



HOPE | WEEK 2 | APRIL 13, 2025

## Elementary Lesson

# When Love Comes to Town

**Monthly Virtue:** Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

**Bible Story:** When Love Comes to Town (Palm Sunday) • *John 12:12-16*

**Key Question:** What are you hoping for?

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

**Memory Verse:** In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” *John 16:33b (NirV)*

### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*Life can be complicated. In fact, Jesus told His disciples that we would have trouble in this world (John 16:33b). Sometimes, we may not understand why something happens the way it does. Yet, in spite of the things that go wrong or the things we don't understand, we can have hope that God knows what's best and is working for our good. Because of that, we can trust God no matter what as we begin to explore why the story of Jesus is good news for everyone.*

Key Question: What are you hoping for? Maybe you have an upcoming birthday party, you're getting ready to go on a fun vacation, or you're even waiting for someone you know who is sick to get better. Whatever it is, we're all waiting and hoping for something big or small. We hope this question guides preteens to think about the things that matter most to them and how they can find hope in everything.

In week 2, we head to *John 12:12-16* where Jesus has just arrived in Jerusalem for Palm Sunday, which fulfilled a prophecy the prophet Zechariah wrote about many years beforehand. Even though Jesus wasn't the King the people were expecting, He was the King they needed.

**Pre-Service Check List**

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

**Morning Flow**

Doors Open 9:15/11:00	Large Group Starts 9:35/11:20	Small Group Starts 10:05/11:50
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## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

**(SLIDE: BAPTISM)** *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

**(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)** “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

### LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

#### THE BIG PICTURE PLATEHEAD Pictionary

(Paper Plates - 6, Markers, “Pictionary Prompts” - precut)

“Welcome back! We are starting a brand new month which means we have a brand new monthly virtue. Let’s take a look at our monthly virtue.

**(SLIDE: VIRTUE)** Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

“The month of April is exciting because next week we have a holiday that is all about finding hope in the midst of dark times. Anyone know what it is? *(Pause)* That’s right, Easter! Easter is more than just a day; it’s a season of celebration where we get to focus on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus! Easter reminds us that no matter how difficult it gets, new life is available for all of us—that’s hope!

“Check out what Jesus says in our verse for the month...

**(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)** In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” *John 16:33b (NirV)*

*Take a minute to explain that ‘John’ is a book in the New Testament, and that the first number means ‘chapter’ and the second one means ‘verse’. ‘NirV’ is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn’t originally written in English! There are different translations.*

“You’ll have more time to practice this month’s verse, but for now let’s play a game!”

**(SLIDE: THE BIG PICTURE PLATEHEAD Pictionary)**  
**(SLIDE: FUN MUSIC)**

**HOW TO PLAY**

- Choose 4 new kids each round (or choose to use the same kids every round and rotate out who draws and who guesses). Pair them up onto 2 teams.
  - *For K/1<sup>st</sup> group - have SGLs do the first round so the kids can see that it IS hard and that their drawing will probably not look like they’re supposed to. That’s ok! It’s mostly about the laughs and having fun.*
- One person from each pair will draw and one will guess. You will secretly show the prompt to the drawer and then give them about 30 seconds to draw that item. The catch is, the drawer will be drawing on a plate that is resting on the top of their *head* and they are not allowed to look!
- Give them a 5 second countdown to wrap up their drawings and then reveal it to their teammate. First team to guess correctly gets the point! If no one gets it right in 10 seconds, then reveal the answer and move on. Be sure the audience can see what was drawn too. The audience can help guess.
  - *NOTE: They probably WON’T get it right, and that’s ok! Just take a moment to giggle about the finished product.*
- Swap out players and go to the next round.

“That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let’s worship God!”

**WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)**  
**(VIDEO: ALIVE, EVERY BEAT)**

**BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)**  
**(No Supplies)**

“So, all this month we are talking about hope. Here’s the thing, sometimes we get what we hope for. Other times we don’t. Life is just like that. And I’ll be honest, it’s hard to know what to hope for sometimes or if we should keep hoping at all. But that doesn’t feel like a great way to live, does it? But then how *should* we respond? How can we remain hopeful even when what we hope or even expect will happen . . . well, doesn’t happen?”

“That feels like a tough question, doesn’t it? Thankfully, we trust in God, who doesn’t get upset or afraid when we ask tough questions. God is bigger than any question. On top of that, God has helped all sorts of people throughout history handle tricky questions and unmet expectations. Many of those people ended up writing down their experiences so we could learn from them today . . . and we can find them here in our Bibles! Let’s head there now!”

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 4 MIN)**



“There can be a lot of times in life when we expect things to turn out one way. We get all our hopes up . . . just to find ourselves disappointed. We hoped it would go one way, but it doesn’t. And in that moment, we may even be tempted to believe that God is no longer working. But sometimes the reason is because our expectations were wrong in the first place.

“Many people expected Jesus to be this conquering King who would come and destroy His enemies. The crowds were really pumped up about this. But that’s not what Jesus did. And a lot of people were, well, disappointed. But . . . these false expectations caused them to miss the even greater reason, and the even greater freedom that Jesus came to offer through His death and resurrection.

“I don’t know about you, but there are certainly times when I can get caught up hoping God will do things one way, and all of my hope is built on that expectation. Answer my prayer this way. Deal with mean people that way. Bless me like this. But God might not always respond the way we expect. But just like Jesus entering Jerusalem the final week of His life, just because God doesn’t do what you hope God will do doesn’t mean that God isn’t about to do something even greater. God is still working!

“Check out our Basic Truth for this week...

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

“We may not know how things will go or will end, but we can always trust that God has plans for our good and His glory. We can trust in His guidance and have hope!

“As we head to Small Groups, we want you to consider this question:

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** ‘What are you hoping for?’

*Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don’t try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.*

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray.

Dear God, I pray that these kids come to have a growing, right relationship with you and learn to fix their eyes on you always! Amen.

## **DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**



## SMALL GROUP

**Monthly Virtue:** Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

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### TALK ABOUT IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.*

**Key Question:** What are you hoping for? Think about how your expectations of what you think God will do can sometimes cause you to miss something greater.

*(Answers will vary: that my grandma will get better, that I will do well on the test, that my parents will stop fighting, that I will make a lot of money when I get older, that I will be able to trust God with the big questions that I have, etc.)*

### LOOK IT UP (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.*

Look Up: John 12:12-16

Say: “The book of John is found in the New Testament. It is one of the four ‘Gospels’ - which tell the story of Jesus.”

### PRACTICE IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

**(“Palm Pictures” Activity Page - 1 per group, pre cut; “Palm Option 1 or 2” - 1 per kid, Coloring supplies, scissors)**

What You Do:

- Use the “Palm Pictures” activity page to review the story. As you hit each review point, have kids match the picture to what you are saying.
- Review Points:
- **Picture 1:** “Jesus had just done something amazing—He brought His friend Lazarus back to life! People were amazed and started believing that Jesus was the Rescuer God had promised. But some leaders started to worry about all the people following Jesus. What did those leaders want to do to Jesus?” *(They wanted to get rid of Him.)*
- **Picture 2:** “What very important task did Jesus give His friends?” *(He sent two of His disciples into the village to find a young donkey.)* “That’s right! Jesus told them exactly what to do and say, so they knew it was important. He was getting ready to go to Jerusalem in a very special way.”

- **Picture 3:** “When people learned that Jesus was on His way, what did they lay down on the road?” (*Their own coats and palm branches.*) “Yes! They were SO excited because they believed Jesus was their King and Rescuer”!
- **Picture 4:** “Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey, just like God had promised long ago. What did the people shout to show honor and respect as Jesus rode into the city?” (*Hosanna!*)
- Pass out the Palm frond pictures and have the kids write HOSANNA down the middle, color, and cut them out along the dotted lines.
- Once they are done, have them wave them in the air when they want to answer the following discussion questions:
  - What do you think hope is?
  - What are you hoping for?
  - Why can we put our hope in Jesus?
  - When has it been hard to have hope?
  - Who can you talk to when you feel hopeless?

## GET STRONGER (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(Supplies Vary)

### What You Do:

- Follow the instructions for the “Bible Literacy” activity that is in your bin.

## PRAYER

### What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to stand in a tight circle.
- Before praying, remind the kids that they can pray anytime, anywhere! God wants us to pray for each other and pray together!

“Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. We want to follow Him like the disciples did. Help us to work together and show others your love. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, kids should stay in their small groups!