Download Youth Ministry | Search and Rescue | Week 3 of 5 – The Lost Coin | Justin Wilson

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Main Idea: Every person is valuable and worthy of rescue. Scripture: Luke 15: 8-10, John 3:16

Hey everyone! I am [insert speaker name], and we are so glad you are here tonight. We are in the middle of a series called "Search and Rescue." Every week builds on the others, so I encourage you to keep coming back because it all works together in the end.

Not to be a bummer, but something that usually *doesn't* have a great ending is a hurricane.

Almost every year, a hurricane devastates part of the world and leaves behind unimaginable wreckage. It floods streets, buildings, and homes. Though hurricanes are a terrible natural disaster, there is always a huge spike in humanitarian efforts, and it seems humanity becomes its best version when disaster strikes. Because many homes flood, you will often see people waiting on a rooftop for someone to come rescue them, and while it may be the National Guard, sometimes it's a helpful stranger who happens to have a boat and shelter and wants to do good in their community.

All of that to say, I want you to think about what 3 things you would save if your house was flooding. Imagine: you wake up, you put your feet on the floor, and you feel the water rising. What 3 things do you grab? Don't cheat – it can't be a backpack full of food or a phone AND charger combo. It must be 3 separate and unique items. Write them down or put them in a note on your phone. When you are done, I want you to turn to your neighbor and compare items. Be sure to ask why they chose those items specifically. [Give about 30-60 seconds to let students chat among themselves.] This activity reveals to us what things we consider valuable in our lives, almost to the point we would guard them with our life! What we see as valuable someone else could see as worthless. Have you heard the saying, "One man's trash is another man's treasure"? Let me give you an example.

[Teacher Note: talk about an item in your home that you and your spouse/roommate have strong disagreements on. Take a picture of the

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object and show it to your group, maybe asking their thoughts. Share how it came to end up in your home and why it's still there.]

Last week, we looked at a section of the Bible where Jesus was talking to a group of Pharisees about who was and who wasn't worth rescuing. He used three parables to make his point clear. The first story we read last week was called, "The Parable of the Lost Sheep," where Jesus alluded to the fact that God would seek out the 1 lost sheep over the 99 safe ones. And to further His example, He tried to show the Pharisees that there were humans whom they viewed as trash, but in fact were worth searching for.

Here's this week's story.

Luke 15:8 (NLT)

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it?"

Pause...This woman loses one of her coins. I mean if I had 10 dimes (\$1.00) and I lost one somewhere in this building, do you think I would spend a ton of time looking for it? [You could put this theory to the test by saying you have placed 1 dime somewhere in the room and see who is willing to get up and look to keep the small coin.] Honestly, I am not taking my time to look for 10 cents, but this woman's silver coin was worth much more than that. The Bible says she had 10 drachmas (each drachma was a full day's wage). Scholars think this woman was a widow and didn't have a husband to provide her an income. Those 10 drachmas were ALL she had left to live on. When she lost that one drachma, she basically lost a tenth of her fortune, and that is exactly why she searched diligently to find it.

[Teacher Note: tell a story of a time you lost your wallet, purse, credit card/license, or something you considered to be very valuable. Include what lengths you went to search for it, or if someone told you to stop searching. Bonus points if what you lost had greater value to you than it was physically worth.]

Luke 15:9-10 (NLT)

"And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, Download Youth Ministry | Search and Rescue | Week 1 of 5 – Needing Rescue | Small Group Discussion | Justin Wilson

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Main Idea: We all need to be rescued from sin. Scripture: Genesis 1-3, Jonah 1-2, Romans 3:22-24

Small Group Questions

- Have you ever seen someone be rescued? Briefly describe what happened.
- Have you ever needed to be rescued, maybe as a baby or from a bad situation as a kid?
- What do you think was God's intention in creating a paradise for humanity?
- Why do you think Adam and Eve broke the one rule (to obey God by not eating the fruit) in paradise so easily?
- What do you think sin is? How do we decide as humans what is and isn't sin?
- Adam and Eve ran and hid from God when they knew they had sinned. Have you ever done something wrong and tried to hide it or hide yourself?
- Read Jonah 1:1-17 and 2:1-2. Jonah also ran from God and was in need of rescue. Why do you think Jonah ran away? Why do you think God saved him anyway?
- Read Romans 3:22-24. [Leader, say this:] "Jesus was the one who crossed the distance between us and God to reunite us. He was the solution to our sin problem and He is our rescue. If anyone has made or wants to make a decision to trust Jesus as their savior, let's take some time to talk more and celebrate your decision."
- What is one thing in your life that you think needs to be rescued by Jesus?
- · How can you choose to walk with Jesus more this week?

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