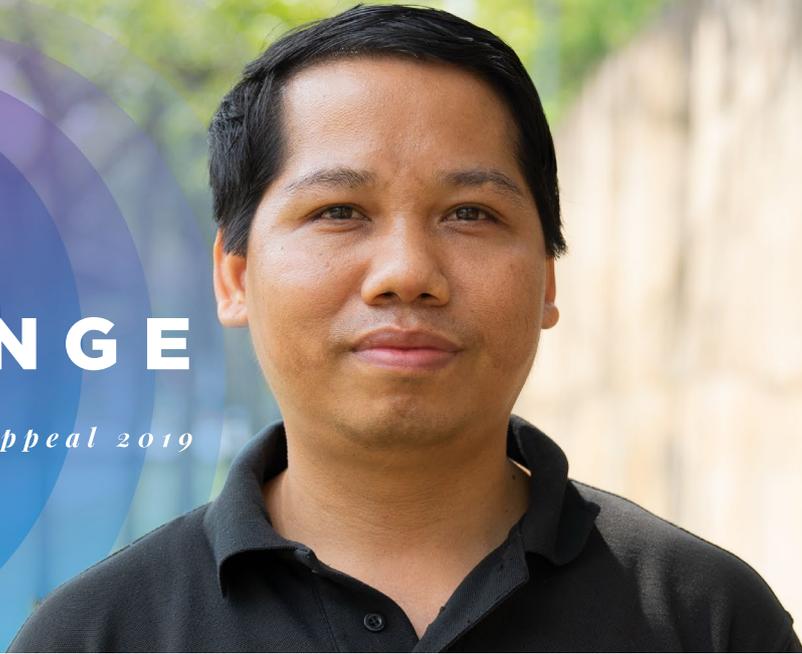


BE THE CHANGE

Self Denial Appeal 2019



02: GOD RESCUES AND SAVES

MINGLE

If you have regular ice-breakers, feel free to stick with your own. Otherwise, here are some questions you could use.

QUESTIONS

What item that you don't have already, would you most like to own?

Would you rather be hairy all over or completely bald?

If you could have any animal as a pet, what would it be?

ACTIVITY: CAPTURE THE FLAG

Equipment needed:

Two different coloured 'flags'

Two road cones or hula hoops

Something to create dividing lines and jails (rope, tape, chalk etc.)

Designate an appropriate sized playing field with a dividing line in the middle and two 'home lines' to create two territories with safe zones outside of these. Divide the young people into two teams and have them place their flag in the top of the road cone or hula hoop somewhere in the safe zone over the home line of their territory. The goal is to capture the other team's flag and return it to your team's safe zone.

Starting from their home line, players run across the field to capture the other team's flag. If a player is tagged in the opposing team's territory, they must stand in a designated jail area somewhere in the safe zone of the opposing team.

If a player succeeds in getting to the opposing team's safe zone without being tagged, they are then safe until they choose to leave. If they are tagged while carrying the flag, they must drop the flag where they were tagged. A flag may only be picked up by a member of the opposing team; meaning once a flag has left the safe zone it can't be returned there. The flags may not be thrown, but must be carried to their destination, although, they may be handed between teammates.

Once a player reaches the safe zone, they also free any of their teammates who were in jail, who can then freely return to their own home line before attempting their next run. The game ends when one team gets the opposing team's flag to their safe zone.

Application: We are rescued with the expectation that we will help rescue others.

THE WORD

Ask someone to read the following passage out loud to your group. You could get a couple of people to read it out if they have different translations.

Deuteronomy 24:17-18 (NLT)

True justice must be given to foreigners living among you and to orphans, and you must never accept a widow's garment as security for her debt. Always remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God redeemed you from your slavery. That is why I have given you this command.

ADDITIONAL PASSAGES

Here are some great supporting passages that you could also get people to read out or use to prompt discussion.

Psalms 35:10

2 Corinthians 1:10

Colossians 1:13

WHAT DO THESE VERSES REVEAL ABOUT GOD?

(They show that God is a rescuing God—a saviour—and someone who cares about justice for and kindness towards foreigners.)

VIDEO

Watch the Self Denial video 'Week 3: Malaysia'. This is available to view and download at www.selfdenial.info/nzfts

DISCUSSION

Use the following questions to encourage discussion. Feel free to add your own and ask follow up questions as people share to keep the discussion flowing.

What was the change that took place in Rabi's story? *(Rabi could see that God guided the refugee journey that saved his life, and it inspired him to stay and be part of God's salvation for others making the same journey. Now he helps change a situation of danger and vulnerability to one of safety and security for newly arrived refugees.)*

Can you recall times when bad experiences of yours meant you could help others going through the same experiences?

Think about what it would be like to be a refugee, moving from your home country to somewhere that may have a different language, culture and way of life. How would you feel? What are some of the challenges you might face?

Can you think of any ways you could support refugees, or anyone who has come to New Zealand from another country, and make them feel welcome and safe?

How can you reveal the rescuing nature of God to others?

THIS WEEK

Think about the people in your community who have come from other countries and the challenges they may be facing as immigrants. Think about ways that you can 'be the change' by helping them to feel safe and secure and by revealing God's salvation to them.

If you'd like to and haven't already, you could also decide on an amount you'd like to contribute to this year's Self Denial Appeal. Think about what you can afford to give and how you'll save or earn the money over the next few weeks. Is there something you could give up to help others in need?

PRAYER

Spend some time praying together.

Thank God for your salvation, and pray that he will open your eyes to see where he is at work and how you can participate in what he's doing.

Pray for Rabi, Myanmar and Malaysia, the disabled girl and her family.

Pray for help with this week's challenges.