



Experiencing the Genuine Jesus

ADVENT THEME:

HOPE



Pre-Activity:

What you will need: 1 copy of the weekly puzzle for each student.

Provide each student with a copy of the puzzle to unravel what today's Advent theme is about. Each shape correlates with a letter in the diagram at the top of the page.

The answer to the puzzle is: Jesus is my Hope.

Music/Worship:

The music options below are ones that can be used for your worship time. Select whichever ones meet the needs of your particular group. We have provided several options, but the intent is for you to use whichever ones work for the time you have with your children.

Alive may be a good song to use for each Sunday of Advent. It talks about how God loves us, takes care of us and that we live the way He wants. It includes easy motions for children

Alive (Mannahouse Kids) – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e01-52V1c_s&list=PLQfg6PPLwrwlxMR3KQOFESbYThzYkMIfr

Let It Be Known (Worship Central) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYkMBWyuGQ>

Living Hope (Phil Wickham) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f2FXxDVO6w>

Too Wonderful (KidsSpring) Christmas song – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkc2m0CmYL8&list=PLkDSKt6kTKASYO0rksr44zhV9DQ9PhZp5&index=16>

Advent Candle:

During the Christmas season, we use an Advent wreath to symbolize the new life that was brought through the birth of Jesus. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God and how He is eternal and has no beginning or end (hold up circular wreath to show no beginning or end).

Each week we will add a candle that symbolizes the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus. Each candle represents something about God that we should reflect or show to others.

The first candle is for hope – Jesus is our HOPE. He died on the cross to save us and give us eternal life.

Advent Song: "A Candle is Burning" by Sandra Dean, Ottawa (words adapted by Rev. Cate Burton and Penny Merton, St Peter's Tauranga, PCANZ) Tune: Away in a Manger

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;
A candle of **HOPE** in the darkest of night
Though troubled and worried yet we will not fear.
Our hearts are now hopeful, for Jesus is near.

Advent Prayer for Hope:

Dear God, on this first Sunday of Advent you call us to be alert and watch for Your coming again. May we wait for Christ's coming with hope in our hearts, hope that this Christmas Your kingdom will come more fully alive in our hearts. Amen.





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Lesson:

Props: Notepad



“How many of you have a notepad that you write things down?”

“What are some of the things you write down on your notepad?”

“When a detective is looking for clues, he or she has to have a notepad.

Why do you suppose a notepad is so important?”

“Detectives usually write down everything he or she knows about what happened. By writing this down, the detective can find some solutions; it gives them a sense of hope knowing that there is a lead, or a sign of truth, that will be made known. Having this information on the notepad is a goal to achieve.”

“I know for me, I have to write down everything. I make a list for the things I need to do for that day or things I need to accomplish. If I am going to the store or I have errands to do, I have to make a list of all things I need to do or places to go.”

“Looking at my list on my notepad, gives me a sense of hope. After I finish a task, I check it off. This gives me a sense of accomplishment, a hopeful feeling.”

“Have you ever hoped for something?”

“What does that mean, to hope for something?”

“Hope is found 23 times in the book of Psalms. Hope in the Lord teaches us patience. Society encourages you and I to solve our own problems. When we face an impossible or hopeless situation, we know as believers, followers of Christ, we must learn to wait patiently on the Lord. We do not need to be anxious or worried. We find peace in Gods’ unfailing love for us.”

In the book of Isaiah, the prophet wrote on his notepad about things that were going to happen in the future. He wrote ...

Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

“The reason the prophet Isaiah wrote this down was to give the people hope. Anticipation of the Messiah.”

“He knew that the people needed encouragement. Hope in the Lord brings encouragement. This was the sign of truth they have been waiting for.”

Because of Jesus, we have hope in Christ.

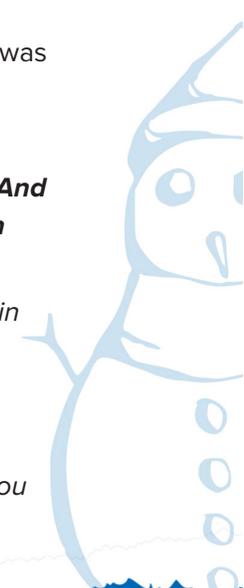
“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah wrote these names down for a reason. This was a message of hope that would be fulfilled in the birth of Christ.

This was their lead...their solution...their hope for the future.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for your life. The hope you give us. It is for good and not for evil. You said you would never leave us nor forsake us. Thank you for your promise. We love you Jesus. Amen.





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Secret Agents:

What you will need: 1 booklet for each child "My Advent Promises"; a decoder for each child, Cryptogram page for students to work out the message they're delivering this week (each sheet is for 2 kids); Secret agent cards (4 per child) copied front and back

Throughout this month we are taking the time to be secret agents for Jesus to our friends and families. This week you are going to be an "Agent of Hope". Brainstorm some ways you can show hope to others during this week and write it down in your Advent Promises booklet. If there is time, allow them to make their own secret message of hope in the booklet.

Pass out Secret Agent cards for them to leave behind secretly during the week when they complete an act of hope. Have each child complete the half sheet message so they know what message is on the back of their cards they're leaving for someone else.

Cryptogram message on the Agent of Hope Card: "You have been visited by the Agent of Hope – My hope is in the Lord"

Small Group Prayer Time: M&M Prayers

What you will need: M&M's for each child – 1 of each color (orange, red, yellow, brown)

Give each child four M&M's. They will go around the circle and say a sentence prayer for each M&M according to the color they receive:

Red – sibling

Brown - parent/step-parent

Orange – friend

Blue - teacher

Yellow – neighbor

Green - grandparent

