



ADVENT WEEK 1

JESUS IS OUR HOPE

ISAIAH 7; MATTHEW 1

KEY POINTS

Jesus is our hope.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is our hope? Jesus is our hope!

MEMORY VERSE

Pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances. 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

All I hoped for on my eighth birthday was a pair of cowboy boots. I have a picture of the moment it happened. I ripped apart the wrapping paper, opened the box, and there they were! The picture shows me in swim trunks, my new cowboy boots, and an ear-to-ear smile. As I reflect, I see that my hope was deeper than the leather, thread, and soles of those boots. While my childhood was mostly great, there were times when I felt tame, and weak, and trapped. I hoped that when I pulled on those boots, I would feel like a cowboy—wild, tough, and free.

By necessity, hope is present when something better is not. The people who first heard the words of Isaiah or lived the story in Matthew's Gospel were people of hope. They hoped for a leader who could make them wild, and tough, and free in the face of suffering and feeling powerless.

Read *Isaiah 7:10-14* and *Matthew 1:18-24*. As you read, what do you see that points to hope?

For hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, God's people held onto hope. For over two thousand years after His birth, people have claimed the promise of our Wonder Truth: Jesus Is Our Hope!

How do you see Jesus providing the hope promised in Isaiah and Matthew?

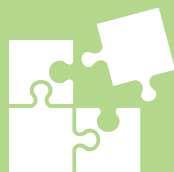
What do you find yourself hoping for these days?

What might the children in your life be hoping for?

— Matt Irvine

Pastor and Editor Contributor to Wonder Ink

WELCOME & OPENING



Connect with children as service starts.

WELCOME

Play the Waiting For Jesus Spotify playlist from your phone as you welcome children in and throughout the service. Scan the QR code on the right with your phone's camera to access it!



MEMORY VERSE SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of "Skip to My Lou":

Pray, pray, pray without ceasing,
pray, pray, pray without ceasing,
pray, pray, pray without ceasing,
and give thanks in all circumstances.
1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

THE LORD'S PRAYER/TEN COMMANDMENTS

Toddlers & Twos: Use the provided poster to review the Lord's Prayer with the children in your class.

Threes & Fours: Using the provided poster, review the Ten Commandments with the children in your class. Read through each one, then have children repeat after you as you say them together.

CRAFT



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible lesson.

WAITING FOR JESUS CHAIN

Use the provided paper strips to make a “Waiting for Jesus” countdown Christmas chain. Talk about what it means to wait and be patient, especially at Christmas.

Ask children what they are excited about and look forward to, and share what you’re looking forward to in this season!



BUILDING BLOCKS



Learn more about the background of today's lesson.

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: HOPE

WHO?

Isaiah was a prophet sent by God to warn His people in Judah of the judgment that would come if they didn't listen to God. Isaiah tells the people that God has a good future in store, with a coming servant who would show the way—a savior and messiah.

WHAT?

Israel and Judah were ruled by separate kings who were often disobedient and faithless. Isaiah's message of hope is for a restoration of God's rightful rule on earth. At the birth of a child named "Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14), the people would see that God is with them.

WHERE?

Isaiah was called to speak to Judah, the name of the southern kingdom after the division of Israel. Judah was also the tribe of King David and the tribe through whom the Messiah would come.

WHEN?

About 700 years before Jesus' birth, in the year Judah's King Uzziah died, God anointed Isaiah as a messenger. Later when Judah's neighbors threatened to invade, Isaiah prophesied of a hopeful future for Judah's King Ahaz.



BABIES & TWOS BIBLE LESSON

Many years before Jesus was born, God made a promise that the forever King, a Savior, would be born for His people. God sent the prophet Isaiah to talk to His people. The people heard Isaiah's promise. They waited, and waited, and waited.

A man named Joseph and a woman named Mary got engaged to be married. Mary was going to have a baby—Jesus! Jesus was the forever king promised a long time ago. An angel came and told Joseph and Mary that the baby was Jesus. Jesus would save people from their sins. *(Hold up the Bible story picture of baby Jesus.)* This picture reminds us that the baby who was in Mary's belly was from God, sent to be born so we can all have hope.

THREES & FOURS BIBLE LESSON

Many years before Jesus was born, God made a promise that the forever King, a Savior, would be born for His people. God sent the prophet Isaiah to talk to His people. A prophet is a person who speaks God's words to others. God sent Isaiah to share a message with God's people.

Isaiah shared this special message with God's people: Mary would have a baby and name Him Jesus. The people waited and waited.

Joseph would become Mary's husband. An angel from God came to Joseph and told him that the baby would be Jesus. Jesus! The one who was promised so long ago. Jesus would come, grow up, become a man, and one day die for our sins. Sins are the wrong things we do. God sent us Jesus so that we can all have hope. Hope is the feeling in our heart that everything is okay and that God is with us.

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!

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Have everyone wash their hands, then serve a snack. Ask the following questions and retell parts of the lesson as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible lesson?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible lesson?
3. Who gave people a message about Jesus long before He was born?
4. Who is our hope? Jesus is our hope!

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Sing the clean up song. Have children help put toys on tables.

Gather them on the rug in a circle and have one volunteer read today's Bible lesson from the children's Bible. Have a regular Bible ready as well.

Sing the "B.I.B.L.E." and "Everything in the Bible is Absolutely True" songs. Remind children that the Bible is God's Word and the most important book in the whole world!

The other volunteer should stand at the door and help with pick up, matching stickers, gathering children's things, etc.

BEFORE YOU GO...

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

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return binders to the cabinet.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!