

ALLEY SG – December 2- 3, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Goodness and Light (Jesus Is Promised) • *Micah 5:2, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 7:14-15*

Today's Key Question: What are you hoping for?

Today's Bottom Line: You can have hope because God is faithful.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.* Isaiah 9:6 (NIRV)

1. Faithful Chain

Application Activity

What You Need: Strips of Christmas themed paper (4 strips per kid), glue sticks or tape, and pens or markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid 4 strips of paper and a pen or marker.
- Set out the glue sticks or tape.
- Instruct the kids to write a way they can be faithful on two of the strips, for example:
 - I will practice praying.
 - I will turn in my homework on time.
 - I will get my chores done when my parents ask me to, etc.
- When done, invite the kids to write ways God has been faithful on the remaining two strips, for example:
 - God kept the promise to send Jesus.
 - God kept the promise to send a rescuer to save us from our sins.
 - God makes something good happen out of something bad.
 - God promises to be with us all the time, etc.
- Ask the kids to share what they wrote on each strip.
- Demonstrate how to make a paper chain by looping two strips together and securing it with glue or tape.
- Encourage the kids to create one long chain with their strips from the whole group.
- After service, give your coordinator or coach your chain to hang in the room.
- Say, *"Did you know that there are over 3,000 promises that God has made to us in the Bible? And did you know that God always keeps those promises? Your list of ways God has been faithful is a great reminder to us that God always keeps promises."*

2. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Plastic cups (2 stacks of 20 red or green cups per group), “God’s Promises” Activity Page (a few copies per group)

What You Do:

- Create two teams.
- Give each team 20 cups stacked together.
- Instruct the kids to listen for the promises God made in the Old Testament long before Jesus was born.
- Read aloud the passages from today’s stories using the “God’s Promises” Activity Page.
- For each promise they hear, direct the kids to remove a cup from the original stack and begin a new stack—one cup for each promise they hear.
 - Tell kids that a promise comes after the word, “Will”
 - The promises are bolded on the activity page.
- When you are done reading the page, invite kids to share other promises God has made or ways God shows faithfulness to us in order to move over any cups remaining in the original stack.
- Challenge teams to work together to stack all 20 of their cups to form a Christmas tree shape.
 - The kids can use any stacking method they choose.
- When finished, instruct the kids to leave the cups in place.
- Ask:
 - How has God kept each of the promises found in the verses we read?
 - In what ways do these promises give you hope?
 - How do these promises show God’s faithfulness?
 - Why do you think some people didn’t understand or believe Jesus was the One these promises were all about?
- Instruct each kid to remove a cup from the bottom of their “trees” to knock them over.
- Say, “Unlike these cups that fell over when we removed one from the base, we know that when we trust God, our base remains standing strong. We can have hope because we know that God is faithful and keeps promises.”

3. Discussion Questions

- Why do you think it’s important to have hope?
- What keeps us from having hope?
- Why is Jesus our best source of hope?
- How would you explain hope to someone?
- Aside from gifts, what are you hoping for this Christmas?

4. Verse Race

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: “Memory Verse Phrases” (at least 2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together. (Isaiah 9:6)
- Read the memory verse a few times.
- Direct the kids to line up in two lines at one end of your space.
- Put one set of the “Memory Verse Phrases” across your space from each of the two lines of kids.
- Have the kids run to their pile of phrases, grab one, and run back to the start.
- Once he/she gets back, they should tag the next kid in line to run down and grab another phrase.
- After all of the phrases are back at the start, the group will work together to put the phrases in the correct order.
- The first group to put the verse in order, wins
- Ask:
 - Many of God’s people would have been familiar with Isaiah 9:6. Based on this verse, what do you think they expected Jesus to be like?
 - In what ways is Jesus a Wonderful Adviser? (or Wonderful Counselor in the NIV)
 - Why can Jesus be called Mighty God and a Prince Who Brings Peace? (or a Prince of Peace in the NIV)
 - How do these descriptions of Jesus give you hope?
- If you have extra time, play again choosing a different way to get to the other side of the space, ex, hop, walk backwards, crawl, etc.

5. Pray

- “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Wonderful Adviser who gives us what we need to make wise choices. Thank You for the hope we have in our Mighty God because there is nothing too hard for You. Thank You for sending us the Prince Who Brings Peace who made a way for us to have a friendship with You. Thank You for always keeping Your promises and for the hope we have through the Father Who Lives Forever. We can find hope this Christmas season because You have shown us that You keep Your promises. Amen.”

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them one of their links from your chain and share what they wrote on it.