



# LESSON 25 | Hope

**Bible Basis:** Isaiah 40; Luke 2:22–35

**Key Verse:** Hebrews 6:19: “Our hope is certain ... It is strong and secure.”

**Key Question:** How do I deal with the hardships and struggles of life?

**Key Idea:** I can deal with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus.

**Resource:** *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 25, “Hope”

## Master Supplies List

- Believe Storybook Bible* (optional)
- Small, brightly decorated box labeled “Prizes”
- Several inexpensive prizes
- PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations
- Family Page (one per child)

## Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More:**

- OPTION 1:** Air-dry clay, squares of light-colored felt (one per child), fabric glue, permanent markers
- OPTION 2:** HOPE sheet (one per child), crayons
- OPTION 3:** One beanbag
- OPTION 4:** Crayons or markers, Let’s Color! sheet (one per child)

## STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

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**Supplies:** Small, brightly decorated box labeled “Prizes,” with several inexpensive prizes inside

**Teacher Prep:** Before class, decorate a small box and place several inexpensive prizes inside.

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### PRIZE BOX

- GATHER the children.
- SAY, I have a special box in my hands today. (Hold up the box for the children to see)
- ASK, Do you know what this box says? (Take responses)
- READ the label: “Prizes.”
- ASK, What do you think is inside this box? (Prizes, toys, candy, etc.)
- CONTINUE, Today we are going to talk about hope. Do you know what hope is? (Wanting something or wishing for something to happen a certain way)

### HOPING

- SAY, Are you all hoping that there are prizes inside this box? (Yes)
- SAY, You are hoping there are prizes in this box because I have written the word *Prizes* on it. It is almost as if I have made a promise that there will be prizes inside.
- SAY, When someone promises you something, you hope that it will happen.
- OPEN the box to reveal the prizes.
- ASK, Have you ever wished or hoped for something? (Take responses)
- ASK, How long did you have to wait for your hope or wish to come true? (Take responses)
- EXPLAIN, Sometimes we have to wait a long time for our hopes or wishes to come true. This is the story with God’s people. You see, God promised to send them a Savior, someone who would deliver them from sin and death. Do you know how long God’s people had to wait for this promise to come true? (Take responses)
- SAY, They waited for thousands of years for a Savior to come. This Savior was God’s one and only Son, Jesus. The hope that we have in Jesus can’t be taken away from us. God made a promise and kept his promise.
- HOLD UP the prize box.
- SAY, The label on this box makes a promise. God has made promises to us too. We will learn more today about hope and how two men in the Bible had great hope that God would carry out his promises.

- ASK, Did you hope that I will give you one of these prizes? (Yes)
- SAY, Each of you will be able to choose a prize to take home when you leave today.

#### REVIEW

- SAY, So far today we have learned that hope is believing that something good will come true. We especially hope for things when someone has made a promise to us. Hoping is better than wishing because we have good reason to trust that our hope will come true. God made many promises to his people, but the greatest promise he made was that he would send someone to save us from sin and death. God kept his promise when he sent his one and only Son, Jesus! Our hope in Jesus is strong and secure.

#### KEY VERSE

- REVIEW this week's Key Verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the children are able to say it from memory.
- **NOTE:** You may also choose to review last week's Key Verse together.

##### Hebrews 6:19

Our hope is certain ... *(point to heaven)*

It is strong *(flex muscles)*

and secure. *(hug self tightly)*

## STEP 2 | Hear the Story (15 min)

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**Supplies:** *Believe Storybook Bible* (optional), PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations

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#### INTRODUCTION

- SAY, We already learned that God has made promises to us that give us hope.
- ASK, What was one big promise that God made and kept? (That he'd send a Savior to save us from our sins)
- CONTINUE, We'll also learn how two men in the Bible hoped for God's promises.

#### READ CHAPTER 25

- READ aloud the story script below or chapter 25, "Hope," from the *Believe Storybook Bible*.
- SHOW the illustrations included with this curriculum on PowerPoint slides or printable posters.

### THE STORY OF ISAIAH

- Long ago, the Israelites were captured by their enemies. They were taken far from their homes. It was a sad and scary time. The Israelites didn't know what to do. They didn't know what would happen. They needed hope! The Israelites called out to God and God answered. He sent his messenger, Isaiah, to bring them hope.
- Isaiah told the people, "Do not be afraid. God has forgiven you for your sins. Tell everyone the good news that God is coming! He will rescue his people. He will take care of his people like a shepherd takes care of his sheep."
- "God made everything. God sees everything. God knows everything. No one is greater than God. He is God forever. Hope in the Lord. He will give you strength."
- These words gave the people hope. They felt much better because they believed in God. One day they returned home. These words can give you hope, too. God promised to take care of you and God always keeps his promises.

### THE STORY OF SIMEON

- God made a promise to an old man named Simeon. "You will not die until you have seen Jesus." Simeon had hope because he knew God would keep this promise.
- When Jesus was just eight days old, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem. They were following God's law to take their son to the temple.
- That same day, the Holy Spirit urged Simeon to go to the temple. He obeyed. When Simeon got to the temple, he saw Jesus. He held the baby in his arms and said, "Lord, my hope has come true. I have seen your salvation."
- God doesn't just make promises — he keeps them! His greatest promise was that he would send Jesus to save us. Now we all have hope that God will always be with us and one day we will live with him forever.

### REVIEW ISAIAH

- ASK, What sad thing happened to the Israelites? (Their enemies captured them and took them away from their homes)

- ASK, Who did God send to the Israelites to give them hope? (The prophet Isaiah)
- ASK, Did God keep the promise he made to the Israelites? (Yes)

#### REVIEW SIMEON

- ASK, What promise did God make to Simeon? (God promised that Simeon would see Jesus before he died)
- ASK, Did God keep the promise he made to Simeon? (Yes)
- ASK, Why should we trust God? (Because God keeps his promises to his people)
- ASK, How can we handle problems and struggles in our lives? (By trusting God and believing his promises)
- PRAY, God, please help us to remember that we can trust you because you keep your promises to your children. Amen.

## STEP 3 | Explore More

Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help the children explore the lesson further.

### Option 1: Our Hope Is in Jesus Craft (10 min)

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**Supplies:** Air-dry clay, squares of light-colored felt (one per child), fabric glue, permanent marker

**Teacher Prep:** Cut felt into 3" x 3" squares. On each square write the word *HOPE* with a permanent marker.

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- SAY, Today we learned about how Jesus — as a baby — brought hope not only to Simeon but to all of us because he is the promised Savior.
- SAY, Imagine what it must have felt like for Simeon to hold the little baby and know that he was holding God's Son.
- SAY, Today we are going to make a tiny baby and wrap him in a blanket of HOPE to help us remember that our hope is in Jesus.
- PASS out the clay and instruct the children to form a small baby (basically, a cylinder with a rounded head). These do not have to be perfect, as the baby will be completely wrapped in a blanket.
- GIVE each child a square of felt, being sure to point out the word *HOPE* written on it. Show the children how to wrap their clay babies in the blankets.
- ADD a drop of fabric glue to each blanket. Press firmly and hold for a

few seconds to allow the glue to dry and to keep the blanket wrapped around the baby.

- ENCOURAGE the children to use their wrapped baby to tell others about how they can trust in Jesus.

### Option 2: HOPE Coloring Craft (5 min)

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**Supplies:** HOPE sheet (one per child), crayons

**Teacher Prep:** Print and photocopy the HOPE sheet (one per child).

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- SAY, Today we learned that we all hope for different things. We hope for big things and for little things.
- CONTINUE, Sometimes it's difficult to wait for what we are hoping for. We are going to do a craft to remind you that our hope is in Jesus and we can wait on his promises.
- GIVE each child a HOPE sheet and some crayons.
- ALLOW the children to draw a picture of what they want or hope for.
- ASK each child what they've drawn. Label their picture so they can show their family.
- TELL the children that they can take their page home and hang it up so they always remember that they can trust in God to keep his promises.

### Option 3: Hope Beanbag Toss (15 min)

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**Supplies:** One beanbag

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- SAY, We are going to play a game to help us remember that no matter what we are hoping for, our greatest hope is in Jesus.
- SAY, We all have things we are hoping for. Sometimes they are big, important things like hoping a sick relative gets well. Sometimes we hope for small things like a new bike. God cares about all our hopes—big and small.
- LINE the children up into two rows facing each other so that each child has another child facing them.
- SAY, I will give the beanbag to the first child, and you will tell us something you are hoping for by saying, "I hope (fill in the blank)." After you tell us what you hope for, we will all say, "Your hope is in Jesus."
- INSTRUCT the children to toss the beanbag to the child across from them who hasn't yet said their hope. Continue in a zigzag pattern (back and forth between the rows) so each child gets a turn.
- CONTINUE the game until all the children have had a turn.

## Let's Color! (10 min)

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**Supplies:** Crayons or markers, Let's Color! sheet (one per child)

**Teacher Prep:** Print and photocopy the Let's Color! sheet (one per child).

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- GIVE each child a Let's Color! sheet.
- PROVIDE a selection of crayons and/or markers for the children to share.
- DISCUSS this week's Key Idea as the children color.

### Option 5: Praise and Worship (15 min)

"God Is So Good" by Lani Smith  
Public domain  
CCLI #697979

"Every Promise in the Book Is Mine" by Rick Altizer  
© 2007 by Fuseic Music Publishing  
CCLI #5016840

### Option 6: Act It Out (10 min)

#### Wishing and Hoping

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Use two puppets to act out the following short skit.

#### Characters

Mom  
Ralph

**Props:** Two puppets

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**Ralph:** Mom, I have a problem.

**Mom:** Oh, what's that?

**Ralph:** I really miss Sam.

**Mom:** I'm sure you do. It's never fun when a friend moves away.

**Ralph:** He said he would come visit. He promised, but he still hasn't come yet.

**Mom:** Well, don't lose hope.

**Ralph:** What does that mean?

**Mom:** It means don't stop hoping that he'll do what he said he would do.

**Ralph:** I'm tired of hoping. It feels like he forgot about me.

**Mom:** I'm sure he didn't forget about you, but it does feel hard when things don't happen quite the way we want. Don't lose hope that Sam will keep his promise.

**Ralph:** What can I do to keep hoping?

**Mom:** Have you prayed about it? You know God cares about the things we hope for.

**Ralph:** God cares if I get to see Sam again?

**Mom:** Absolutely! God cares about everything his children care about.

**Ralph:** Okay. Well, will you pray with me about not losing hope?

**Mom:** Sure!

**Ralph:** Jesus, please help me to quit feeling sad and to remember that I can trust you to keep your promises. Please bring Sam to visit soon. Amen.

*The telephone rings. MOM answers and there is mumbled talking; then she hangs up.*

**Mom:** (to RALPH) Guess who was on the phone?

**Ralph:** Who?

**Mom:** Sam's mom! They are coming to visit this weekend!

**Ralph:** Yay! That was fast! Thanks, God, for taking care of us. And for caring about what I was hoping for.

## STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

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**Supplies:** Family Page (one per child)

**Teacher Prep:** Print and photocopy the Family Page (one per child).

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- GIVE each child a copy of this week's Family Page.
- SAY, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family what you learned today about hope.
- HAVE the children practice telling you the story of Simeon.
- REVIEW this week's Key Verse as well as today's story and Key Idea from the *Believe Storybook Bible* as you wait for the children to get picked up.
- MAKE sure each child remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.

























# I Hope for ...

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 6:19: "Our hope is certain ...  
It is strong and secure."

Let's Color! Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 25: Hope

**Bible Basis:** Isaiah 40; Luke 2:22–35

**Key Verse:** Hebrews 6:19: “Our hope is certain . . . It is strong and secure.”

**Key Question:** How do I deal with the hardships and struggles of life?

**Key Idea:** I can deal with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus.

**Resource:** *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 25, “Hope”

## How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

## Table Talk

1. What is hope? (Hope is wishing for something good to come true)
2. What is the greatest promise God made and kept? (He promised that he would send a Savior; he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin)
3. Can you think of a promise that someone made to you? Did they keep their promise?
4. Have you ever felt disappointed that what you hoped for did not happen in the way you wanted?
5. Why should you trust God? (Because he always keeps his promises)

## Living Faith

### Option 1

To reinforce this week’s lesson, try acting out the story of Simeon by allowing your child to use a doll or stuffed animal as baby Jesus. You and your child can take turns being Mary, Joseph, and Simeon. Wrap the baby up carefully

in a blanket and then ceremoniously present the baby to whoever is playing Simeon. Be sure to stress how Simeon thanked God for allowing him to see the Savior that he had hoped to see.

### Option 2

Help your child create a “Prayer Hope List.” Creating and sustaining a spirit of hope in your child is important to their spiritual growth and emotional well-being. Our prayer requests are often things we are hoping for. During family prayer time, review the list. Review with your child some promises that God always keeps. Be sure to mark off prayers as they are answered to emphasize to your child that God keeps the promises shared in the Bible.

### Extra Mile

- Our own hope can be greatly encouraged when we help others make their hopes come true. God often uses other people to answer prayers. Ask your child if they know something that a family member (a parent, grandparent, sibling, etc.) has been hoping for. Brainstorm ideas of ways your child could make this hope come true for the family member.
- As parents, it is important to help children learn how to balance hope and disappointment. Discuss with your child the reality of not always getting everything we hope for. Explain that God has a reason for sometimes not giving us something we are hoping for. Discuss specific times your child did not get what he or she had hoped for, and then ask your child to think of reasons why God maybe did not choose to fulfill that hope in that instance. Explain to your child that God loves us so much and that even when we do not understand, God is still in control.
- Even if it is nowhere near Christmastime, you and your child can make a craft for when the season does arrive. Using whatever craft materials you choose, make an ornament to hang on your Christmas tree that says, “Our HOPE is in Jesus.” You could decorate this with a picture of the baby Jesus, or Simeon, or anything else you choose.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of remembering that God loves us so much and that he always keeps his promises shared in the Bible.