

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW HOPE

STORY: REDEMPTION**BIG TRUTH: THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW HOPE**

Romans 5:1-5; 8:22-25; 15:13; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Colossians 1:21-23; 2 Thessalonians 2:16;
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; 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

- Sin makes us dead, but through Jesus' death and resurrection we can be raised from spiritual death to life.
- Being a part of God's family means we have been given a new hope of a new life.
- In our sin, we had no hope; as a member of God's family we live a life full of hope.
- This hope shapes the way we live and our purpose in life.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 11:1-44

We are all spiritually dead and God gives us new life through Jesus Christ. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead as a symbol of what His death on the cross does for every person who believes in Him. Jesus gives us a new hope through His own death and resurrection.

STORY: REDEMPTION

Thankfully, God does not just leave us in the broken world, but is repairing the brokenness through His Son. From the very beginning of time, God promised He would fix creation, and He kept His promise by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to live on the earth and willingly died on the cross so that sin's power over creation would be broken forever.

BIG AIMS**Every child should know that:**

- God adopts His children into a new family by His grace

**Every child should feel:**

- Awe at the gift of adoption that God has given to His people

**Every child should:**

- Treat others in the church with honor and respect because in Christ we are all members of the same family

**Every child should want:**

- To be adopted into God's family through faith and repentance

FAMILY DEVOTION: A NEW HOPE

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He showed the people watching that He was more powerful than death. Jesus' power over death brings us hope in Him and the new spiritual life that we can have through Him.

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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."

Saving faith brings new life to every person who believes.

- Before we know Christ, every person is spiritually dead.
- Our sin makes us spiritually dead because it separates us from God who is the true source of life.
- When we understand that we are separated from God and we cannot save ourselves, we can turn away from our sin, or repent.
- When we repent, we believe that Jesus is our Savior and that He died on the cross for our sin.
- This brings us saving faith and new life in Jesus.

Believers are born again because Christ rose from the dead.

- Jesus is a gift from God to the world.
- God sent Jesus because no person can save himself or herself.
- We are all in need of someone else to pay our sin debt.
- God sent Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sin.
- Jesus not only died for our sin, but He rose again.
- His resurrection means that we are born again to a new spiritual life.
- Because Jesus rose again, we can rise from our spiritual death to new life in Christ.

A believer's new life in Christ brings new hope.

- When we are spiritually dead, we have no hope.
- We are hopeless and have no way of helping ourselves because we cannot pay our own sin debt.
- When we have saving faith in Christ, we gain a hope in our future because of Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.
- Our relationship with Christ can be a constant source of hope for us because the more we get to know Christ, the more we know and understand that He controls all things.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 11:1-44

The Resurrection of Lazarus

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a shield cut out of cardstock and crayons. Help the children write their names on the shields and then give them crayons, glitter, and stickers to decorate them.. Talk with the children about how God rescues us and fixes our relationships with Him and others.

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BIG IDEA: SIN MAKES US DEAD, BUT THROUGH JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION, WE CAN BE RAISED FROM SPIRITUAL DEATH TO LIFE.¹

We are dead in our sin before we have saving faith.

- God is the source of all life. Everything comes from Him.
- To be separated from God is to be separated from the only source of true life.
- Because our sin separates us from God, we are all spiritually dead and our physical bodies are dying.
- We cannot truly live without God.
- Just like Lazarus died and was buried, we are dead in our own sin.



Bring in a small lamp. Have the children gather in a circle and ask the children to take turns trying to turn the lamp on. After each child has a chance, plug the lamp into an outlet and then have the children take turns turning it on and off. Remind the children that we are like the lamp, we have no life when we are still in our sin, but when we know Jesus, we receive new life.

Jesus died and rose again to new life.

- Jesus died for our sins when He went to the cross.
- God saw Him as sinful in our place and Jesus paid our sin debt.
- Jesus bore the punishment that we deserve when He died in our place.
- He was buried in a tomb and His lifeless body lay there for three days.
- Jesus didn't stay dead, though. On the third day, He got up from the grave as He rose to new life.
- He is alive today and can never die again.
- His death gives us the chance at new life.

Because of Jesus, we can have new spiritual life.

- Jesus is the only way for us to live again.
- Only He can set us free from our sin debt and make a way for us to be with God again.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we are reconciled to God.
- Once we are reconciled to God, we have spiritual life again.
- We are no longer dead in our sin, but we are alive in Jesus.
- Just as Lazarus lived again when Jesus called him from the grave, we live again when we repent and believe in Jesus.

What makes us spiritually dead? (Our sin separates us from God. God is the only source of life and when we are separated from Him, we are spiritually dead.)

1. Romans 6:4: Because Jesus was buried and rose again, we can rise again to new spiritual life.

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW HOPE

BIG IDEA: BEING A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY MEANS WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A NEW HOPE OF A NEW LIFE.²

Before we are part of God's family, we have no true hope.

- Anything that we might hope in before we know God is earthly and doesn't last.
- When we hope in anything other than God, we are hoping in things that can go away at a moment's notice.
- Without God, who is our source of life, we can never truly have hope in anything.
- We cannot save ourselves or really make our lives better. Only God can change our lives and only He can give us real hope in His power.

When we have saving faith, we are no longer hopeless.

- Saving faith means that we are no longer separated from God.
- When we have saving faith, we recognize our sinfulness and our need for a Savior.
- Saving faith also means we understand that we cannot save ourselves and that Jesus died in our place.
- Once we repent and believe in Jesus, we are no longer left to figure out our lives for ourselves.
- We are no longer alone. We have God's Spirit inside of us guiding us and showing us the way.
- Because we have God's Spirit, we are not hopeless.

It is through Jesus' death and resurrection that we have hope of a new life.

- Without Jesus' death and resurrection, we have no hope.
- Because Jesus died for our sin, we can be free of our sin debt. We are no longer held captive by our sin nature.
- Because Jesus rose again to life, we have hope that we, too, will rise again to life.
- Not only does Jesus' death and resurrection give us a hope of new life to come, but it brings us new spiritual life.
- We are made into new creations when we turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus.
- We are seen as new righteous people because of the death of Jesus on the cross.
- Our hope is in the power of Jesus and all that He has done for mankind.

How does being a part of God's family give us new hope? (It means that we have been set free from our sin and we are new creations.)

2. Romans 5:2: *Through Jesus we have obtained access to God. We have been set free from our sin and we have the hope that we will live with God, in all His glory, for all of eternity.*

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW HOPE

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN, WE HAD NO HOPE; AS A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY WE LIVE A LIFE FULL OF HOPE.³

Our sin leaves us spiritually dead and hopeless.

- Every person has sinned and falls short of the glory of God.
- We are all born sinful, which means we are all born spiritually dead.
- Because our sin separates us from God, we are spiritually dead when we are born.
- We all are in need of salvation. We're hopeless on our own because we have no way to pay our own sin debt.



Divide the children into small groups and ask the groups to define the word "hope". Next, allow the groups to share their definitions and then discuss with the children what it means to have hope in something. Remind them that we can have hope in our eternal future when we know Jesus as our Savior.

Being part of God's family brings security and freedom.

- Before we are part of God's family, we are rooted on sinking sand.
- Anything that we might hope in before we know Jesus is not lasting.
- When we turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus, we become part of God's family.
- Being a part of God's family is eternal. We can never lose our place in His family.
- Because our membership in God's family is eternal, we have security and freedom.
- We know that our sins are forgiven and we know that we have a Father who is always watching over us and guiding us.

Our hope is in our eternal future.

- When a person becomes a believer, his hope is not in this world.
- The hope that we have when we have saving faith is in our promised eternity with God.
- Because Jesus rose again on the third day, we know that we can hope in our own resurrection from the dead one day.
- Our eternity with God brings us peace and hope when life on earth is difficult or hard.
- We know no matter what our circumstances are here on earth, our eternal future is secure in Jesus.

How can we live full of hope? (When we have saving faith in Jesus, we can live every day with the hope of our eternal future.)

3. Romans 8:24-25: Our hope is not something we see. It is in our eternal future with Christ.

THE FAITHFUL FATHER PROVIDES A NEW HOPE

BIG IDEA: THIS HOPE SHAPES THE WAY WE LIVE AND OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE.⁴

Our new hope enables us to not lose heart.

- Because this world is sinful and will only get more sinful, if we hope in any earthly thing, it is easy to lose hope.
- When we place our hope in Jesus and our future with Him, it helps us not grow weary or discouraged.
- We know that living for Jesus brings complete satisfaction and is an investment that will not return void.
- Jesus is faithful and true. His Word can always be trusted and when we hope in Him, we hope in His Word.



Have the children look up and read the following verses: Psalm 42:11, Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 121: 7-8, and Romans 15:13. Lead the children in a discussion about how we can live intentionally for Jesus because His Word is true.

Because of our hope, we live intentionally for Jesus.

- Our hope in Jesus changes us and the way we live.
- When we encounter Jesus, our perspective changes.
- We have God's Spirit inside of us and we no longer see things through the same earthly lens.
- Instead, our perspective is formed through our relationship with Jesus.
- We begin to live intentionally for Jesus.
- When we place our hope in Jesus, we begin to understand more and more that we are created to glorify Him.
- We begin living in ways that seek to bring Him glory instead of living according to our sinful hearts.

Our hope in Jesus guides us through every part of our life.

- There is no part of our life that can't be guided by Jesus and His Word.
- Anything we face or go through can be done with our hope in Jesus.
- We know that Jesus is trustworthy and true and we can face anything in life when we live for Him.
- Even death does not overcome us because we know that Jesus rose from the dead and promises to raise us from the dead, too.

How does our hope in Jesus shape the way we live? (We live intentionally for Him because we know that He is faithful and can be trusted.)

4. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: When we hope in Jesus, we do not lose heart because we know that He is faithful and true and can always be trusted.

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HOOKS



Lazarus Come Out Cup Game

Gather together three paper cups, a clothespin, and some white yarn. Ask the children to help you wrap the clothespin in the white yarn like Lazarus would have been wrapped for the grave. Next, play a game where the children have to guess which cup “Lazarus” is under. After they make a guess, reveal the answer when they say, “Lazarus, come out!”. Play several times and then lead them in a discussion about how we have new hope in eternal life because of Jesus’ resurrection.



- Because Jesus rose from the dead, we have hope that we, too, will be raised from the dead.
- Our hope is in the truth of God’s Word and that Jesus not only saves us, but He gives us eternal life, too.



A New Hope Role-Play

Have the children role-play the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Guide the children to include the main parts of the story and then lead them in a discussion about how we have a new hope in Jesus.



- Lazarus’ family received new hope when Jesus raised him from the dead.
- We receive a new hope when we have saving faith in Jesus because we know our sins are forgiven and we have new life in Him.