

GOD OFFERS HOPE INSTEAD OF HOPELESSNESS

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS HOPE INSTEAD OF HOPELESSNESS

Romans 5:1-5; 8:18-23; 15:13; Colossians 1:21-23; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 6:17-20

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin makes us hopeless because it causes us to place our hope in empty things.
- Through Jesus we can be born to a hope that is alive.
- The hope that we can have in God is greater than our circumstances, hardships, and losses.
- Our hope compels us to live today in light of the day when Jesus comes again.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 4-5.

The disciples suffered many things after Jesus died and ascended to heaven. They were arrested multiple times, beaten, threatened with death, yet they found joy in being so mistreated. They knew that their suffering was because of their faithfulness to Christ. Even in the midst of their suffering, they found hope because they trusted in Jesus.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God offers us new life (new desires, purpose) through Jesus



Every child should feel:

- The need to live differently because of Jesus



Every child should:

- See life in light of God's promises to those who are in Jesus



Every child should want:

- To be freed and rescued from their sin and given new life in Jesus

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HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS

As a family, take a visit to your local homeless shelter. Collect food items, clothing, and toiletries to donate to the shelter. Talk with your children about how Jesus came to give hope to the hopeless. His hope is true and everlasting.

DISCOVER IT: (Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)
Acts 4-5.

THINK ABOUT IT: (Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)

Peter, John, and the other disciples continued preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ after Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven. The Pharisees and Sadducees were angry that the disciples were telling people about Jesus. They were really angry that Peter and John were telling people about Jesus' resurrection. The Pharisees and Sadducees didn't believe that Jesus was the true Messiah and they didn't want other Jews believing it either. Peter, John and the other disciples faced many hardships. They were severely beaten several times. They were thrown into prison and had their lives threatened. Even though the disciples faced much persecution, they still continued sharing the gospel. Not only did they share the gospel, they did it joyfully. They had joy because they had hope in Jesus. They knew that Jesus would return one day and He would right all wrongs. They also knew that hope in Jesus was secure and everlasting. We, too, can hope joyfully in every circumstance when we hope in Jesus. We can be like the disciples and hope in the return of Jesus and live joyfully no matter what happens to us. Jesus came to give us hope when we were hopeless.

TALK ABOUT IT: (Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)

- What did the disciples continue doing after Jesus ascended into heaven? (They continued preaching the gospel.)
- What would happen to the disciples when they would preach the gospel? (They would be beaten, thrown into prison, and people would threaten to kill them.)
- Why did the disciples have joy even though they were persecuted? (They hoped in Jesus and hope in Jesus is true and everlasting.)



KNOW

As a family, memorize 1 Peter 1:3 by playing a game of "I SPY". Divide the verse into sections and place them around your house. Ask your child to spy the different sections of the verse. Once they've all been found, put them together and say the verse out loud together several times.



DO

Create a scavenger hunt of things that we falsely place our hope in. You can include things like toys, money, other people, etc. Once your child finds all of the items on the scavenger hunt, talk with him about how we can have true hope in Jesus.



FEEL

Wrap an empty box in wrapping paper. Tell your child that you have a gift for him. Have him open the box and then talk through how it feels to open the box and find it's empty. Talk with your child about how our hope is empty when we hope in anything other than Jesus.



WANT

As a family, spend some time during meal times this week talking about the times when we hope in empty things. Help your child think of empty things that we hope in, such as money, clothes, friends, etc. Remind him that true hope is in Jesus alone.

Spend some time this week praying, thanking God for offering hope instead of hopelessness.