

[PursueGOD.org](http://PursueGOD.org)

## Lesson Overview

Today, we're going to talk about hope! Hope is just a fancy word for believing that something good will happen in the future. For example, maybe you hope that your sick relative will be healed or that you'll win that special award at school you've worked so hard to earn. Those things are great but God wants us to hope for something even bigger. See, God has a big future planned for us that goes far beyond this life. The Bible says that Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins so we can live with God in heaven some day. Now that's something to hope for, right? Jesus came to give us the best future we could ever imagine. So, no matter what happens in this life, we have the hope of a bright future with Jesus in heaven.

### Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY:** Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.
2. (5 min) **WARM UP:** List some things you hope to do in the future. (i.e. vacation, sports team, a part in a play, college) **Why do you want to do those things?** (Tip: It's good to work hard for a hopeful future. But the best future we can ever have is with Jesus in heaven.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW:** Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP:** Read the Lesson Overview (see above).
6. (3 min) **KQ:** Answer the Key Question. (Answer: **Living with God in heaven some day.** (Heaven is the coolest, most beautiful place we can ever imagine. The Bible says that there will be no sadness or pain there; only happiness and fun. The only way to guarantee your future in heaven is to put your trust in Jesus who died to pay for each and every one of ours sins.)
  - **Bonus Questions:** Where is our future hope? What do you think heaven will be like? **4-5th:** Why do we need Jesus to get to heaven?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE:** Read Matthew 12:18,21. **Who is this passage talking about? Why is he called the "hope of the world"?** (Answer: This passage is talking about Jesus. He came into the world as a servant who chose to die in our place so our sins could be forgiven. Because Jesus fixed our sin problem, we all have the chance to have a relationship with God and we get the promise of heaven. That's why Jesus is known as the hope of the world. Our future is secure in him.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY:** Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.
9. (5 min) **CLOSE:** Share prayer requests and pray as a class. Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to [pursueGOD.org/kids](http://pursueGOD.org/kids) to find this week's lesson video.

### Big Idea

*Hope is believing something good will happen in the future.*

### Key Question

*What is our future hope?*

### Memory Verse

1 Peter 1:3 NIVR "In his great mercy he has given us a new birth and a living hope. This hope is living because Jesus Christ rose from the dead."

**Teacher instructions:** Choose an activity for your classroom.

## OPTION 1: CANDY CANE CRAFT

### Instructions:

- Give each kid a green pipe cleaner and some red and white beads.
- Have the kids bend one end of their pipe cleaner to make it look like the shape of a candy cane.
- Have kids thread the beads onto their pipe cleaner, alternating red and white. Make sure to have kids bend each end as they get all their beads on so they don't fall off.
- As the kids work, read the meaning of the candy cane to them (page 5)

- Give each kid a meaning of the candy cane (page 5) as they leave class.

**Supplies needed:** Green pipe cleaners (1 per kid), Packs of Red and white beads, Meaning of Candy Cane template (pg. 5, precut, 1 per kid)

### Bonus Activity: "Find the book"

Have the class get into pairs. Give each pair a Bible. Have them race to find the books below. First to find has to say if it's in the OT or NT.

**Books:** Daniel, Nehemiah, 1 Peter

## OPTION 2: JESUS IS THE BEST GIFT WRAP RACE

### Instructions:

- Divide the class into teams of 3-4.
- Give each team a box/book, wrapping paper, tape and a bow.
- When you say, "Go!" have teams race to wrap their gifts. As each team finishes, put them in ranking order as to how quickly they finished.
- As a class, decide which team has the best looking present. That team wins!

### Supplies needed:

Small boxes/books (objects easy to wrap and of similar size, 1 per team), Wrapping paper, Tape, Christmas bows (1 per group)

### Bonus Activity: "Bible Hangman"

Words or phrases: Hope, Jesus, Heaven

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SERIES: TRUE CHRISTMAS

## Be Full of Hope

[PursueGOD.org](http://PursueGOD.org)**Hope Is \_\_\_\_\_ That Something Good Will Happen in the Future**

What are some of the things you hope for? Answer these questions:

- Who do you hope notices you at school this week?
- What grade do you hope to get in your hardest class?
- What snack do you hope your mom puts in your lunch box?
- What do you hope you get for Christmas?

Have you ever thought about why “Hope” is such a popular Christmas word? It’s because Jesus came to the world to bring us hope. Not just hope for the little things in our lives, but hope for the most important thing- OUR FUTURE!

**\_\_\_\_\_ Is Out Hope Because He Made Our Future Bright**

He was born in a manger, grew into a man, and lived a perfect life on earth. Then he died on the cross for our sins.

**1 Peter 1:3 (NIRV)** ... In his great mercy he has given us a new birth and a living hope. This hope is living because Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

Have you asked Jesus into your heart so he can make your future bright? Why don’t you do it with a teacher or parent? You can be full of hope this Christmas – and not just because of the presents under the Christmas tree. Jesus is the greatest present any kid could hope for!

Answers: *Believing, Jesus*

**Parent**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

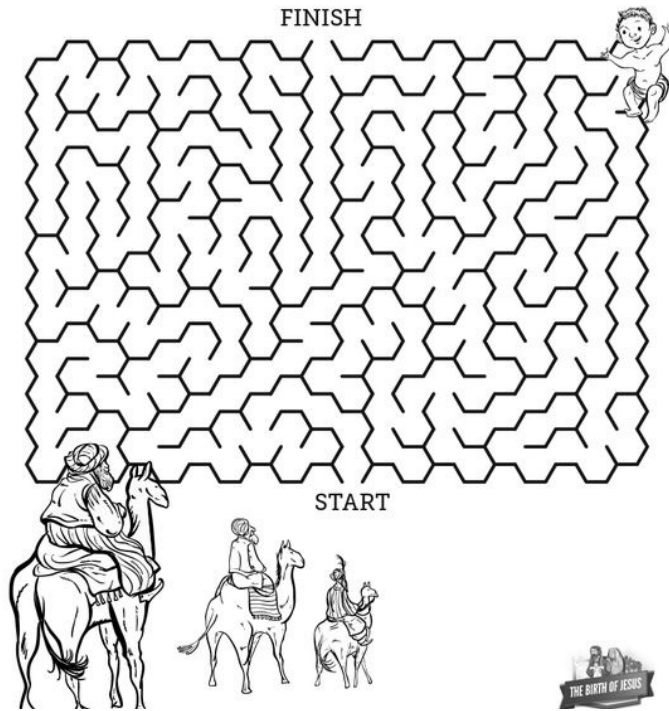
**Questions:**

1. *What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?*
2. *List some things you hope to do in the future. (i.e. vacation, sports team, a part in a play, college) Why do you want to do those things?*
3. *Do you have an example of a time you hoped something would happen and it did? Explain.*
4. *What did Jesus do for us that gives us a hopeful future?*
5. *Read Matthew 12:18,21. Who is this passage talking about? Why is he called the “hope of the world”?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

**Instructions:** Solve the puzzle and color the picture.

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Help the Wise Men follow the star to find Baby Jesus.



**Big Idea**

**Key Question**

**Memory Verse**

1 Peter 1:\_\_\_ NIVR "In his  
great \_\_\_\_\_ he has  
given us a \_\_\_\_\_ birth and a  
living \_\_\_\_\_. This hope is  
living because \_\_\_\_\_  
Christ rose from the dead."



- If you look at the candy cane with the hook side down, **it looks like the letter J.** Jesus starts with the letter J.
- If you look at the candy cane with the hook side up, it looks like a **shepherd's crook.** The shepherd used his crook to keep the sheep from wandering away from the flock. The Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd." Jesus is our shepherd and he will keep us from wandering away and getting lost or hurt.
- The candy cane is mostly white. **White is a symbol of purity.** That should remind us that Jesus was the spotless Lamb of God and he came to be the sacrifice for our sin, so we can become as white as snow.
- As you know, the candy cane has **three red stripes.** The Bible tells us that before he was crucified, Jesus was beaten with a whip which made blood-red stripes across his back. The Bible says that we are healed by those stripes. The stripes on the candy cane should remind us that Jesus suffered and died for us.

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