

Sermon Series: God's Story, Your Story

Week 4 - Rescue

Speaker: David Uth

Passage: Romans 5:18-21, Ephesians 2:1-10

Groups Guide: 10/5/2025

Leader's Corner: Sermon Series Overview

Have you ever asked yourself:

- *Where did I come from?*
- *What is my purpose?*
- *How do I discover my God-given identity?*
- *Why is there suffering in the world?*
- *Where will I spend eternity—and what will that be like?*

In this study, we'll journey through God's story (Creation, the Fall, Redemption, and Restoration) uncovering how His truth speaks into life's biggest questions. These aren't just questions for believers; they're questions your friends, coworkers, and neighbors are asking every day. Let's lean in together as a church family to engage our culture with the hope of the gospel and gain a fresh perspective on God's plan and our part in it.

Main Idea: "Our rescue happens when we receive the gift of Jesus and follow Him."

BELONG:

Leader's Guide: Choose one or both icebreaker questions to start your group. Question 1 works well for larger groups or groups with new members, it's lighthearted and easy to answer. Question 2 is best for smaller, more familiar groups who are ready for deeper discussion.

1.) What's one thing that instantly makes you feel refreshed or alive again (coffee, nap, music, walk, etc.)?

2.) Have you ever had someone sacrifice their own comfort (or even reputation) to help you out? How did that impact you?

Leader's note: This question may stir up emotional reflections as people are reminded of their own struggles during difficult times. As leader, your role is to provide a safe and supporting space for sharing. If your group tends to go deep, one of the best ways to guide the conversations is by being vulnerable yourself and sharing from your own experience.

BELIEVE:

Leader's Note: For better preparation during your group discussion, please take time to read the entire chapter of Romans 5. Also, refer to Genesis 3 and any notes from last week's discussion.

Read Romans 5:18-21

1.) Romans 5:18 says, "one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men." What does justification mean, and why is it good news for us?

Leader's Note: Justification (Greek: dikaiōsis) means being declared righteous before God. In Romans 5, Paul uses justification to show that God no longer counts our sins against us (Romans 5:9). Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are made right with God. Justification is not something we earn, but it's a gift received by faith (Romans 5:1). In the simplest terms, justification is God's act of declaring us forgiven and in right relationship with him through Jesus Christ.

Read Isaiah 53:4-7, Galatians 4:4. John 1:29

2.) After reading these passages alongside Romans 5:18–21, what do they teach us about Jesus’ sacrifice, the depth of God’s love, and how we are called to live in response today?

Leader’s Note: In the Old Testament, sacrifices reminded God’s people that sin required a life to be given. Jesus fulfilled this as the perfect sacrifice, taking on the sins of the world (Isaiah 53:7; 1 Corinthians 5:7). Romans 5:18–21 shows that while Adam’s sin brought death, Jesus’ obedience brings life and righteousness to all who believe. Our response is to live with gratitude, faith, and obedience to the One who gave everything for us.

3.) How does God’s grace change the way we see our mistakes or past failures?

Become:

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

- 1.) How do God’s actions in Ephesians 2:4-7 display His sovereignty over sin and death? How does knowing God’s power over sin and death affect the way you face challenges today?**
- 2.) Who does Paul say we were before Christ (v.1–3), and who are we now in Him (v.4–6)? How does seeing this “before and after” help you understand God’s plan of redemption?**
- 3.) In verses 4–5, Paul says, “But because of his great love for us...”, How does Paul describe God’s love, and in what ways can we share that love with others?**

CHALLENGE:

*We are disciples of Jesus becoming **GENEROUS FRIENDS**. This means we joyfully invest our time, abilities, and resources to bless and build up others.*

As you go through this week, take some intentional steps to reflect on these questions:

- How can showing generosity to others reflect the redemption we’ve received in Christ, and in what ways might your generosity offer someone a glimpse of God’s grace?
- How are you learning to trust God with your time and abilities so you can serve both others and the church?

DIVE DEEPER:

This section is designed for leaders or anyone eager to go deeper beyond the small group conversation. Explore the resources below to keep growing!

Bible Project:

- Ephesians 2 - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/ephesians/>
- Ephesians Guide - <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-ephesians/>
- Redemption/Rescue - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/redemption/>
- Redemption Guide - <https://bibleproject.com/guides/redemption/>
- Romans 5 - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/romans-5-16/>
- Redemption/Rescue - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/redemption/>
- Redemption Guide - <https://bibleproject.com/guides/redemption/>

Breakpoint Colson Center

- <https://breakpoint.org/breakpoint-podcasts/>

Blue Letter Bible

- www.Blueletterbible.org/commentaries