SHRMP – DAY 1

SHIPWRECKED - RESCUED BY JESUS

Main Theme for Week:

Jesus rescues us through life's storms.

Theme Verse:

The righteous person faces many troubles; but the Lord comes to the rescue each time. Psalm 34:19 (NLT)

DAY 1

Bible Point:

When you're lonely, Jesus rescues!

Bible Text:

Luke 15:8-32

Bible Story:

Jesus tells parables about lost things.

Memory Verse:

The Lord will hold me close. Psalm 27:10 (NLT)

Welcome everyone to Day 1 of SHRMP! We are excited you all are here. It's going to be a great week!

Our theme for the entire Vacation Bible School this week is "SHIPWRECKED - RESCUED BY JESUS"

That is the theme your children will be learning about in their classes this week. Each day they will learn about different ways we can feel shipwrecked in life, but also how Jesus promises to rescue us each time.

While we will be studying the same points as your kids, so you will know what they learned each day and can talk about it with them at home, this group is for you, the adults and parents. The same thing is true for YOU. When you face days of feeling shipwrecked, Jesus rescues. I pray God will speak to you this week, and encourage you wherever you may be in your life, right now.

Let's start by quickly talking about being SHIPWRECKED. We don't hear too much about shipwrecks these days other than books or movies, so it is more difficult for us to relate to what that might be like.

But it wasn't that long ago, that the only means to travel between continents was to go by ship. Planes didn't start flying over oceans until 1919. So, that's just a little over a 100 years ago. Before that, if you had to cross water, you had to get on a boat.

There were, and still are, many dangers that can arise on open water that can cause damage to the ship. But storms have always been the biggest threat to a ship at sea.

Well, life is very much like that, for all of us.

No matter who you are, or where you're from, each of our lives is like a ship, traveling the seas of life, and all of us face waves that toss us around. We all face storms that rock the boat and threaten to wreck the ship.

The theme of this entire week is, "Jesus rescues us through life's storms".

We will be reading a lot of Scripture over this week, but our main verse is Psalm 34:19. It says, "The righteous person faces many troubles; but the Lord comes to the rescue each time."

I want to read that again, "The righteous person faces many troubles; but the Lord comes to the rescue each time."

Has anyone ever told you they had good news and bad news?

Which do you like to hear first?

Well, this verse starts out with the bad news – the righteous person faces many troubles.

And, we DO face MANY troubles in life, don't we? Yes!

But the GOOD news is in the next part.... "but the Lord comes to the rescue each time!"

That's REALLY good news!

Each day this week, we will look at some of the different troubles or storms that can try to shipwreck our life, and how Jesus comes to our rescue each time.

Today, we are going to talk about being lonely.

Have you ever felt lonely? (raise of hands)

I don't think there is anyone who hasn't felt lonely at one time or another in life. Some of you may feel lonely right now. Let's look how Jesus rescues us when we are lonely.

Psalm 27:10 is today's memory verse. It is an easy one to memorize because it's only 5 words. It says, "*The Lord will hold me close*."

Say that out loud. The Lord will hold me close.

Loneliness is feeling alone. Not being alone so much, as in being by yourself in a room, but feeling alone. You can feel lonely even when you are in a room full of people. Being lonely feels like you are lost and alone and no one else is there for you. No one understands or knows what you are going through.

But Jesus says, HE will hold you close.

Jesus told three parables about things that wound up lost or alone. His parables were stories that had a deeper spiritual meaning or lesson. Now, he could have just told us one story about something being lost and alone, but he told us THREE. He wants you to know how he rescues the lonely so much, he gave you three examples.

All three of these parables are found together in Luke, chapter 15.

Let me read you the first one.

Read Luke 15:8-10

"Suppose a woman has ten silver coins, but she loses one of them. She will take a light and clean the house. She will look carefully for the coin until she finds it. And when she finds it, she will call her friends and neighbors and say to them, 'Be happy with me because I have found the coin that I lost!' In the same way, it's a happy time for the angels of God when one sinner decides to change."

Ok, so in this parable, a woman loses what? A coin.

Now, in today's world, losing a coin isn't a crisis, right? But to her it was a BIG loss. She only had 10 coins, and she lost one of them. For us to understand, let's say you had 10 one-hundred-dollar bills. \$1000. But what if you lost one of those hundreds? Would you not frantically search everywhere to find it?

Why? Why would you search for it? Why did the woman search for the coin? (let them answer)

She searched for the coin, the same as we would search for lost money, because it has VALUE.

Sometimes life causes us to pull away and retreat. We get separated, and can find ourselves lost and lonely. Alone.

Anyone ever felt that way?

Did you know though, that you have VALUE to the Lord? Never forget that. You are worth a lot to him. When you get lonely and lost, Jesus comes to look for you, just like the woman with the coin. And when he finds you, he rejoices!

He could have stopped there, but he shares two other stories.

Read Luke 15:4-7

"Suppose one of you has 100 sheep, but one of them gets lost. What will you do? You will leave the other 99 sheep there in the field and go out and look for the lost sheep. You will continue to search for it until you find it. And when you find it, you will be very happy. You will carry it home, go to your friends and neighbors and say to them, 'Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!' In the same way, I tell you, heaven is a happy place when one sinner decides to change. There is more joy for that one sinner than for 99 good people who don't need to change.

Here Jesus describes a shepherd who had 100 sheep, but one of them wandered off and got lost.

Anyone here know much about sheep?

Most of us don't because we don't raise them. Sheep, however, can be a bit dumb. They have a tendency to just wander off, away from the flock.

We can be just like sheep. Life can be full of things that draw our attention away and we just start wandering off, focusing on the wrong things.

When we wander off, drift away... away from God, away from church, away from friends... we can suddenly find ourselves lost and lonely. But Jesus, says he cares so much for one lost sheep, that he will leave the others to go find just that ONE. To find YOU.

Much like you with your children. If one of your children wanders off from you in a store, you will frantically search for your child. You know the dangers in the world, and you love your child and don't want any harm to come to them.

And when you find your child, you are so relieved that the first thing you do is pick them up, hug them and hold them as close as you can, right?

Jesus does the same thing. When you are lost and lonely, his love for you is so great, he comes to find you. He does not want harm to come to you. And when he finds you, he hugs you and holds you close.

In the parable, it says that when the shepherd found the lost sheep, he CARRIED him back home. To carry the sheep home, the shepherd had to pick up the sheep and hold him close.

Jesus will rescue you when you get lost and lonely, and will CARRY you back with Him. Exactly as our memory verse said... The Lord will hold you close!"

Lastly, Jesus tells a third parable. This time the lost "thing" is a father's son. His child.

Read Luke 15:11-24

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me now the part of your property that I am supposed to receive someday.' So the father divided his wealth between his two sons. "A few days later the younger son gathered up all that he had and left. He traveled far away to another country, and there he wasted his money living like a fool. After he spent everything, he had, there was a terrible famine throughout the country. He was hungry and needed money. So he went and got a job with one of the people who lived there. The 3 man sent him into the fields to feed pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything. "The son realized that he had been very foolish. He thought, 'All my father's hired workers have plenty of food." But here I am, almost dead because I have nothing to eat. I will leave and go to my father. I will say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am no longer worthy of

being called your son. But let me be like one of your hired workers.' So he left and went to his father. "While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming and felt sorry for him. So he ran to him and hugged and kissed him. The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and good sandals on his feet. And bring our best calf and kill it so that we can celebrate with plenty to eat. My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!'

This is the probably the most known of all of Jesus' parables. The story of the prodigal son. This is also a beautiful picture of God's love for us.

The youngest son of this very wealthy man, asks for his inheritance upfront, instead of waiting until his father's death to receive it later.

Now, a lot of wealthy dads would have said, "No!". But this man gave his son what he asked for. He gave him his part of the inheritance.

The son takes it, leaves the father and his home... where he already had everything he could ever need... and he takes off to go do "his own thing." He takes the money, heads to the city and he blows all of it on wild and sinful living. He partied it all away, and in his sin and freedom, at the time, he enjoyed himself, and he didn't care how bad he was letting his life become.

Until... the money ran out.

Suddenly, he found himself broke. He was dead broke, in a strange place. No money, no family, no friends, no food. He was very lost and very alone. And... he was hungry.

He managed to get a job feeding pigs. As a Jewish man, pigs were considered unclean to even be around, but now he was feeding them. Worse than that, he got so hungry, he actually thought about eating the pigs' food. That is how low and lonely and desperate he became.

Thank goodness, Jesus said in the parable, that the son realized he had been very foolish. Some translations say, "he came to his senses."

Have you ever done something foolish or lived foolishly and got yourself in a mess, but then came to your senses?

Believe it or not, that is God working on your heart.

When the son realized his foolishness and his loneliness, it was the first step to going back to his father. He didn't want to be lonely anymore. He knew he had messed up and sinned against his father, but he also knew with his father is where he needed to be.

So, he heads back to his father, practicing his speech. He would tell the father he wasn't worthy to be his son anymore, but ask if he could return to be a servant.

Here is the best part of the story, though. Jesus said, the father saw the son coming from far away. That tells me that the father had been going out to his porch every single day to see if his son was coming back.

And one day the father sees him. From far off. And this is the best part... Jesus said the father RAN to meet his son. He ran to get to him. That's how much joy he felt to see his lost son come home.

That is exactly how Jesus is toward us.

Sometimes we just walk away from the Lord because we want to go do "our own thing", our own way. Every time we do, we make a mess of our life. We find ourselves lost and lonely and in despair.

Maybe that's where you are right now. Maybe you have been off doing your own thing and you are now lost and alone and away from your heavenly Father. Maybe you know you need to go back to Him, but you aren't sure he will want you to return to him.

Listen again... Jesus rescues us that place! He is waiting and looking for you to return. Every single day. And when you start back to him, he will RUN to meet you.

Jesus said the father ran to his son and embraced him. God runs to you to embrace YOU. Remember our memory verse... "The Lord will hold you close." He embraces you. Hugs you. Holds you close when you are lonely.

Why? Because you are his CHILD and he loves you!

All three of these parables show you his love. The lost coin says you have value. The lost sheep says you are cared for. The lost son says you are his beloved child.

If you are lonely or lost Jesus is there to rescue you!

Let's pray:

Dear Jesus, thank you for your word that says you will rescue us when we get lonely or lost. I pray for anyone here today who might feel lonely or lost in their life, right now. I pray everyone here will know they have value to you and that you love them, and whenever they are lonely, they can reach to you and trust that you want to rescue them and hold them close to you. Thank Jesus we are never alone when we walk with you! In your name, we pray. Amen.

SHRMP – DAY 2

SHIPWRECKED - RESCUED BY JESUS

Main Theme for Week:

Jesus rescues us through life's storms.

Theme Verse:

The righteous person faces many troubles; but the Lord comes to the rescue each time. Psalm 34:19 (NLT)

DAY 2

Bible Point:

When you worry, Jesus rescues!

Bible Text:

Luke 10:38-42

Bible Story:

Martha worries and complains.

Memory Verse:

Do not worry. I am with you. Isaiah 41:10 (ERV)

Welcome back everyone for Day 2 of SHRMP!

To give a quick review, this week we are talking about times when life may leave us feeling shipwrecked.

Our theme for this entire week is "Jesus rescues us through life's storms, and our week's theme verse is Psalm 34:19, "The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time."

That's a great promise! Yesterday, we talked about how Jesus comes to our rescue when we are lonely or lost.

Today, we are going to look at how Jesus rescues us when we worry.

How many of you ever worry about anything? (raise of hands)

How many are worried about something right now? (raise of hands)

I think as adults, as parents, we can find it difficult to get through even one day without worrying about something.

What kind of things do you worry about? (let them answer)

There are lots of situations in life that cause us stress and worry. It is hard not to worry sometimes.

But the truth is, worry does not do one good thing to change anything in our lives. Feeling anxious and worrying causes us a lot of additional turmoil inside. It makes us feel worse.

Worry is never productive. It is destructive.

God knows this. He knows worry can definitely shipwreck our boat. That is why he tells us, over and over, in his word, NOT to worry. He tells us to lean on him, to seek him and to trust him.

Our memory verse today is Isaiah 41:10

"Do not worry, I am with you"

Say that out loud with me. Do not worry, I am with you.

Again, just a few simple words, but such a big promise. He promises he is with you.

We are going to read a story today, again from the book of Luke, that speaks about two women who were in the same place, at the same time, around the same people, in the same circumstance, but they dealt with the situation in very different ways.

Read Luke 10:38-42

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Ok, so let's unpack this.

These two women, Martha and Mary were sisters. Two sisters who lived together.

Anyone have a sister here? Brother?

So, imagine you and your sister or brother live together, and you all plan to have friends over for dinner.

What are you like when you know company is coming? Do you clean stuff you never clean? Do you try to make it all perfect? Are you relaxed? (let them answer)

A lot of us tend to start fretting and fussing over every detail because we want everything to be perfect.

So, these two sisters had company coming over for dinner. But not just ANY company. Jesus, himself, was coming to their house for dinner.

Would any of you be worrying if Jesus was coming to your house for dinner tonight?

Would you go get the very best food you could afford? Scrub every inch of the house?

Well in this story, Jesus goes to their house, and Martha, the older sister, is running all over working, preparing the meal, cooking, cleaning, setting the table. But her sister, Mary is just sitting in the living room on the floor at Jesus' feet, listening to him. She wasn't helping Martha AT ALL. Just sitting with Jesus.

And Martha got all worked up about it! She got mad!

She was already all worked up worrying and fussing about every detail, but now she is even more fired up because Mary was just sitting there, while she did all the work.

Ever had a time like that with one of your siblings? You doing everything, and them doing nothing? Or maybe you were the sibling who was doing nothing? (let them respond)

Martha finally got so fed up, she actually went right in there and fussed to Jesus.

Lord, don't you care I'm doing all this work and my sister is just sitting here. Tell her to help me!

Have you ever been worrying about something, and just prayed out, "Lord, don't you care?"

But did Jesus tell Mary to get up and help?

No.

He told Martha she worried and got upset about many things. He said "many" things. He knew Martha was not just like this today, but Martha worried and fretted about things all the time.

He told her she worried about many things, but then he said, "but that isn't needed."

He flat out said, all your worries... they are not needed. You do not need them. They don't do any good. They don't help. Then he said that Mary chose the BETTER thing.

Mary chose to spend the time with Jesus. He came to visit with them. He was right there. She didn't want to miss any part of that. She wanted to sit with him and listen to everything he said and to learn from him.

Here Jesus, the Lord himself is in Martha's house, and she was so worried about making everything perfect, she completely missed the joy of just being with him.

We can worry over the dumbest things sometimes, can't we?

Worry can take over a lot of our lives.

We worry about small things. We worry about big things. We worry about the future.

We can worry so much about tomorrow, we miss today.

There are times it seems impossible not to worry, but if we take our worries to Jesus, he says to us, "Do not worry. I am with you." He reminds us, like he did Martha, worry is not needed.

When we worry, we are focusing only on the circumstances or the problem. He says to choose the better thing. He wants us to focus on him and trust he is with us in every circumstance and problem.

If you are feeling shipwrecked in worry today, take your worries to Jesus. Tell him about them, and then trust he is with you.

Let's pray:

Dear Jesus, thank you for your promise that you are with us. We worry about so many things. Sometimes it is so hard not to worry. But worry is not needed. It does not help the situation. I pray for anyone here who is worrying about something right now. I pray that you give them peace in their situation, and remind them to change their focus from the circumstance, to stop looking so closely at the problem, but to look toward you. You do care about everything in our lives. Let us choose the better thing. Let us choose to sit with you at your feet, and ask you to settle our worries and anxiety and rest in you. In your name, we pray. Amen.

SHRMP - DAY 3

SHIPWRECKED - RESCUED BY JESUS

Main Theme for Week:

Jesus rescues us through life's storms.

Theme Verse:

The righteous person faces many troubles; but the Lord comes to the rescue each time. Psalm 34:19 (NLT)

DAY 3

Bible Point:

When you struggle, Jesus rescues!

Bible Text:

Luke 22:39-54; Matthew 26:36-56

Bible Story:

Jesus' friends try to rescue him in the garden of Gethsemane.

Memory Verse:

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

Hello everyone! Welcome back! Today is day three of SHRMP! I hope you have had a good week so far!

Each day, I want to remind us of our theme this week, which is "Shipwrecked - Rescued By Jesus".

We have been looking at things in life that cause us to feel shipwrecked inside sometimes.

Our verse for the week is Psalm 34:19.

"The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time."

We have many troubles, but the Lord rescues us each time. So far, this week, we have discussed how Jesus rescues us when we are lonely and when we worry.

Today we are going to talk about when we struggle.

Anyone here ever struggle with anything? (let them respond)

Boy, do we struggle. All of us. Sometimes we feel like every day we are getting on the struggle bus. And almost every day, you will hear someone say, "The struggle is real". Right?

Well, they're not wrong. Struggle IS real.

There are so many things we all struggle with.

Give me some examples. (let them answer)

From little things to big things. Struggle is a fight with something.

We struggle with balancing our time between home and work

We struggle with parenting, wanting to do it well

We struggle with making ends meet

We struggle with ourselves. Who we are. Who we want to be. Wanting to be who God wants us to be.

We struggle with temptations, decisions, emotions

We struggle with other people.

The list is long, and yes, the struggle is real. But there is good news.

Jesus knows about our struggles, and he can relate to us. He understands because, of all us, Jesus went through struggle more than any of us.

Let's dig deeper into this.

Read Luke 22:39-54

39-40 Jesus left the city and went to the Mount of Olives. His followers went with him. (He went there often.) He said to his followers, "Pray for strength against temptation." 41 Then Jesus went about 50 steps away from them. He knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, please don't make me drink from this cup.[e] But do what you want, not what I want." 43 Then an angel from heaven came to help him. 44 Jesus was full of pain; he struggled hard in prayer. Sweat dripped from his face like drops of blood falling to the ground.[f] 45 When he finished praying, he went to his followers. He found them asleep, worn out from their grieving. 46 Jesus said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray for strength against temptation." 47 While Jesus was speaking, a crowd came up. It was led by Judas, one of the twelve apostles. He came over to Jesus to kiss him. 48 But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you using the kiss of friendship to hand over the Son of Man to his enemies?" 49 The followers of Jesus were standing there too. They saw what was happening and said to Jesus, "Lord, should we use our swords?" 50 And one of them did use his sword. He cut off the right ear of the servant of the high priest. 51 Jesus said. "Stop!" Then he touched the servant's ear and healed him, 9 52 Jesus spoke to the group that came to arrest him. They were the leading priests, the older Jewish leaders, and the Jewish soldiers. He said to them, "Why did you come out here with swords and clubs? Do you think I am a criminal? 53 I was with you every day in the Temple area. Why didn't you try to arrest me there? But this is your time—the time when darkness rules." 54 They arrested Jesus and took him away to the house of the high priest. Peter followed Jesus but stayed back at a distance.

Here we read that Jesus went out to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. This was right before he was about to be arrested and crucified, and Jesus KNEW this.

He went to pray, and he took three of his disciples with him. Peter, James, and John. He asked them to stand watch while he prayed.

As he went to pray, his heart was very heavy because he knew what he was about to face and what he would have to go through. So, he went to his father in prayer. He was so burdened, he asked for this unimaginable struggle he faced to be taken away.

How many of you have ever prayed, "Please, God, just take this struggle away"? (let them respond)

I think we have all probably prayed that at one time or another. Sometimes we face struggle and we don't know if we can face it or walk through it.

Sometimes, God DOES take the struggle away. But there are other times, he doesn't remove the struggle, but he asks us to trust him and he will walk through it with us.

Our memory verse today is Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God."

Say that with me, "Be still and know that I am God"

Instead of struggling, he tells us to be still. To remember HE is God.

Jesus asked for his struggle to be taken away, but he also understood God is God.

He understood that what God was asking him to do would make salvation and forgiveness of sin available to us all. So, though it was the hardest thing we can imagine to endure, Jesus said if God asked him to do it, he would.

And he did. And we are forever grateful he did.

Now, backing up in our story, it says Jesus went to pray three times, and in between each time, he came back to his three disciples, his friends, to find them... SLEEPING. All three times Jesus went to pray, they went back to napping.

While Jesus was agonizing in the garden, they were struggling just to stay awake.

Have you ever been going through something and you felt like everyone around you was sleeping? Just oblivious to the fact that you are struggling?

Sometimes even the people closest to us can't see when we are struggling or what we are going through.

But Jesus sees it. He knows. He sees every struggle we face. We can take them to him because he will never fall asleep. He is always there.

Going back to our story, on top of his three disciples sleeping while he was struggling, another of his disciples shows up to betray him!

Judas arrives and he has brought a bunch of soldiers with him to arrest Jesus. He was paid to turn Jesus in.

Have you ever had a friend betray you?

Talk about a struggle, right?

The soldiers came to arrest Jesus and now one of his disciples steps up to fight back, and slices the ear of one of the soldiers with a sword.

And what does Jesus do?

He HEALED the man. Jesus heals the man who came to harm him.

In the face of the biggest hardship and struggle of his life, Jesus trusted in God, his father, and was willing to what God asked him to do. He didn't lash out at his enemy. He healed him.

He tells us in our memory verse today, "Be still, and know that I am God"!

It is very hard to be still inside when we are struggling with something. Right? Very hard.

How can we be still in struggle? The only way we can is to REMEMBER that HE is GOD. Not us. He is.

If He is God, and he loves me, then I can be still with him and know that he is going to help me.

Sometimes for us, we have to face the struggle. We have to go through the hard thing. But if we go to Jesus, we do not have to face anything alone. He understands struggle more than we ever will. He will rescue us from it or through it.

I'm sure that right here, today, in this group, every single person here is struggling with something. I encourage you to get still with Jesus. To talk to him about what you are struggling with right now. And then to remember who he is. He is God.

Let's pray.

Jesus, there are struggles of all kinds every day. You know exactly what each one here is going through right now in their lives. Please help us to bring our struggles to you. Help us to be still and remember that you are God, and whether you take our struggle away or ask us to walk through it, we can trust you are with us. We can face life's struggles so much better WITH you. Thank you for being there and allowing us to talk to you about everything. In your name we pray. Amen.

SHRMP – DAY 4

SHIPWRECKED - RESCUED BY JESUS

Main Theme for Week:

Jesus rescues us through life's storms.

Theme Verse:

The righteous person faces many troubles; but the Lord comes to the rescue each time. Psalm 34:19 (NLT)

DAY 4

Bible Point:

When you do wrong, Jesus rescues.

Bible Text:

Luke 23:1-43

Bible Story:

Jesus welcomes a criminal before dying and coming back to life.

Memory Verse:

But if confess our sins, God will forgive us. 1 John 1:9 (ERV)

Hello everyone, and welcome to Day FOUR of SHRMP! All week we have been learning how Jesus rescues us from the storms of life.

So far, we have looked at how loneliness, worry and struggles can all be big storms that shipwreck us, but in all those things Jesus has said he is there with us to help us.

Today, we are going to talk about the times we sin. The times we do wrong.

I would guess not many of us would want to admit how many times we have done wrong. How many times we have made wrong choices, decisions, or fallen into sin.

The Bible tells us that all of us have sinned. Every single one of us.

When we sin, it shipwrecks our life, every time. Sin can destroy our life. But our tendency is to think that God won't help us because we messed up. Many think he just leaves us or hates us.

But that is not true.

Our memory verse today is 1John 1:19. "But if we confess our sins, God will forgive us."

That's great news. God wants to forgive and he will. He has made a way to forgive us, and Jesus is the way.

But what does that mean?

To understand, we need to see how far Jesus went to rescue us from our sinful nature and to save us.

Remember yesterday, we read about Jesus being betrayed and arrested? Well, that was just the start. Let's pick up where we left off yesterday in Luke.

Read Luke 23:26-43

Then the entire council took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. ² They began to state their case: "This man has been leading our people astray by telling them not to pay their taxes to the Roman government and by claiming he is the Messiah, a king."

³ So Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "You have said it."

- ⁴ Pilate turned to the leading priests and to the crowd and said, "I find nothing wrong with this man!"
- ⁵ Then they became insistent. "But he is causing riots by his teaching wherever he goes—all over Judea, from Galilee to Jerusalem!"
- ⁶ "Oh, is he a Galilean?" Pilate asked. ⁷ When they said that he was, Pilate sent him to Herod Antipas, because Galilee was under Herod's jurisdiction, and Herod happened to be in Jerusalem at the time.
- ⁸ Herod was delighted at the opportunity to see Jesus, because he had heard about him and had been hoping for a long time to see him perform a miracle. ⁹ He asked Jesus question after question, but Jesus refused to answer. ¹⁰ Meanwhile, the leading priests and the teachers of religious law stood there shouting their accusations. ¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers began mocking and ridiculing Jesus. Finally, they put a royal robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. ¹² (Herod and Pilate, who had been enemies before, became friends that day.) ¹³ Then Pilate called together the leading priests and other religious leaders, along with the people, ¹⁴ and he announced his verdict. "You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a revolt. I have examined him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find him innocent. ¹⁵ Herod came to the same conclusion and sent him back to us. Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty. ¹⁶ So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him." ^[a]
- ¹⁸ Then a mighty roar rose from the crowd, and with one voice they shouted, "Kill him, and release Barabbas to us!" ¹⁹ (Barabbas was in prison for taking part in an insurrection in Jerusalem against the government, and for murder.) ²⁰ Pilate argued with them, because he wanted to release Jesus. ²¹ But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"
- ²² For the third time he demanded, "Why? What crime has he committed? I have found no reason to sentence him to death. So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him."
- ²³ But the mob shouted louder and louder, demanding that Jesus be crucified, and their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate sentenced Jesus to die as they demanded. ²⁵ As they had requested, he released Barabbas, the man in prison for insurrection and murder. But he turned Jesus over to them to do as they wished. The Crucifixion
- ²⁶ As they led Jesus away, a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, happened to be coming in from the countryside. The soldiers seized him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large crowd trailed behind, including many grief-stricken women. ²⁸ But Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the days are coming when they will say, 'Fortunate indeed are the women who are childless, the wombs that have not borne a child and the breasts that have never nursed.' ³⁰ People will beg the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and plead with the hills, 'Bury us.' ^[c] ³¹ For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry? ^[d] "
- ³² Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. ³³ When they came to a place called The Skull, ¹⁹ they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." ¹¹ And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. ¹⁹
- ³⁵ The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." ³⁶ The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. ³⁷ They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ A sign was fastened above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews."
- ³⁹ One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!"
- ⁴⁰ But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? ⁴¹ We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."
- ⁴³ And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Jesus went through so much for us...

They arrested him.

They took him in the middle of the night to be tried in an illegal court.

They lied about him in court.

They hit him in the face and beat him.

They stripped him and humiliated him.

They mocked him cruelly for calling himself a king. They put a robe on him and then made a crown of sharp thorns that they beat down on his head.

They whipped him, almost to the point of death.

They laid a heavy cross across his beaten back and forced him to carry it.

They nailed his hands and feet to that cross.

They hung him on that cross and stood around waiting for him to die.

There Jesus hung, in pain like we will never understand, dying. For you. And for me.

There were two criminals also being crucified that day, one on each side of Jesus.

Both criminals there with him were sinners. They had both done such terrible wrongs, they were being executed for them.

Jesus was innocent. He never sinned. He did not deserve to be there. But in obedience to God, he gave his life to take our sins and the punishment we deserve. He gave his life for us. For sinners.

He died for us, and he was dying for the two criminals beside him.

One of the two made fun of Jesus. Mocked him.

The other criminal though, said that he, and the other criminal, deserved the punishment for their wrongs, but Jesus did not deserve to be there. He believed that Jesus was who he said he was, and he confessed he was a sinner to Jesus, face to face. He asked Jesus to remember him when he went to his kingdom.

Immediately, Jesus forgave the man and promised him he would be in Heaven with him that day.

The world we live in is still the same as these two criminals. Many are like the man who mocked Jesus. They don't believe who he is. They don't confess they are sinners, and they don't turn to him to save them.

The other man is like those who DO believe Jesus is who he says he is. They do believe he died to save them. They recognize they are sinners and they need Jesus to save them.

Remember our memory verse today: "If we confess our sin, God will forgive us."

That's a wonderful promise.

When we admit to God that we are sinners, he WILL forgive us. God makes that promise because Jesus has already provided us rescue. He died on a cross to take our place, to take our sins, and to save us, and when we understand and believe this, we only need to go to him and trust him as our Savior. I pray if anyone here is feeling shipwrecked because of sins in your life that you will turn to Jesus.

Let's pray:

Dear Jesus, there are no words to thank you enough for how much you love us. We can't fully understand the agony you endured as you died on a cross to take away our sins. It is the greatest gift to us, and we are so thankful! Thank you that we can come to you when we fail to receive your promise of forgiveness and a new start. Help us to grow closer and closer to you so we can turn from sin. We love and thank you. In your name we pray, Amen.

SHRMP - DAY 5

SHIPWRECKED - RESCUED BY JESUS

Main Theme for Week:

Jesus rescues us through life's storms.

Theme Verse:

The righteous person faces many troubles; but the Lord comes to the rescue each time. Psalm 34:19 (NLT)

DAY 5

Bible Point:

When you are powerless, Jesus rescues.

Bible Text:

Acts 3:1-26

Bible Story:

Peter and John heal a lame man in Jesus' name.

Memory Verse:

He helps tired people be strong. He gives power to those without it. Isaiah 40:29 (ERV)

Welcome back! Today is our last day together, but we have had such a great week!

We have addressed so many important issues this week where we can get shipwrecked and need Jesus:

When you're lonely.

When we worry.

When we struggle

When we sin.

Jesus gives us so much hope, and is there to rescue us in all of life's storms.

Today, on our final day, we are going to talk about when we are powerless.

What does it mean to be powerless? (let them respond)

Let's look at today's memory verse.

Isaiah 40:29 "He helps tired people be strong. He gives powers to those without it."

Whew! How many of you are tired people? (let them respond)

It seems like life is nonstop and there are so many things we have to do and so many distractions around us. It is exhausting. Most of us feel worn out a great deal of the time. We are drained. Powerless.

Have you watched your cell phone battery going down, down, down. 4 bars. 3 bars. 2 bars...

If you leave it running much longer, what happens?

It turns off. It has no more power.

Sometimes life is like that for us. We keep running our battery down until we are worn out and powerless.

And when we are powerless, nothing runs right.

When there is a storm outside and the power goes out in your house, it leaves you unable to a lot of things. We rely on that power to function.

The same is true of us. Sometime things happen in life that we are powerless to control or do anything about. When we feel powerless over a situation, we also cannot function properly.

Jesus knows we will have times we feel worn out or powerless, but our verse today says he helps and gives us power when we need it.

Let's get into this a little deeper.

We read this week about Jesus' death on the cross to save us. A lot of exciting things happened after that. He was resurrected from the dead. Raised back to life.

That is POWER!

Then he spent time with his disciples to prepare them for the work they had to do once he went back to Heaven.

Then the disciples watched him ascend into Heaven.

Can you imagine getting to see that?

That's powerful!

Our Bible passage today takes up with the disciples after Jesus left to back to heaven.

Read Acts 3:11a; 16

1 One day Peter and John went to the Temple area. It was three o'clock in the afternoon, which was the time for the daily Temple prayer service. 2 As they were entering the Temple area, a man was there who had been crippled all his life. He was being carried by some friends who brought him to the Temple every day. They put him by one of the gates outside the Temple. It was called Beautiful Gate. There he begged for money from the people going to the Temple. 3 That day he saw Peter and John going into the Temple area. He asked them for money. 4 Peter and John looked at the crippled man and said, "Look at us!" 5 He looked at them; he thought they would give him some money. 6 But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold, but I do have something else I can give you. By the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth—stand up and walk!" 7 Then Peter took the man's right hand and lifted him up. Immediately his feet and legs became strong. 8 He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk. He went into the Temple area with them. He was walking and jumping and praising God. 9-10 All the people recognized him. They knew he was the crippled man who always sat by the Beautiful Gate to beg for money. Now they saw this same man walking and praising God. They were amazed. They did not understand how this could happen. 19 11 The man was holding on to Peter and John. All the people were amazed.

16 "This crippled man was healed because we trusted in Jesus. It was Jesus' power that made him well. You can see this man, and you know him. He was made completely well because of faith in Jesus. You all saw it happen!

So, let's unpack this some more.

There was a man who had been crippled since birth. He had NEVER walked. He had to be carried everywhere.

That is truly powerless.

Powerless to change the situation. Powerless to do much of anything without help. I am certain even the simplest of movements were exhausting to him. He was unable to function properly.

Still today there are many people who are physically powerless. Unable to walk or move or function like everyone else does. But, even those of us who have bodies that are able and well, we too can become exhausted or powerless.

How many have ever felt powerless in a situation? (raise hands) What did you feel inside? (let them respond)

(Repeat some of their answers back...i.e. tired, sad, frustrated, helpless, angry)

We need Jesus in those times.

Going back to our story in Acts, we read this crippled man had to sit on the street and beg for money so he could eat. It was the only thing he could do to survive.

People passed him every day. I imagine most people walked right by him and ignored him. I imagine some mocked him or harassed him. Then there were those who would approach him and would give him money or food to help him.

So, one day Peter and John see the man and walked up to him. The man assumed because they didn't walk past him, they would give him some money.

Peter told him he didn't have any money to give him, BUT he could give him something SO MUCH better.

Peter called on the name of Jesus and told the man to get up.

Can you imagine telling a crippled man who had never walked once, to just get up?

The Bible says immediately the man's feet and legs had strength and he jumped up! He was healed.

Try to imagine if you were this man. You have never been able to walk even one day in your life. You have been suffering and struggling every day just to survive.

Now, instantly, you are healed, and you can stand, walk, and jump.

Can you imagine how much joy he felt?

He had power back in body. Power that would change his life completely. He was able function properly.

The people who witnessed this were amazed. I bet so! Wouldn't you be amazed too? Shocked, even.

They wanted to know how Peter did it? How did he heal this man?

Peter tells them it was Jesus' power, not his own, that healed the man. Peter was powerless too. He couldn't do this without Jesus. Peter simply had faith in the power of Jesus.

Our faith in the name of Jesus gives us power in powerless situations. He knows that on our own, we will run out of power. We will run down our battery trying to deal with everything in life in our own strength.

We all know life can be hard. We can wear out quickly. We face things we are powerless to anything about.

But if we turn to Jesus, call on his name, take all of it to him, and put our faith in him, he promises to help us be strong. He gives power when we do not have any.

I encourage you to talk every day with Jesus. Talk to him about the things in your life. Talk to him when you are lonely. Talk to him when you are worrying, or struggling, or feel powerless. Jesus rescues us each time. Ask for his strength and power to help you face everything the day may bring.

Let's pray:

Dear Jesus, thank you that you do care about every part of our lives. You care about the everyday stresses we face, and you tell us we don't have to face them in our own strength. You also care about the situations in life that leave us completely powerless. I pray for anyone here who is feeling powerless today. Lord, you know their situation, you know their need. I pray they will trust you more than ever and believe that you will give them the power and strength they need to press on because you are with them.

We are so grateful for your love and concern for us. Help us to always stay close to you and lean on your promises to help us in every trouble we face. In your name we pray. Amen.