

WHO WILL GOD SEND TO THE RESCUE?

I'd like to invite the kids to come up and help me with this sermon. [To the kids] If you needed to rescue someone you knew and cared about whose life was being threatened by an evil dictator and you had all the resources in the world at your disposal, how would you do it? (Responses.) Well, let's act out the real life story from the Bible about how God rescued someone in a pretty surprising way.

We need some volunteers: someone to play the big, bad king - good! Two people to play two courageous women, O.K., someone (preferably someone very small) to play the very young person who gets rescued [a baby boy in a carry-seat is volunteered and put into the large basket on the floor] -- perfect! Now someone to play the baby's mother, someone to play a big sister [one child volunteers to be his big sister], and someone to play a princess. Anyone feel like acting like a princess today? (Parents, you don't get to vote on the casting.)

O.K., big, bad king, you fold your arms and look impressive and you say to the two courageous women, "I want all the Hebrew baby boys killed." [The king says that.] Courageous women [aside to the congregation] - these are mid-wives, folks, who in the days before there were places like St. Peter's Hospital, Robert Wood Johnson and the Medical Center at Princeton, assisted at childbirth with all the wisdom and experience they could offer - you say to the king, "Not happenin', kingsie." [The king scowls and looks grumpy.] Moses' mother, you're still worried that the king will now send soldiers to grab your son, so you hide him as long as you can, and then you put him in this basket in the river because God has told you that God has a plan, and you have **faith**.

[The baby, in the carry-seat and basket on a carpet square, is then pushed to the middle of the aisle.] O.K., kids, everybody who doesn't have another role gets to be the Nile River pushing baby Moses to the shore. [We all help to push the basket to "shore," the front of the altar platform.] O.K., Princess, you find the baby in the basket and you say, "Oh, a Hebrew baby." Then, you put your hand on your chin and say, "Hmm, I can really 'stick it' to my father for his nasty idea of killing Hebrew boys if I *adopt this one and protect him*." You make a face at the king, who's looking the other way. Now, Princess, you bend over the basket, and then you stand up, hold your nose and while holding it say, "I'm going to hire someone to actually take *care* of this baby - y'know, all the messy, smelly stuff, because I am, after all, a *princess*." "

O.K., where's Miriam, Moses' big sister? Miriam, you stand up, raise your hand and say, "Excuse me, Princess, I know someone who's really great at taking care of babies." Princess, you nod, and Miriam brings back ... her and Moses' mother [who nods to the princess], who gets *hired* by the princess to take care of *her own baby* while under the princess' protection from the king who wants to kill him ... Sweet.

O.K., gather 'round kids, you are yourselves again. Now, if you hadn't heard or read the story before, would any of you, seriously, have come up with this plan? [They all shake their heads.] Most people who watch Hollywood movies envision rescues to involve helicopters and a lot of muscular guys with automatic weapons - you know, Matt Damon and all those guys. But God came up with a rescue plan which worked perfectly, and *involved four women, one girl and no weapons*.

So, one of the morals of this story is that **we can't always predict what God's help for us is going to look like**. Moses' mother especially had to do something which can be really hard for parents - as I am learning myself right now - and that's *let go*.

She had to **"let go and let God"** and have faith that God's tip to her that he had a plan was true. That basket, remember, had no way to be steered - just like Noah's ark - and babies can't steer anyway. Sometimes we realize that *we have to let God steer*. And God steered the basket right into the heart of the princess! And Moses lived, and grew up to be the greatest hero of Israel - thanks to four women and one girl who were willing to be coached by God.

So, *if you ever feel like you're «a basket case,"* pray for God to send some good women to pick you up and to help you become the person God has dreamed of

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