

Kid's Slot – July 10th – July 16th, 2011



“God is our Life Guard!”

OVERVIEW: Children will learn about God’s goodness and his unconditional love for them!

PREPARATION: You will need yarn, scissors, and a few packs of Candy Life Savers. You will also need your Bible.

BIBLE STORY & VERSE: Psalm 63:3-4

ICEBREAKER GAME: Have fun with this question:

- Which of these two activities would you rather do in a swimming pool?
 - (1. Dive off the diving board – play in the deep water
 - (2. Just float around on an air mattress – play in the shallow water

STORY: Read “Life Saver” on the other side

QUESTIONS:

1. **Did Emma know how to swim?** (She loved the water, but never learned how to swim.)
2. **What happened to Emma that day at the pool with Maggie?** (She got knocked into the deep water and needed help)
3. **Who rescued her?** (The Life Guard, Jim – Maggie tried to help, but she couldn’t reach Emma in time.)
4. **How did Emma feel after being rescued?** (She was afraid at first, but very, very, very grateful for the Life Guard, Jim, who saved her life!)
5. **What did Emma keep doing, after being rescued by Jim?** (She kept telling him Thank You over and over and over again)

6. **What did Jim say?** (He said he was just doing his job)
7. **How is God like OUR Life Guard?** (He rescues us when we are in trouble; He gives us peace; He gives us wisdom when we need it; He is always there, watching over us and ready to jump in and save us!)
8. **What should we, like Emma, be doing?** (We should always be thanking and praising Him... God is a great God and He is a good God!)

Activity: Life Saver Necklace: Give the children a piece of yarn, long enough to make a necklace. Have them choose a few Life Saver candies to string on their yarn to make a necklace. Tie the necklace around each child’s neck – obviously not too tight. When you return to the Life Group, let the children show their necklaces – then after prayer time, the children can take them off and enjoy the candy!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE: “Because you love is better than life, I will praise you. I will praise you as long as I live.” Psalm 63:3-4

Return to the Life Group: Return to the Life Group and have the children recite their Bible Memory verse. Let the children show the adults their necklaces and share the story about Emma and Jim. Have the children join in prayer and fellowship.

Reminder: In celebration for Summer Splash, we are having a baptism emphasis in July and August. If a child is interested in being baptized, note that on the Life Group report and get in touch with the Children’s Minister for follow-up.



Life Saver!

Emma loved to go swimming...well - at least that's what she called it. She had a small backyard swimming pool – the kind you blow up, but for her and her brother and sister, it was so much fun! It was only about a foot of water – so the water never went over her head.

Her friend, Maggie, belonged to a nice Country Club where they had a giant swimming pool. She would sometimes go with her brother and sister as Maggie's guest. They didn't go very often, but when she did, she loved it! She was so used to the shallow water in the pool at home so she always stayed in the shallow end of the giant pool – where her feet could touch the bottom! She was a bit afraid of the deep water and definitely was not ready to jump off the diving board, but going to that swimming pool was the highlight of her week!

One day, Emma was sitting on the side of the pool, near the deep end, watching Maggie jump off the diving board. Oh, how Emma wished she had the courage to jump – but for now, it was kind of fun just watching. Suddenly, two kids, who were playing too rough on the side of the pool, knocked Emma right into the deep water – head first!

Poor Emma didn't know how to swim and certainly couldn't touch the bottom of the pool with her feet in such deep water. Maggie tried her best to swim over to help her as she was splashing the water trying to get to the side of the pool, but there were too many other kids in her way.

Out of nowhere, Emma felt herself being lifted up and carried quickly and safely to the side. Whew! That was scary! She was half coughing and half crying – swallowing a bit of water, but scared to death at the same time. Who saved me, she thought – it wasn't Maggie. When she turned around, that's when she noticed the person who was brave enough and strong enough to jump in after her – it was the Lifeguard, Jim.

All Emma could do was to say Thank You again and again. After checking on her to make sure she was OK, Jim just smiled at her and said, "Emma, that's what I'm here for – I'm the Life Guard – I'm here to...well...um, I guess you could say, guard your life! I'm just glad you're OK."

Emma was relieved and so thankful that the Life Guard was

doing his job – and rescued Emma at just the right time. Even though Maggie tried to help, it took someone stronger, bigger and braver than Maggie to rescue Emma.

You know, God is kind of like OUR Life Guard. He is always there – watching us and guarding us to help rescue us when we need his help. He reaches down and picks us up when we are in trouble, and sets our feet on solid ground – just like Jim the Life Guard did for Emma. And just like Emma, we need to keep on praising and thanking our Life Guard, God, for his constant watch care over us! Are you thanking and praising God for all HE has done for and is doing for you? While Jim may have been doing his job when he rescued Emma, God goes way beyond that – he rescues us because He is a great and good God - loves us!

So, whenever you feel uncertain about God's love for you, just remember that He loved you even before you turned to Him to be rescued – before you were in deep water over your head...He loved you even before you were born!

God loves us the same way that new parents feel about their newborn baby. "I love you. You are precious to me. You are mine." Isn't that wonderful to be loved in such a perfect and complete way!

