

## **Sunday school materials 19/04/2020**

### **Footsteps**

# **HOPE.**

The aim of this session is to help children to understand that, because we have hope in God, we are able to face life positively.

This session starts by showing that hope requires action - if children are hoping to become a top pianist, are they practicing all that they can? If they're hoping in the Lord, do they know what His word says and what His promises to them are?

It also matters what you're putting your hope in. What is your hope built on?

As Isaiah 40:31 says: but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

No matter what we're going through, we can always hope in the Lord.

## **COLLAGE OF HOPE.**

### ***Equipment***

Lining paper, marker pen, scissors, catalogues with stuff children want in them or download pictures from the internet, glue sticks.

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Before the session, draw and cut out the letters H O P E. Make the letters as big and thick as possible.

Let the children go through the catalogues and find the things they are hoping they will get at some point. Ask them to cut them out and stick them on the letters. When the letters are full, stick them up on a wall in order.

Say that there are lots of things we hope for that we will never get and sometimes that's because we are hoping for the wrong things. Say that we're going to be thinking about how and why we hope in God.

It may be fun to display this craft work in your window for passers by.

The Point: For fun and to think about what we're hoping for.

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### **Summary**

- Write out the letters H.O.P.E
- Let the children decorate the letters with things and outings they are hoping for.

## **What do we place our hope in? Elijah on Mount Carmel.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNuXeW-c88M>

### **Equipment**

Bibles, or print outs of 1 Kings 18:16-46, Elijah on Mount Carmel, large sheet of paper and a pen

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Ask the young people to brainstorm, 'What people put their hope in?'. As they make suggestions, write them up on the big sheet of paper.

Once a few suggestions have been made, read together the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:16-46).

Ask the young people what the nation of Israel had placed its hope in? The answer is of course, everything but God! A corrupt King and Queen, Prophets of Baal, and themselves. None of these things though had been able to end the drought, or bring prosperity to the land.

Talk with the group about what happens when we place our hope with things that are meaningless. Will they fulfil us? Or are they capable of bringing us anything? What does Job 8:13 say about those who do not place their hope in God?

What marks God out as different in this story? What is the reaction of the people when they witness the power of something that they can truly put their hope in?

Finally, ask the group to come up with practical ways that we can use to demonstrate that our hope needs to be set in God to avoid futility. We cannot all set mountains on fire, but we could all make a public stand, declaring that our Hope is in Jesus. How?

The Point: This study aims to show the young people that it is not a new thing for people to place their hope in all sorts of things. Other people, other religions, alternative therapies, celebrities, positive thinking, themselves, money, love, sex, drugs, have all long had hope placed in them.

In this story we see though the futility of hope that is not rooted in God. He alone is able to come in power and actually change situations. In this story not only does He perform a wonderful miracle but He also gives the nation what it needs; rain.

Encourage the young people to think about any times that they have placed their hope in something else, and how they could now place it in Christ.

## **FULL OF HOPE**

### ***Equipment***

Bibles , paper and pens, box of chocolates.

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Bring out a box of chocolates and ask one of the young people to say which flavour or sort of chocolate they would hope you would give them.

Ask them to shut their eyes and then you feed them their choice of chocolate.

Ask them if their hope was fulfilled and how. Ask them how hopeful they felt that you will give them the correct chocolate and why.

Ask if anyone else would like a turn. Repeat the process. 'Hopefully' by now most of the group will be willing to trust you to give them their choice of chocolate!

As you share out the rest of the chocolates ask everyone to look up Romans 8:24–25 and then ask a leader to read these two verses to the group. Explain that your volunteers hoped for the right chocolate and waited patiently with their mouths open, even though they couldn't actually see what they were waiting for. And because they know and trusted you their hope was certain!

In the same way we can't see eternal life or salvation but we can be certain of our hope because we know we can trust Jesus because of His track record in the Bible and in our lives. As we grow to know Him more so the trust and hope grows.

Ask the young people to work in pairs to look up some more verses which should fill us full of hope. Ask them to put in their own words the hope contained within their verses:

- Revelations 21:1–5
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Matthew 28:20
- 1 John 3:1–3

Ask each pair what they have discovered and then say that in 1 Peter 3:15 the writer says that you should always be ready to explain the hope you have and be able to answer in a gentle and respectful manner.

In pairs again ask each person to explain as simply as they possibly can the hope they have as a Christian. (If you know some of the group are not yet Christians ask them to try explain how they think a Christian might describe the hope they have).

**The Point:** Our hope may be in the unseen but if it is based on a trusting.

## **LIGHT OF HOPE - PRAYER ACTIVITY**

### ***Equipment***

Tea lights, matches and a large cross on the floor (either wooden or drawn).

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Give each of the young people a tea-light candle. Stress that you are trusting them to be sensible with this activity and not burn each other.

Mention the fact that light is a sign of hope. Jesus talked about the fact that He was the light of the world – the hope for the world.

Across the world, people light candles as a way of expressing their hopes to God.

Encourage the young people to light their tea-light and then put it on the cross silently. As they do that encourage them to be thinking of an area of their life that they would want to bring to God so that they can experience His hope – and His answer. Perhaps it's something about their own life, or perhaps it's about the life of someone else they know or different situation.

Once they have laid all the candles on the cross, everybody should stand around the cross.

Challenge that not only do we bring our needs to God and ask for His hope and help, we also ask Him to help us be people of hope in the world - that we will be a light, shining brightly in the dark places, making the world a better place.

In small groups ask them to take just a few minutes to talk about what it means to be a person who brings hope to others – and to the world. How can they make a difference in the world?

The Point: To challenge the young people to think not only about their own lives, but how they can bring hope to others and make a difference.

## **Kids worship - HOPE!**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_t5xitQjlc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_t5xitQjlc)

## **Simple song to learn actions to:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6v-UlvMXgU>