

MAIN POINT:

Advent – Hope

Advent means “arrival” or “coming.” We celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ our Saviour at Christmastime. Jesus was the promised hope as mentioned in the Old Testament. The hope of God’s people throughout history was rooted in God and His promise to send a redeemer to save them. This Advent season let’s not only remember the Christmas story but also of the hope in our Saviour.

FAMILY DISCUSSION:

- 1. What tradition are you most looking forward to this Christmas? Does your family (or a family you know) have a unique tradition?** *(Listen and respond to answers.)*
- 2. Today we learned about Hope. Remember that hope is a “Confident expectation and desire for something good in the future”. We learned there were people in the Bible, like you and me, who experienced trials and hardships and they felt hopeless (their situation was never going to change, they would never get what was promised etc.).**

When have you felt hopeless in your life? *(not able to improve your grades/do better in school, you won’t find a good friend, you will always feel worried about everything etc.)*

- 3. You’re not alone in feeling that way, that’s how Adam and Eve, Abraham, and David felt the same things (they felt like their situations would never get better) but we saw that God fulfilled His promises to each of them because He is faithful, and He had a plan.**

Knowing that God is faithful and keeps His promises how does that change how you view those hopeless situations that you told us about? *(If your child has difficulty with the question, then prompt them with one of the promises of God listed below that relates to their situation and ask them how that can positively change how they view their situation.)*

God promises that He:

- *Never leaves me alone (Hebrews 13:5)*
- *Loves me forever (Romans 8:38-39)*
- *Will comfort me (Isaiah 49:13)*
- *Will help me (Psalm 121:2)*
- *Will take care of you/provide for you (Matthew 6:26)*
- *Is faithful (Psalm 33:4)*
- *Will keep me safe (Nahum 1:7)*
- *Keeps His promises (Deuteronomy 7:9)*
- *Sees/knows you (Psalm 139)*

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4. Where have you seen God's promises come true in your life or your family?

5. What are some ways you can share your hope with others this Christmas?

The following is a list of possible ideas where you can connect with family, friends, and neighbours to share hope we have in Jesus this Christmas through relationship.

- *Invite a friend to Equip*
- *Outdoor Christmas caroling*
- *Backyard fire pit with s'mores and hot chocolate*
- *Christmas movie night in your home*
- *Drop off cookies for them to decorate*
- *Join your family to pack an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox*
- *Come to the Christmas Production and Christmas Eve*

FAMILY PRAYER:

Ask your child how you can pray for them.

- What is their biggest concern this week?
- Where do they see God working in their life?

Pray with and for your child.

- Pray that their faith would be strengthened as they see ways God is active in their lives.
- Pray that they would have the courage to share the hope of God with others.

I am going to read a passage from Romans 15:13 and then bless you by name.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” Romans 15:13

(Student name), may your faith be strengthened as you see the ways that God has been active in your life. As you reflect on the goodness, power, and provision of your Heavenly Father, may you boldly share with others that you have placed your hope in God.