

Week 1 for Families: God Our Hope

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:1-25

Younger Kids: He's Here! [*Jesus Storybook Bible*, pgs. 176-182]

Babies and Toddlers: Baby Jesus is Born [*The Beginner's Bible*, pgs. 271-276]

Family Reflection (Read Together)

At the beginning of the passage we read in Matthew was a long list of names. It might be easy to skip over these names, especially if you can't pronounce them, but they are important. These names point us to the truth that God keeps His word and fulfills His promise to His people! God promised to send a Savior as a child to be God with us (Isaiah 9:6). With each name listed, we see people that were waiting for God's promise to come true, waiting for this child. By the end of our long list of names we find one that stands out above them all, Jesus! While God's people were waiting hundreds of years for their Savior, this is where we meet Mary and Joseph. They were waiting too, and they had hope that one day God would fulfill His promise. Hope is having a confident expectation that what God promises will come true. After hundreds of years of waiting, God fulfilled His promise by sending Jesus in the form of a baby -- Mary and Joseph's baby! An angel told Joseph to name the child Immanuel - God with us! Jesus is God with us, He came to be with us as our savior and blessing. God kept His word and fulfilled His promises by sending Jesus. Our hope lies in the long awaited Jesus.

Family Activity

Prepare a wrapped gift and place it in front of your children. Let them know that they will open this gift but first they have to sit and wait. Set a 3-5 minute timer (adjust for age of children) and have them wait. They cannot get up, they must sit there and wait. When the timer goes off, have the kids open it up with excitement and enjoy what you put inside.

Waiting to open a gift can be difficult. We are excited to open the wrapping paper and eagerly expect to be surprised by what lays inside. God's people had to wait a long time, but they had hope that God would provide their promised Savior. They waited with excitement and anticipation. They waited with hope.

Discussion Questions

Younger Kids: JESUS IS OUR HOPE

Older Kids:

1. Retell the story in your own words.
2. What does hope mean?
3. What was it like to hope while you waited?
4. What are you hoping for this Christmas?
5. How is Jesus our ultimate hope? How does he fulfill God's promise to us?

Musical Worship

Hope for Everyone by Matt Maher

Advent Ornament Craft

Use the instructions from the kids craft in the Advent Box to create the HOPE ornament. You can find the ornament here or find one online that says or describes hope. Answer the following prompt: *I am hopefully waiting for...*

Prayer

Pray about hope this advent season. During the time of this pandemic, it may feel hopeless at times and very hard to stay hopeful. But we are a people that know God and know that He is faithful to fulfill His promises. God is with us now, during this pandemic. Pray that God will reveal His presence to you and others this advent season and that we can find hope in Him.