

## ADVENT 2022

**Jesus: Our Hope****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*Advent focuses on four themes: hope, peace, joy, and love. Peace, joy, and love are realities we can experience in part now because Jesus has come into the world, and will experience in full one day when he comes again. In between, they are intermingled with brokenness, pain, and sorrow. Hope is the thing which carries us through the now, into the fullness of what will come. We can have full hope now, because of the promises of God, and one day that hope will have completed its' purpose when we know full peace, joy, and love.*

- **Big Idea:** Hope is not just wishful thinking — but a confident assurance in what God will do, because of what He has already done.

**Starter****Evidence of Grace**

- Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

**Video:**

- Watch this word study video on Hope by BibleProject: <https://youtu.be/4WYNBjJSyVE>

**Sing Together**

## Lesson - from Romans 5:1-5

Paul, who we just learned about in the book of Acts was once a man who attacked the Church but became a leader in the Church and a follower of Jesus when he saw Jesus appear to him, once wrote a letter to the believers in Rome. In part of that letter, he wrote:

*Since we have been made right with God by faith, we can be at peace with God through King Jesus. We now have access to God's grace, through Jesus by faith. We now stand in that grace and can boast and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God!*

*Not only that, but we can also boast in our suffering, because we know that it teaches us to endure, and endurance produces good character, which produces hope all the more. This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

Paul was saying that pain, suffering, and hard times do not take away hope. If our hope is placed in Jesus it can stand through hard times — and even be made stronger. As we stand in our faith in Jesus and remember the grace of God that He has saved us by, we can go through suffering and pain and endure it, because we know God has saved us from sin and will one day save us from death. As we learn to endure hard things for the name of Jesus, we become stronger people of faith. We learn patience. We learn more of grace. We grow as people. That's what it means to grow in character.

That growth in character allows us to focus more on the hope we have. Our hope is in Jesus and all that he has done and all that he will do. Jesus has not only saved us from sin when he went to the cross and grave, but he conquered death when he rose again to life! Our hope is in this truth — that one day Jesus will return and make all things right in the world, fully removing sin, sorrow, sadness, and death, and all who trust in him will live in perfect peace, experience full joy, and be embraced forever in the love of God.

If this is what we hope in, we will be able to stand through anything this life throws at us. And we can trust this hope will come, because Jesus has already come into this world once —he will come again!

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- ▶ What does the word hope mean?
- ▶ What kind of things do you hope for this Christmas season?
- ▶ There are things we *hope for*, and something we put our *hope in*.
  - It's good to hope for things to happen, but they aren't always certain. You may not get that present you hoped for. You may not have the job you hope for when you grow up. It's okay to hope for them, but those things are not always promised.
  - What we hope in is the thing we trust will ultimately make everything right. We hope in Jesus, and whether the smaller things we hope in come true or not, we can have a confidence that Jesus will come through.
- ▶ How can we be sure that Jesus will come back to make all things right?
- ▶ What are some things you hope for when Jesus returns?

### Breakout Time

#### Pray:

God, thank you for the hope we have in Jesus! Thank you that we have your Spirit to remind us here and now. Fill us with your hope more and more each day until Jesus returns. Amen.

#### Craft:

- Use the following coloring page to decorate an ornament, then cut it out.
- You can also use the second coloring page if you have more time in class. As they color, talk about the image of the serpent being crushed under the heel. Ask kids why that is something that brings hope into the world.

### BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Bless** rhythm.

We are blessed to be a blessing to others. How can you bring *hope* to someone this week who is facing circumstances where they find it difficult to have hope?





Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
(Romans 15:13)