

THE MISSION RESCUE SPECIAL

THE MOSES STORY

Here are some of the clues that we used during the Holiday Club week to tell the story of Moses:

Baby (a doll) – Moses was hidden in the basket, and was kept safe by God; the baby was the answer to the people's prayers, and was the one whom God had planned would rescue His people from being slaves in Egypt.

Fire – Greg read the story from Exodus 3:1-10 in which God called Moses to go back to Egypt and be the leader of Israel.

A Rhyme – the answer to the rhyme is Aaron; he was Moses' his brother and God sent him along with Moses to help him, to speak for him; they went to Pharaoh together; he had a stick that turned into a snake and the river turned to blood, to try to persuade Pharaoh to let the people go!

Cue cards – Pharaoh said he would, then changed his mind and God sent 10 plagues on Egypt to persuade Pharaoh; each time he said 'yes', then changed his mind to say 'no'; another plague was sent and the same 'yes', 'no' pattern followed! Finally the plague when the first-born died came and God passed over the Israelite houses; Pharaoh said 'yes' and urged Moses to take the people away.

Suitcase – the people packed up and left; they began to travel all the way from Egypt to the new land that God had promised; Pharaoh changed his mind again and chased them to bring them back, but they escaped through the sea as God parted it and the people escaped.

Moses trusted God; he discovered that God was with him wherever he went and that God helped him complete his mission. God is with us wherever we go: He is with us in Church, with us at school, with us at work, with us everywhere; we trust Him to help us live life well and be the kind of people He wants us to be.

GOD'S RESCUE PLAN

A man fell overboard from his ship and was in the sea, in his lifeboat; he prayed that God would save and rescue him. The next thing he knew, the lifeboat was there, come to rescue him; he sent them away saying "God will save me". Again he prayed 'God save me' and the next thing our man knew there was a helicopter overhead ready to winch him on board, but he sent it way saying "God will save me". Again he prayed "God save me" and this time, a huge liner appeared and the captain spoke to him on the tannoy wanting to put down the rope ladder and rescue him, but the man waved them away saying "God will save me". A huge wave came along and swamped the lifeboat and the man drowned and when he got to heaven he complained to God that God hadn't saved him when he prayed and God said to the man "But I sent a lifeboat, a helicopter and a liner to rescue you and you turned them all away!"

God had a rescue plan for Moses and his people; the slaves were being set free to be a new people. God was with them, loving them; caring for them; teaching them how to live life. There were times when they turned away, but God persevered! But what about us and our world? Does God have a rescue plan for us? Do we even need rescuing? People are good and we can do lots of good things; we create all kinds of things that do good in the world and we sometimes think that we don't need God and don't need rescuing. But... then we see just how bad people can be; we have seen that this week in London and other cities in England; people can behave really badly and the world is full

of people who can think, say and do bad things; in our heart of hearts we know that we can be like that too! We need a rescue plan and God has one! God's rescue plan for the world is all about Jesus.

Here's one story that shows us what God's rescue plan for the world is and what difference Jesus makes to the world and to us. **Read: Luke 19:1-10**

Zaccheus was a little man; when Jesus came, he was stuck at the back of the crowd, and he couldn't see! He was a tax collector: everybody thought he was a bit of a mole, a Jew working for the Romans, for the enemy; not only that, but he was a thief, who stole their money; he collected their taxes but collected more than he needed and kept the rest for himself, so he became rich, but with other people's money; people hated Zaccheus because he was a bad man, he had no friends, nobody liked him. Then Jesus came; Zaccheus wanted to see Jesus, but he was stuck at the back of the crowd; so he climbed a tree to see! Jesus stopped at the bottom of the tree and said "*Zaccheus come down immediately; I must stay at your house today.*" Everybody else thought this was terrible because Zaccheus was such a bad person. But Zaccheus became a new man that day, changed by Jesus: he came out of his house and offered to give back all that he'd stolen and to give back four times the amount; he would give half of his possessions to the poor. From being a thief, Jesus changed him; now he was a generous man, loving, caring; he was a new man because he met Jesus.

Jesus would go on to Jerusalem; he was on his way there when met Zaccheus; Jesus would go to die on a cross and everyone who saw Him die thought that God's rescue plan for the world was over, finished, done; it had not worked because Jesus is dead. But three days later, they discovered that Jesus was alive again and the One who had died was alive; because He died and was raised, Jesus is able to be the Saviour for the world forever; God's rescue plan centres on the cross and resurrection of Jesus and for faith and still works, it is still for us and for our world; we still give thanks to God for Jesus. God's rescue plan is to change the world one heart at a time. We begin to understand that we have a sense of need; we see that Jesus meets our need and we come to trust that He can and will save us. That's how our world is changed; that's God's rescue plan for the world, one person, one heart at a time.