

# Setting Captives Free (without blowing them away) - 2 Timothy 2:23ff

## We are God's rescue squad!

**Warning:** *Terminator and Little Bo Peep are not on the squad.*

*Mission Operatives:*

### 1. Remember the mission \_\_\_\_\_.

**"Captives"** \_\_\_\_\_ cf. Luke 4:18 & Isaiah 61:1

Process:

- ✎ **"repentance"** - a change of \_\_\_\_\_
- ✎ **"knowledge"** - the recognition of \_\_\_\_\_
- ✎ **"come to their senses"** - to awaken from \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- ✎ **"escape the snare of the devil"** - to get out of a \_\_\_\_\_

**Apply:** Our mission - \_\_\_\_\_ those held captive by the devil, not \_\_\_\_\_ them.

### 2. Refuse to be drawn into unnecessary word-\_\_\_\_\_.

*They only produce quarrels! How?*

✎ **Refuse \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ speculations.**

Don't battle \_\_\_\_\_ with an unarmed \_\_\_\_\_.

**Silence** is the best argument for:

- *foolish* - *moros*
- *unlearned* - without the basic training of a \_\_\_\_\_

✎ **Do not be quarrelsome.**

We are sent to win the \_\_\_\_\_ not win an \_\_\_\_\_!

**NOT Little Bo Peep or Dirty Harry**

**"Leave 'em alone..."      "Go ahead, make my day!"**

"able to \_\_\_\_\_"

"not \_\_\_\_\_"

"correcting"

"kind, patient, with gentleness"

**Why?**

Escape requires \_\_\_\_\_-change but \_\_\_\_\_ seldom change \_\_\_\_\_.

✎ **God may \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_.**

Many word wars are avoided by remembering I am not God!

- I cannot change anyone's \_\_\_\_\_, including \_\_\_\_\_.
- I cannot \_\_\_\_\_ anyone's \_\_\_\_\_, including \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. Use the Word with gentle precision.

✎ **"Able to teach"** requires "\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ the Word."

✎ **"Escape"** requires **"teaching, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ & training."**

Why? Because of **the nature of sin!** It is...

- \_\_\_\_\_ - "come to knowledge"
- \_\_\_\_\_ - "come to their senses;" sober up
- \_\_\_\_\_ - "snare of the devil"
- \_\_\_\_\_ - "held captive"

**Challenge:** Who am I most like as I am on mission?

## Discussion Guide: *God's Rescue Squad*

**Open:** Our closing challenge asked: **Who am I most like as I am on mission?**

a) Gladiator   b) Little Bo Peep   c) Terminator   d) Barney



Follow up: When you play Barney is it dinosaur (lovey) or Fife (bumbling)?  
Explain your answers.



1. What are some indicators that we've forgotten our mission objective is to "set the captives free?"

2. Look at the process of release for those held captive, and then agree-disagree-discuss the statements that follow each.

*Repent* > *Knowledge* > *Come to their senses* > *Escape the snare of the devil*

**Repent** – We cannot change our life until God changes our mind.

**Knowledge** – Life-control requires mind control; but people are truth-blind.

**Senses** – We cannot trust our natural senses to determine the truth:                      When we are deceived, we don't know it.

Spiritually deaf and blind people can't make themselves hear or see.                      We should all just take what Pastor Mike says as the ultimate truth.

**Escape** – All people are captives at some point in life.

No one can find freedom by themselves – they must be set free.

3. M.O. 2 is to avoid unnecessary word-wars. But sometimes it's hard to tell if we are being a **word-warrior** or a **rescuer or captives**.

In these scenarios do you think *Bob Believer* is being a *warrior* or a *rescuer*?

- Bob has a heated debate with his Pastor over the way the communion elements are distributed. He is so hurt that he leaves the church.
- Bob hears his Sunday School teacher say: "Jesus' blood covers all sin – even that of unbelievers." After class he asks for clarification that leads to an hour discussion of the difference between *unlimited atonement* and *universal salvation*.
- Bob disagrees with the way his church's board handles designated giving and has an ongoing debate with them. After they listen, but disagree, he tries to find support from his Sunday School class.
- Bob sees a church leader's name in the paper as a reported arrest. Bob goes to that leader's house to ask him what happened and if there is anything he can do to help.
- You decide that Bob is a difficult personality that is causing too much trouble in the church so you talk to the Pastor about it.  
(Are **you** being a word-warrior or a rescuer?)

4. What are you asking God to change in your pursuit of *speaking truth in love*?

**Prayer Target:** A growing rescue squad of love-filled, truth-speakers.

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*Mission Operatives:*

#### 1. Remember the mission objective.

**"Captives" set free** cf. Luke 4:18 & Isaiah 61:1

Process:

- ✎ **"repentance"** - a change of mind
- ✎ **"knowledge"** - the recognition of truth
- ✎ **"come to their senses"** - to awaken from sleep or drunkenness
- ✎ **"escape the snare of the devil"** - to get out of a trap

**Apply:** Our mission - **Free** those held captive by the devil, not **fight** them.

#### 2. Refuse to be drawn into unnecessary word-wars.

*They only produce quarrels!*      How?

✎ **Refuse foolish and ignorant speculations.**

Don't battle wits with an unarmed man.

**Silence** is the best argument for:

- *foolish* - *moros*
- *unlearned* - without the basic training of a child

✎ **Do not be quarrelsome.**

We are sent to win the lost not win an argument!

**NOT Little Bo Peep or Dirty Harry**

**"Leave 'em alone..."**      **"Go ahead, make my day!"**

"able to teach"

"not quarrelsome"

"correcting"

"kind, patient, with gentleness"

**Why?**

Escape requires mind-change but arguments seldom change minds.

✎ **God may grant them repentance.**

Many word wars are avoided by remembering I am not God!

- I cannot change anyone's mind, including mine.
- I cannot save anyone's soul, including mine.

#### 3. Use the Word with gentle precision.

✎ **"Able to teach"** requires **"accurately handling the Word."**

✎ **"Escape"** requires **"teaching, reproof, correction & training."**

Why? Because of **the nature of sin!** It is...

- insane - "come to knowledge"
- addictive - "come to their senses;" sober up
- deceptive - "snare of the devil"
- enslaving - "held captive"

**Challenge:** Who am I most like as I am on mission?