



Waiting for Jesus

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

ADVENT WEEK 1 | JESUS IS OUR HOPE

ISAIAH 7; MATTHEW 1

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

The Bible is the big story of God loving and redeeming His people through His Son, Jesus. Even when God's people disobeyed, He loved them, cared for them, and promised them a hopeful future. Jesus is the fulfillment of these promises: He is the hope that God promised!

MEMORY VERSE

Psalms 145:9

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. – Titus 2:11-14 (emphasis ours)*

Remember when you were a kid eagerly waiting to open your Christmas presents? The adrenaline of excitement rushing through you, the torture of self-control you had to endure not to rip into the wrapping paper every time you walked past the tree? Then, after what felt like an eternity of waiting, you feel a rush of euphoria as you finally get to open your presents.

Now as an adult, I'm the one buying and wrapping presents, but I still feel that joy and excitement as I wait eagerly to see the faces of my nieces/nephew, young cousins, friends, etc. as they open their gifts from me. I look forward to seeing their excitement and hearing their laughter as they tear through the wrapping paper.

As we prepare for this advent series, I'm reminded how the Israelites had to wait for the first Christmas. Waiting to see the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Savior. For hundreds of years they waited and waited but in confident hope knew that God would keep His word. How exciting it must have been for those shepherds that night to hear that the wait was over!

Today, we have the gift of looking back and seeing what Jesus has already done. We put our faith in His life, death, and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sin. But even now, we are still waiting.

We wait now for Jesus to return and make the world perfect and new! Just as God's people 2,000 years ago held onto the hope of God's promise to send the Savior, we too have hope that God will keep His promise. We do not hope as the world does, wishing and doubting about what will be. Rather, we hope in full confidence and assurance that it will be done as God says.

Advent is a time to reflect and remember the gift that is the birth of Jesus Christ. This season, let it also be a reminder of the blessed hope we have—eagerly waiting for that day to come, in full and confident hope that it will.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

MEMORY VERSE

The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Psalms 145:9, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's Memory Verse bin to review the verse with the kids. A hand motion video is also available to learn and review on your room's TV.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on December 21!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

JESUS IS OUR HOPE

Many years before Jesus was born, God made a promise to King David. God promised that a forever king would come from David's family someday. That family was a part of a group of God's people called the tribe of Judah. But many years after God made that promise, the people were still waiting for a forever king to arrive. God wanted the people of Judah to trust Him.

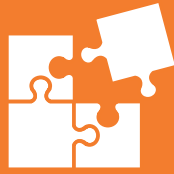
About 300 years after David was the king, a prophet named Isaiah was sent by God to talk to the people. God spoke through Isaiah to help people know that they could trust God to keep His promises. Isaiah told them that a young woman who was not married would have a son and name him Immanuel. Immanuel means "God with us". Isaiah's message meant that a child who wasn't even born yet was going to show people that God was with them. The people heard this message and then waited. And waited. And waited. For 700 years, they continued to wait for God's promise be fulfilled.

Then there was a man named Joseph who lived in a town called Nazareth. He was a carpenter and was a relative of King David. Joseph was going to marry a young woman named Mary, but before they were married, Mary was going to have a baby. Joseph didn't know that the baby was from God. One night, an angel from God came to Joseph in a dream and told him not to be afraid and to marry Mary. The angel told him that the baby inside of her—a son—was from the Holy Spirit, and they should name him Jesus because He would save His people from their sins.

Joseph knew the words of Isaiah from hundreds of year before that an unmarried woman would have a son and that son would be called Immanuel (God with us). Now Joseph understood! Mary's baby was the hope for all the people! God was keeping His promise! Jesus was the Messiah, the forever King who would save them all.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY: The Bible is the big story of God loving and redeeming His people through His Son, Jesus. Even when God's people disobeyed, He loved them, cared for them, and promised them a hopeful future. Jesus is the fulfillment of these promises: He is the hope that God promised!

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

ACTIVITY 1: WISHING VS HOPING

Have kids pair up and give each pair one of the provided coins. Hold up a coin and say, “I hope this coin will land on heads.” Ask kids if they think it will or not. Flip the coin and see what side it lands on. (*You can do this a few times if you want.*) Then, have pairs take turns flipping the coin and saying which side they HOPE it will land on.

After a few minutes, ask kids how it went. Then tell them that hope in Jesus is not like flipping a coin and wishing for it to land on a certain side. Hope in Jesus is more like dropping an object from the sky.

Hold up the provided ball and ask kids what will happen if you drop it. Drop the ball, then try with some of the other provided objects. Talk with kids about why the objects all fell to the ground.

It’s certain that all objects will fall because of gravity. Hope in Jesus is like gravity. When Jesus is our hope, we can wait confidently and expect what He said will happen. Hope in Jesus is not chance or wishful thinking; it’s certain!

If time allows, ask: *What are some of the things that God promised us in His Word?*

ACTIVITY 2: ONE HAND, TWO HANDS, NONE

This game can be played in your room or in the Large Group room with other groups!

Tell kids that on the screens there will be an image of someone holding up one hand, two hands, or none. They will guess what the image will be before they see it by holding up one hand, two hands, or none. Once the image appears on the screen, anyone who is correct moves on to the next round, but anyone who was wrong is out until a new game begins.

Play until one person remains. You can play multiple times or continue the game by letting everyone move to the next round whether they get it wrong or right.

Ask kids if it was hard to know the right pose to choose each time. Ask if anyone guessed right every time. Explain that in the game, we had to make a choice, hope we got it right, and wait and see. A long time ago, God’s people hoped and waited for the birth of a promised Savior—Jesus! It wasn’t just a wishful hope like in the game; hope is a confident expectation that God will do what He said He will do. It’s being certain that God will come through.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage
kids before parent
pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. In our story today, Judah's enemies were moving toward them. How did King Ahaz and the people feel?
2. Through the prophet Isaiah, God gave His people a sign that He would keep His promise to save them. What was the sign?
3. What did the angel tell Joseph about the baby inside of Mary?
4. How do most people use the word *hope*? What does it mean to hope in God?
5. Jesus is our hope, even when we are sad or scared. Is there someone you know who's going through a hard time? What is something you can do this week to share the hope of Jesus with this person?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!