Answer: It reminds us that our old selves need to be thrown off like a rotten smelling shirt. It doesn't do any good to "freshen up" a dead, perishing man. A dead man needs new life!

• **Why do our minds need to be renewed?**

o Answer: They are part of our fallen, sinful selves. Our minds are set on pursuing things of this world. They need to be renewed and transformed to be set on Christ.

• **What are some practical ways that you can seek to renew your mind as you seek to follow Jesus?**

o Answers will vary. Some possible answers include Bible Study, prayer, accountability, worship, etc.

Explain to students that renewing our minds is something that we cannot accomplish completely on our own, just like living the new life in Jesus is something we cannot do on our own. We can seek to do things that put ourselves in a place of openness to the transformation of our hearts and minds, but at the end of the day, we must have someone come to transform our minds and make us into people who live new lives.

NEXT, have students turn back to 2 Corinthians 5:18. Before the verse is read, ask something like:

• **Does all of this sound hard to you? Becoming new creations, putting off the old self, having our minds renewed? Does it sound overwhelming?**

o Answers will vary.

THEN, read or have a student read 2 Corinthians 5:18. Ask something like:

• **Why does this verse put any of our anxieties about becoming new creations, putting off our old selves, or renewing our minds at ease?**

o Answer: It tells us that it's all from God, and it's done through Jesus Christ. All of it is done through Jesus. It was Jesus at work in your heart to lead you to begin a relationship with Him, and it is Jesus who continues to work in your life as you seek to follow Him. Jesus is the true source of this new life that is found only in Him.

NEXT, say something like:

• **So what does it look like to live this new life? What does it mean to follow Jesus in a practical way? Let's turn to Colossians 3:5-11 and find out.**

THE RESCUE



discovering how the Gospel
rescues and redeems us

THEN, read or have a student read Colossians 3:5-11. Ask something like:

- **What words or themes stand out to you in this passage that are similar to what we read in 2 Corinthians and Ephesians?**
 - Answer: He uses the concepts of old versus new and getting rid of old ways and putting on the new self.
- **Why do you think Paul repeats the same ideas in three different letters to three different groups of believers? What does that tell us?**
 - Answer: It tells us that these are things all believers need to be reminded of. It tells us that putting away the old life and putting on Christ is critical to the Christian life.

FINALLY, say something like:

- **So, what does it look like to live for Jesus as a new creation this week at school, on the practice field, or in the neighborhood? Let's move on to The Last Word to dig into those questions.**

Ask if there are any questions, and if there are none, transition into The Last Word.

THE LAST WORD

- **Goal:** To help students embrace the principles of their “new life,” practically seeking to live out their faith in real ways.
- **Set-Up:** You will need a dry erase board to write characteristics of a new life.

FIRST, make sure students' Bibles are still open to Colossians 3. Select a student to be a note taker for the group. Read or have a student read Colossians 3:12-15. As the passage is being read, have the note taker write on the board the characteristics that God's chosen ones are called to “put on.”

Before you move on from the list, make sure students understand the meaning of any of the words that may be confusing to them.

THEN, ask the following questions:

- **As you look at the list of words that describes a person who lives the new life in Jesus, what characteristic is most difficult for you to live out? Why?**
 - Answers will vary.

THE RESCUE



discovering how the Gospel
rescues and redeems us

- **As you look at the list of words that describes a person who lives the new life in Jesus, what characteristic have you seen someone live out at school and make a big impact on others? Why do you think it made such an impact?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **Think back to 2 Corinthians 5:18. Is it up to your strength or effort to live out this new life in Christ?**
 - Answer: No, it all happens by God through Christ.
- **What is your responsibility in all of this?**
 - Answer: It isn't about doing better or trying harder. It's about surrendering, or putting off, your old way of life and stepping into the life God has called you to live.
- **So, looking at this list, what are you going to do to live this out this week?**
 - Answers will vary. Push them beyond just wanting to try harder on their own strength. That only lasts for a while. Talk to them about surrendering their lives to Jesus, giving up the things that hold them back from living out this new life, and embracing the new life they have in Christ.

FINALLY, close the lesson in prayer that students would live new lives in Jesus and make an impact where they are. Pray specifically regarding the areas that students identified as being difficult to live and the areas that would make the greatest impact.

Make sure there are no closing thoughts, and then close in prayer.

- **Don't forget to remind students about their devotions this week. If you're posting them on Instagram or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.**
- **Use the Social Media Guide to stay in touch with students via text or Instagram and to encourage them to follow through with reading their devotions.**

We Want To Hear From You . . .

- Do you have questions about a lesson?
- Something that worked particularly well you want to share?
- Something that didn't work you want to bring up?

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns at feedback@youthministry360.com.