



RESCUE: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk with him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
Colossians 2:6–7 (ESV)*

We realize that you, as parents, are the primary faith influencers in a young person's life. The best disciple-making takes place when students' parents take the lead. That's why we've created this helpful guide for you to use at home with your child. It is designed to give you some basic information about what is being taught at church through *The Core: A Deep Discipleship* program, along with some helpful tools, suggestions, and questions to help you reinforce this learning at home.

Overview of the Rescue Root:

We are slaves, held captive by terrible enemies: sin and death. In this fallen, corrupt, and shattered world, we need a rescuer—Jesus, our savior and redeemer. In fact, he's the only one who can save us from this mess that started way back with Adam and Eve. He gave his followers freedom from sin and its effects when he took them on at the cross. This freedom comes at a great cost, but it gives us a new life and reconnects us with God forever. And once we've been freed, we have the opportunity to join in the rescue mission for others.

Main Topics Covered:

- 1) *Rescue Intro Lesson*: This lesson helps students gain a framework for the salvation story of Jesus: the consequences of sin, his sacrifice on the cross, the need for a rescue mission, and our adoption into God's family.
- 2) *Sin: Why do we need grace?* This lesson emphasizes the fact that every person chooses to worship themselves instead of God. This introduces guilt, shame, and pain into the world. But thankfully, God has created a plan to save and heal us. Bible Passage: Luke 16:19–30
- 3) *Sacrifice: Why did Jesus have to die?* This lesson dives into the idea that Christ's sacrifice is necessary to bridge the gap between humanity and God. Bible Passage: John 3:1–21
- 4) *Adoption: How do I fit into God's family?* This lesson will underscore the fact that followers of Christ are adopted by God. When we accept Jesus as Lord, our sins are washed away. But we're also accepted into the family of God. Bible Passages: John 1:1–18 and Ephesians 2:1–10
- 5) *Salvation: How does being saved make a difference in my life today?* Being saved and following Christ means that we have a mission to fulfill here on earth. In this lesson students be challenged to make the mission of Christ a part of their life on a daily basis. Bible Passage: John 9

Questions you can ask your child:

- 1) If someone asked you how or when you became a Christian, how would you respond? If you had to give your testimony, what would you say?

Note: Having your child tell you their salvation story is a powerful way to get a deep understanding of your child's faith. It is also great evangelism training and a way to coach them in how they would share their testimony with others.

- 2) Do you feel adopted into the family of God? What does that mean to you?

Note: Because orphan adoption is a familiar concept to many people, they will likely connect with the fact that they are adopted by God and are his children through Jesus' work on the cross. If you're an adoptive family or are close to adopted children, you can talk through the struggles, the beauty, and the similarities between earthly adoption and God's adoption of us.

- 3) How do you and your friends talk about sin? Does it come up much? Why or why not?

Note: Sin is not a popular subject today, especially for young people. But it's important to know and understand our sin and how we are to repent from it and claim Christ's rescue of us. Talking about sin with your teenage child might not sound like fun, but you may be surprised by how they open up and want to share all that is going on in their world. Sometimes as parents, we just need to ask and listen. Only after really listening will we know how to guide, coach, disciple, and pray.

Activity you can do together:

Read the following excerpt from Corrie ten Boom's book *I'm Still Learning to Forgive*¹ together: <http://www.familylifeeducation.org/gilliland/procgroupp/CorrieTenBoom.htm> From a human perspective, it is often difficult to fully understand and appreciate the love and forgiveness Jesus displayed through his death on the cross for our sins. The story of Corrie ten Boom, a holocaust survivor who forgave her captors, has the power to help us understand true forgiveness, sacrifice, and the salvation that only comes from Jesus. Use this story to talk with your child about Christ's amazing love and how he forgave us.

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¹ Ten Boom, Corrie. 1970. *I'm still learning to forgive*. [Westchester, IL]: [Good News Publishers].