

Jesus, Our Savior, Came to Seek and Save the Lost – Luke 2:41-52

From early on, Jesus knew he had come to complete a mission from God. Jesus was old enough to attend the Passover festival in Jerusalem—the annual celebration commemorating the Lord’s deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Thousands from all over the known world flocked to Jerusalem to mark this celebration, including Jesus and his parents, Joseph and Mary. When his parents started heading home, Jesus remained in the temple. When Joseph and Mary realized he was gone, they frantically hurried back to the city and searched until they found Jesus in the temple. He told them, “Why were you searching for me? Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” Now we might think this was the sinful rebellion of a soon-to-be teen, but this was Jesus, the sinless Son of God. It was love for God’s Word and knowing that he had come to seek and save the lost that brought him to the temple. You see, Jesus lived the perfect life we could not live. He adored his heavenly Father, while you and I often forget him or even treat him with disdain. Jesus loved to be in God’s house to learn and worship, while you and I often find our minds drifting. Jesus also submitted to the earthly authorities God placed over him, while you and I have often rebelled. Years later, Jesus would die on the cross to pay for your sins and rise from the dead to save you. What an amazing Savior we have!

Jesus, Our Savior, Does Big Things – John 6:1-15

Huge crowds. A late afternoon in the middle of nowhere. Hungry stomachs and no food in sight, except for five little loaves of bread and two small fish—a young boy’s lunch. Still Jesus knew he would feed them all. He even used the situation as an opportunity to test his disciples’ faith. They trusted him and did what he asked after he blessed the food. Soon there was so much food for the thousands sitting on the grass that the disciples would collect twelve baskets of leftovers. Our Savior does big things with very little. Think of the miracle he performs through the spoken Word as he creates living faith in a dead heart. Think of the miracle he performs through a little water in Holy Baptism as he transforms a dead, hostile enemy into a beloved child of God and welcomes that person into his family. Think of the miracle he performs through bread and wine as he gives his body and blood with bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of your faith. Think of what he did through his own weakness and death—earn eternal life for you. What an amazing Savior!

Jesus, Our Savior, Says “Believe!” – Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

“Do not fear, only believe.” How amazing is the love and care of our Savior that he would raise a young girl from death to life. Through his words of comfort and the fulfillment of his promises, Jesus calmed the heart of the anxious father and replaced his fear with trust. Through that very same Word and through those very same promises, we take comfort no matter the situation in life. Look at what our Savior has done. Look at what our Savior can do. Why would Jesus, our Savior, ever abandon you when he has done so much already? Jesus doesn’t call for you to make some decision or for some emotional response to bubble up from your heart. No, Jesus, our Savior, says, “Believe!” because you can trust the One who breaks the darkness, the One who gives victory over death and eternal life, the One who gives hope to the hopeless. What an amazing Savior!

Jesus, Our Savior, Tells Us to Go and Tell – Matthew 27:62-28:20

The account before us is nothing short of amazing. Even the pagan Roman guards testify to the reality of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, yet even more amazing is how much mercy and love the risen Savior shows his own followers. Jesus comforts the women with simple words, “Don’t be afraid.” Why did they have no reason to fear? Why do we have no reason to fear? Jesus lives. That means he conquered sin. He conquered death. He conquered the devil...for you and me. Because Jesus lives, you, too, shall live! You, too, will rise from the dead! You already have a place in heaven and will go there someday. Because Jesus lives, you have a living hope and possess an inheritance that will never perish, spoil or fade. What good news to share, which is what he sent the women and his own disciples to do. Jesus sends us out to go and tell about him too. He has promised to be with you always. What better news can you share than that of your amazing, living Savior!

Jesus, Our Savior, Works Through His People – Acts 12:1-17

Since Christ has ascended into heaven, who will go and work today? Throughout VBS, we’ve seen how God works through young people, older people, and all of his people. In our final lesson, we see God work through his servant Peter and through the servant girl Rhoda. We’ve heard and seen how amazing our Savior really is. Now it’s time for us to go out into the world and let Jesus work through us. We serve him in love by serving others in love. We share his Good News with everyone we know and love so they can share it too. What an amazing, powerful, loving, living Savior we have!