CITY LG – November 28th- 29th, 2026

Bible Story: God's Plan to Send Jesus • John 1:1-5,14; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 7:14-15
Bottom Line: We can thank God for giving us hope.
Monthly Memory Verse: *Every good and perfect gift is from God. This kind of gift comes down from the Father who created the heavenly lights. These lights create shadows that move. But the Father does not change like these shadows.* • James 1:17 NIrV

WORSHIP
Joy to the World
Silent Night

SLIDE: Theme
Hey, everybody! Welcome to The City! I am SO glad you're here today.

Today we're going to talk about hope. Hope is when you are waiting for something good. Maybe you're hoping for a fun day, a good grade, a special gift, or time with someone you love.

So for today's game, we're going to play a game called 'Hope Hop!'

GAME SLIDE 1: Hope Hop!

Here's how it works. I'm going to read something someone might hope for. If you have ever hoped for that thing before, you get to hop one time in place. But listen closely, because if I say, 'Freeze!' you have to freeze as still as you can.

Let's practice. If you have ever hoped for pizza for dinner, hop one time!

(Kids hop.)

Freeze!

(Kids freeze.)

Great job! That's how we'll play. I'll read a sentence, you hop if it's true for you, and then you freeze when I say, 'Freeze!'

(Use the prompts below as time allows. After each prompt, allow kids to hop once, then say, "Freeze!")

Hop if you have ever hoped for pizza for dinner.
Hop if you have ever hoped for a snow day.
Hop if you have ever hoped for your team to win.
Hop if you have ever hoped for a special gift.
Hop if you have ever hoped for a fun day with your family.
Hop if you have ever hoped someone would feel better when they were sick.
Hop if you have ever hoped a friend would be kind to you.

Hop if you have ever hoped school would feel easier.
Hop if you have ever hoped you would get picked for something.
Hop if you have ever hoped something hard would get better.

Great job, everyone! You can have a seat.

Most of the time, when people say the word 'hope,' they mean, 'I really wish this would happen, but I am not sure it will.' That kind of hope can feel a little scary, like you are about to be disappointed all over again.

But I have good news. True hope from God is not shaky like that at all. It is strong and sure and certain.

True hope begins before the very beginning of the world. Even before God made you and me, He already knew that people would turn away from Him. He knew we would sin and choose our own way instead of His way. But God loves us so much that He still chose to give us life!

And from the very start, God had a plan to bring us back to Him. His plan was to send His very own Son to become one of us. Jesus was the hope God promised all along. Let's check out the Story Lab!

VIDEO: Bible Story

Here is what I do not want you to miss. God does not promise that we will never have a hard day, or that we will always get exactly what we want. But God does promise this: He is working in every single situation for our good, and in the end, He will make everything that is wrong and broken right again.

That is a hope you can count on every single time, because it is built on Jesus. Today's Bottom Line says it perfectly. Let's see what it says.

SLIDE: Bottom Line **We can thank God for giving us hope.**

So what is our part, friends? Our part is to remember that no matter what we are facing, we can have God's hope. You can trust that Jesus is with you. You can trust that God is at work. And you can trust that in the end, God will take everything that is wrong and make it right again.

Let me ask you something. Where do you need hope right now? Maybe school feels really hard. Maybe a good friend moved away. Maybe you have been sick. Maybe a pet you loved died. God knows those things are hard, and it is completely okay to feel sad about them. But here is the good news: that sad thing is not the end of your story, because God is still writing it.

If hope feels hard for you today, you can ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of God's plan, and of all the ways God has already taken care of you. Let's try that right now. Close your eyes if you would like to. Think of one thing you need hope for.

(Pause and give kids a quiet moment to think.)

Now, in your heart, thank God that He sees the whole picture even when you can only see one piece. Thank Him for giving us hope through Jesus. We can thank God for giving us hope.

Let's pray together, friends. You can close your eyes and bow your heads.

Dear God, thank You that You had a plan to rescue us before the world even began. Thank You for keeping every promise by sending Jesus. When life feels hard and hope feels far away, please remind us that Jesus is with us, You are working, and Your promises are true. Thank You for giving us hope through Jesus. We love You, and we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

Do you remember what we are raising money for this year? Yep, Clean water wells in Malawi, which is a country in Africa. Having a well with clean water right in their village means women and children don't have to travel far away to other villages to get clean water, and then they don't have to walk back with heavy containers. Let's watch a video that was taken from a team from our church that just finished installing a brand new well. Listen carefully as the man is a little hard to understand.

Missions video 3

Amazing right? The money we raise for these wells really make a BIG impact the villages in Malawi!