

JESUS IS OUR ONLY HOPE

ADVENT - JESUS IS

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS OUR ONLY HOPE

Isaiah 8:17; Jeremiah 17:13; Matthew 12:21; Acts 4:12; 2 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 1:12; 4:4; Colossians 1:27; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 6:19

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 1:12

"But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God..."

BIG IDEAS

- There is one true Savior and many false saviors.
- Everyone will either reject Jesus or believe in Him.
- Salvation through Jesus requires new birth.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 1:9-18

Jesus is called "the true light, which gives light to everyone." He was God, and through Him the whole world was created; yet He took on flesh and came to dwell among His people and to reveal God's glory to us. He brings grace and truth, and it is through Him that we receive grace upon grace. He is our only hope.

FOUNDATION: ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means "arrival" or "coming". During Advent season God's people remember and rejoice in Jesus' first coming to save his people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for His return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the Word, fully God, fully man, and our only hope.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- Jesus is the living fulfillment of God's Word.
- Jesus is fully God and fully man.
- Jesus is our only hope.



Every child should feel:

- Thankful that Jesus came to save us from our sins.
- Wonder and awe at the reality of the incarnation.
- Burdened for those who do not know the good news



Every child should be able to:

- Memorize John 1:1-4, 9-14 (pick verses based on stage of development that they are in)
- Give to or serve someone sacrificially who doesn't know Jesus as a means to share the good news about Jesus with them.



Every child should want:

- Know more about Jesus.
- To give to others because God gave his Son for us.

FAMILY DEVOTION: OUR ONLY HOPE

There is no other way for man to be saved except through saving faith in Jesus. Jesus is our only hope. Only through Him can we be reconciled to God.

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BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 1:12

"But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God..."

Jesus came as the Savior of the world.

"But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

- God's plan of salvation was always for all people, yet He purposed that the light of the world would go first to the Jews. John 3:16 reminds us that anyone, Jew or Gentile, who believes in Jesus as Savior is saved. Jesus came into the world, took on flesh, so that anyone who called upon Him for salvation could be saved.
- Jesus' life and death give new life to those who turn from their sin and believe that Jesus is the way to know God. Jesus' birth brought hope to a dying world. When He was born in the stable in Bethlehem, it was more than the King of Jews coming to the earth, it was God Himself entering the world as a man, bringing hope with Him.

All who believe become children of God.

"He gave the right to become children of God."

- Jesus brought the hope of eternal life with Him when He entered the world. After His death on the cross and His resurrection, those who had previously had no hope had the opportunity at a new life in Christ. Anyone who believes in Christ is saved from their sin and set free from the sin debt that every person owes.
- Not only do people who believe receive eternal life, they are given the right to be in God's family. Jesus is the way that men and women become the children of God. We are no longer enemies of God, but instead become His sons and daughters. God delights to call us His children when we believe in His only Son for salvation.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 1:9-18*The Word Became Flesh*

Supporting Scripture: John 1:9; John 1:10-12; John 1:13

Teacher Introduction:

Jesus is called “the true light, which gives light to everyone.” He was in the beginning and it was through Him that the world and all that is in it was created. Yet, when He came to earth, even His own people didn’t recognize or receive Him. He left the perfection of heaven to become a man, live on earth, and walk among us, and we rejected Him. Yet, to those who did receive Him, who are born of God and who believe in His name, Jesus gives the right to become children of God. Apart from Him, we will always reject Him. Apart from Him, we are lost and without hope. In Him, we have seen the glory of God. We can know grace and truth and have received grace upon grace. In Jesus, God has made Himself known to us. He gives hope because He gives light. He is our hope because He makes us to be children of God. He gives hope because He makes God known to us. He is the only one who offers true and lasting hope.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the truth: Jesus is our Only Hope. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from John 1:9-18 to teach the truth that Jesus is our only hope. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God’s interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the truth that Jesus is our only hope.

Opening Illustration:

Bring in enough balloons for every child. On one balloon write “Jesus” on the others write “false saviors”. Toss the balloons in the middle of the room. Play music and tell the children when the music stops they should each grab a balloon, but the object of the game is to grab the “Jesus” balloon. Play several times and remind the children that Jesus is the only true Savior. He is our only hope.

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JESUS IS OUR ONLY HOPE**BIG IDEA: THERE IS ONE TRUE SAVIOR AND MANY FALSE SAVIORS.¹****Jesus is the true light of the world.**

- From the beginning, people have looked for other ways to save themselves from their sinfulness.
- False saviors have claimed to have a way of salvation that truly only leads to death and destruction.
- In the very beginning, Satan claimed to know a better way than God and deceived Eve with his lies.
- Only Jesus is the true light revealing the darkness of the world and man's heart.
- John declares this truth when he sees Jesus walking towards him and proclaims to those around him that Jesus is the Lamb of God.



Write the word "Savior" on the board. Ask the preschoolers to help you define the word. Give them hints to help them define what a savior is. Help them think of examples of people who save others in real life, like firefighters. Remind them that Jesus is the only person who can save us from our sin.

Only Jesus has the power to save.

- No person is good enough or can do enough good to pay his or her sin debt.
- We are all born with a sin nature, with rebellion in our hearts that leads us away from God and not toward Him.
- Though we may try to save ourselves in our own power by following some other moral code or seemingly doing good deeds, we always fall short.
- Only Jesus has the power to save because only Jesus lived the perfect life.
- Only a person without sin could pay the sin debt owed by the world.
- Jesus is that person.

Many people believe in false teachers and false saviors.

- From the beginning, people have rejected Jesus as the Savior.
- During John the Baptist's ministry, people questioned if he was the Messiah, but John quickly identified himself as someone not even worthy to unstrap Jesus' sandal.
- False teachers are those who teach that there is some other way to be saved other than faith in Jesus.
- We create false saviors when we follow anything or anyone other than Jesus. We may even make ourselves our own savior when we try to do enough good works or be good enough to earn our salvation.

Who is the only true Savior? (Jesus is the only true Savior. All other people or things are false saviors.)

1. John 1:9: John the Apostle states that there is only one true light and life of the world and that is Jesus.

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JESUS IS OUR ONLY HOPE**BIG IDEA: EVERYONE WILL EITHER REJECT JESUS OR BELIEVE IN HIM.²****Everyone responds to Jesus.**

- Jesus cannot be ignored because He is God and God is sovereign over all.
- Even if people deny the existence of God and deny that Jesus is the Savior, they are responding to Him in some way.
- No one is exempt from making a decision in some way about Jesus.
- While Jesus was on the earth, people responded to Him in some way.
- They either denied He is who He said He was or they believed in Him.



Bring in several items, such as stuffed animals, toys, candy, etc. Gather the preschoolers together and ask them to hold a thumb up or down when you hold up an item to show if they accept it or reject it. Do this several times and then remind the children that everyone responds to Jesus. We either accept Him or reject Him.

Those who do not believe reject the only hope the world has.

- When a person rejects Jesus as the true Savior, they walk away from the only hope of salvation they have.
- Jesus is the only way for a person to not face eternal death away from God.
- In John 14:6 and Acts 4:12, we see that Jesus is the only way to be reconciled to God. We cannot know God without first repenting and believing in Jesus.
- Therefore, those who reject Jesus reject God and any hope they have of eternal life.

Those who believe receive eternal life.

- When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, he exclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" His statement reveals the hope that everyone who believes in Jesus has.
- Jesus brings eternal life. He overcame our sin and made a way for those who believe to have eternal life with Him in Heaven.
- The hope that Jesus brings is that we do not have to spend eternity away from God, but can be with Him forever.
- We no longer owe our sin debt and are no longer enslaved to our sin, but are set free to live obedient lives to God's Word.

What two ways do people respond to Jesus? (People either accept Him or reject Him.)

2. John 1:10-12: While Jesus was on the earth, He was rejected by many people. Though He was rejected by many, many did believe that He is the Savior.

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JESUS IS OUR ONLY HOPE**BIG IDEA: SALVATION THROUGH JESUS REQUIRES NEW BIRTH.³****Salvation is life transforming.**

- When people encountered Jesus during His earthly ministry, they were changed in some way.
- Those who rejected Jesus as the Savior were hardened even more to the gospel truth.
- Those who believed in Him were set free from their sin and became different people.
- Everyone who encounters Jesus and believes in Him is transformed.
- Before believing in Jesus, we are enemies of God and we are blind to the truth of the gospel. When we believe in Jesus, our eyes are opened and we see with new perspective.



Use the chairs in the room to form a “jail” by placing them in a circle. Next, play a game where you count to ten while one person is the “jailer” and tries to gather the other preschoolers into the jail. Once you play several times, talk with the children about what it felt like to be in jail and how when we are saved, we are set free from our sin and born again spiritually.

Jesus gives new life to those who believe.

- Jesus doesn’t just save us from our sin; He makes us new people.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, it means that we have seen the condition of our heart for what it is. We have recognized that we have sinned against God and there is nothing we can do to save ourselves.
- Jesus creates a new heart inside of us. He doesn’t leave us enslaved to our sin. He makes us new. Our thoughts, attitudes, desires, and actions begin to change as we become more like Him. Prior to believing in Jesus, we were enslaved to our sinful nature.

Being born again is necessary for salvation.

- Before saving faith in Jesus, we are all spiritually dead.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we are made alive spiritually.
- We are born again spiritually and have new life. Our spirits are no longer dead in our sin, but are made new through the work of Jesus on the cross.
- Being born again spiritually is necessary for salvation. Unless we become new people spiritually, we are not born again because we cannot continue living lives enslaved to our sin natures and follow Jesus.

What does it mean to be “born again”? (It means that we are set free from our sin nature and are new people spiritually.)

3. John 1:13: When we become followers of Jesus, we are made into new creations.

CHURCH HOOKS

**The True Savior**

Give each child a blank piece of paper with the words “Jesus, the Savior” written on it in pencil. Give the children markers and craft supplies. Help the children trace the words on the paper in marker and then help them decorate their paper. As you do, talk with them about how Jesus is the only hope we have.



- The true Savior is Jesus.
- There is no one else who can save us from our sin.
- Jesus’ death on the cross made a way for us to be forgiven for our sin and to have a new life.
- The new life we get when we know Jesus is one that allows us to follow and obey God.

**Reject or Believe**

Bring in enough balloons already filled with air for each child to have one. On one write “Reject” and on the others write “Believe”. Play a game where the children race to see who can get a balloon before you count to five. The object is for everyone to get the believe balloon and not the reject balloon. Play several times and then talk to the children about how we all respond to Jesus. We either reject Him or believe in Him.



- Everyone responds to Jesus in some way.
- Even the people who deny Jesus existed still are responding to Him. They are rejecting Him.
- We all either believe in Him or reject Him as our Savior.