

Priceless! You are Saved

Christmas—A Rescue Story

I love Christmas movies (and nowadays we have a plethora of them available). Have you noticed a recurring theme in all the Christmas movies that are out there? A theme that I see repeated in various forms is the idea of Christmas needing to be rescued. Whether it is Santa who is losing his Santa ability due to the loss of "Christmas Spirit," individuals or towns who have lost their Christmas joy and something needs to be done, George Bailey who feels all is hopeless, or even Ebenezer Scrooge who views Christmas as "Bah Humbug." Why do Christmas movies seem to center around the theme of rescue? The Christmas Story—the Story of Jesus—is a rescue story!

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve broke the one rule they had been given by God, when they listened to the serpent who twisted God's Word and caused them to doubt the goodness of God. As soon as they ate the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve felt ashamed and hid from God. God came to them and "rescued" them. They tried to cover themselves with fig leaves, but God provided an animal's skins to make them clothes so they would no longer be naked and ashamed: **The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them** (Genesis 3:21). A precious animal died, its blood was shed, so that Adam and Eve would be covered. Before this God gave the first promise of a Savior, one who would rescue them from their sinful state, one who would defeat the Serpent: **And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel**" (Genesis 3:15). Adam and Eve had to leave the garden of Eden, as they waited for the one who would rescue them.

Centuries passed before the Rescuer would come. But the Rescuer did come; He was born as a baby. One day the angel Gabriel appeared to a young woman Mary and told her miraculous news: **Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end** (Luke 1:30-33). Joseph, her fiancé was given a similar message: **She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins** (Matthew 1:21).

Because of Adam and Eve, we are all sinners. We need to be rescued, to be saved from our sins. Romans 6:23 tells us that **the wages of sin is death...**the payment for sin is death. We all owe this debt because of our sin, but we cannot pay it. Hallelujah, the Lord had the Christmas story, the salvation story, in place even before He created Adam and Eve, Jesus **was chosen before the creation of the world** (1 Peter 1:20), to be the payment for our sins. Romans 6:23 may start with **For the wages of sin is death** but it concludes with the promise **but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord**. Christmas is God's plan to save us!



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Conversation Starters



Gather with some friends and spend some time discussing what Christmas means and about the fact that we are saved through Christ.

- ◆ What is your favorite Christmas movie? What makes it a favorite?
- ◆ What is the best gift you have ever been given?
- ◆ If you could pick one thing about Christmas that could last all year, what would it be?
- ◆ When was a time you had to be saved, or perhaps a time when you saved someone?
- ◆ What is your favorite part of the Bible Christmas story? Why?
- ◆ What do you do to try to keep Christ in Christmas?
- ◆ Why do you think people started celebrating the birth of Jesus?
- ◆ What is your salvation story? How did you come to know Christ as your personal Savior?
- ◆ How has the fact you have been saved impact your life today?
- ◆ What do you think is an appropriate gift to give Jesus on His birthday?

“Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts, the gift of God to man—His unspeakable gift of His son, and the gift of man to God—when we present our bodies a living sacrifice.” Vance Havner

Additional Resources

Check out our website for more resources to help you focus on your identity - You are saved: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

Bible Study: *You are Saved* by Major Rutendo Masango

Blog: *You are Saved* by Commissioner Colleen Riley

Craft & Devotional: *Lighted Garland* by Major Jessyca Carr
Bonus Craft: *Thank You Cards* by Margaret Grieco

Check out our Playlist of songs that speak of our identity in Christ: WM 2024-2025

Priceless: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7xLxDn8lLdAq4je3D5L4YK?si=547054ac7309495c>

Christmas Prayer Prompts

The Christmas season is busy, and in all the hustle and bustle, we might forget to take time to pray. Habit stacking is where you link one activity with something you are already doing. Here are some ideas of how you can incorporate prayer into the various activities that come with the holiday season.

Christmas Lights. The holiday lights are probably my favorite part of the season. John 1:9 tells us that ***The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.*** Jesus came to shine the light into the dark world of sin. Every time you admire the Christmas lights, spend time thanking God for sending Jesus to be the Light of the World (John 8:12). Pray also for those you know that need His light.

Christmas Presents. We spend a lot of time around the idea of presents this time of year: shopping for the perfect gift, our wish list of what we want to receive, wrapping gifts, sending gifts, receiving gifts. As you shop for people on your Christmas list, spend time praying for them as you wander the aisles of Target or the mall. Pray not only for the gift you are hoping to buy, thank God for the gift they are in your lives. Pray also for their needs at this time. When you receive a gift this Christmas, spend time praying for them—thank God for their involvement in your life, pray for them, their family and their needs.

Christmas Goodies. Christmas isn't Christmas without all the yummy goodies that go with. When you bake goodies for loved ones, spend time praying for them. If you know the favorite goodie of people on your prayer list, every time you see that festive treat, lift them up in prayer.

Christmas Carols. I always pick one specific Christmas song, and whenever I hear it, I stop, enjoy the song, and then spend 3-4 minutes praising God for the birth of His Son and thanking Him for His indescribable gift (2 Corinthians 9:15).



Let's look at the salvation story through the eyes of women.

Flourishing in the Word

God chose to send the Savior through a woman. The first promise of a Savior was given to Eve. God included women in the genealogy of Christ. And the first person who proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus was a woman.

Dec 1	Genesis 2:1-25	Dec 17	Galatians 3:27-4:7
Dec 2	Genesis 3:1-24	Dec 18	Luke 1:1-25
Dec 3	Matthew 1:1-17	Dec 19	Luke 1:26-38
Dec 4	Genesis 38:1-30	Dec 20	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 5	Joshua 2:1-24	Dec 21	Luke 1:39-56
Dec 6	Joshua 6:1-27	Dec 22	Luke 1:57-66
Dec 7	Hebrews 11:1-6, 30-39	Dec 23	Luke 1:67-80
Dec 8	Ruth 1:1-22	Dec 24	Luke 2:1-7
Dec 9	Ruth 2:1-23	Dec 25	Luke 2:8-20
Dec 10	Ruth 3:1-18	Dec 26	Luke 2:21-40
Dec 11	Ruth 4:1-22	Dec 27	Matthew 2:1-12
Dec 12	2 Samuel 11:1-27	Dec 28	John 19:25-30
Dec 13	2 Samuel 12:1-31	Dec 29	John 19:31-42
Dec 14	1 Kings 1:1-27	Dec 30	John 20:1-10
Dec 15	1 Kings 1:28-53	Dec 31	John 20:11-18
Dec 16	1 Kings 2:1-12		

Flourishing Ideas from the Territory

Broomfield, CO has been doing a series on apologetics.

Bullhead/Laughlin, AZ had one of the men who attends Men's Fellowship lead the program. They made hanging reflectors to remind them they are image bearers of Christ.

Fountain Valley, CO ladies have been focusing on personal evangelism. They have all decided to ask at least one person per week if they would like to attend our church or WM group.

Henderson, NV women prepared food for the Appreciation Luncheon for the Social Service and kettle volunteers.

Wake, AK learned about foods that are beneficial to our mental health. It was interesting to discover how certain foods can positively affect our moods... like chocolate!

Mesa, AZ learned 100 Things to do with Ramen.

Phoenix Kroc, AZ learned how to cook vegan.

Redondo Beach, CA had a sunflower program.

Whittier, CA had a unique Terrarium Party. With an emphasis on "Deeply Rooted in New Life."

Wrangell, AK ladies are learning how to bead.

Jesus is the Gift

Jesus is the Gift that perfectly fits every heart,
And it is with His love that all celebration starts.

We rejoice in Him as we remember His birth
And thank God for sending His only Son to earth.

His life led from a manger to a cross on a hill,
Where He faithfully followed His Father's perfect will.

He freely laid down everything so we could live,
And there is no greater treasure anyone could give.

Like a scarlet ribbon His loved wrapped around the cross,
And He offered it to us all at the greatest cost.

So when we give from the heart we remember what He's done
And honor the perfect gift—God's one and only Son.

Holley Gerth



“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23



Identity Statements

You are Priceless! You are saved! Here are some identity statements for you to claim, memorize and meditate on.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believes stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. John 3:16-18

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Jesus Christ, the Righteous One... is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1b-2