



HOPE | WEEK 3 | APRIL 20, 2025

# Elementary Lesson

## Hope is Alive

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

**Bible Story:** Hope is Alive (Crucifixion and Resurrection) • *John 18-20:1-18; 1 Peter 1:3*

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.

**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 by playing a game, singing some incredible songs that worship God, and then we are going to hear an amazing true story from God’s Word, the Bible.

“But first, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: (*For today, don’t expand on the expectations, just say them.*)

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

### LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

#### EASTER EGG TOSS

(Cascarones - 6-12 per LG, Broom to clean up - optional but encouraged)

“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 it’s 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: EASTER EGG TOSS)

(SLIDE: FUN MUSIC)

HOW TO PLAY



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- Choose 6-12 PAIRS of kids, depending on the size of your environment and the amount of supplies you have. Please check with your coordinator if you have to share supplies between services.
- Have the pairs line up in two parallel lines where they are facing their partners in the other line. Start close together.
- Hand each pair 1 cascarone (egg filled with confetti). Tell them on GO they will gently toss the egg to their partner. After each successful toss, both kids will take a step back. Kids will continue to toss back and forth, trying not to drop their egg. If their egg falls and cracks, then they are out. HOPEFULLY, you will have an epic show down where pairs will be on the far sides of the environment!

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

## **WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)**

**(VIDEO: O HAPPY DAY)**

## **BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)**

**(No Supplies)**

*Keep the section before the Bible story brief to allow time to talk about the Gospel after.*

“We’ve learned through true stories from the Bible that even though things can go wrong or not turn out the way that we think they should, God always has plans for our good and His glory. Today, we are going to hear the most incredible story about how even when things seem darkest and without hope, the light and hope of Jesus shines through. Let’s watch.”

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 8 MIN)**

“WOW. What Jesus did for us is the most amazing story of HOPE the world has ever known. And that’s why we celebrate Easter! Jesus died on the cross. But that wasn’t the end of the story. Jesus came back to life and proved that He really is the Son of God!

“This all happened because it was part of God’s plan. But God knew the bigger picture. Because God loves us so much, God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. And Jesus came back to life to give us hope, so when we believe, we can have a relationship with God that will last forever.

“Check this out...”

**(SLIDE: GOD LOVED)**

“God made the universe and everything in it to have a perfect relationship with Him. Unfortunately, we sinned – which is anything we think, say or do that breaks God’s law or makes Him sad. When we sinned, the perfect relationship we had with God was forever broken and there is nothing we can do about it. But God loved us so much that...”



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## **(SLIDE: GOD GAVE)**

“God gave us His son, Jesus. Sin is serious and it has a serious consequence – it’s being forever separated from God. Someone who has never sinned had to take the punishment – which is death – in our place. Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, and died a horrible death on the cross, and then came back to life – all because He loves us and wants to rescue us from the consequence of our sins. So what do we do?”

## **(SLIDE: WE BELIEVE)**

“We believe that our sin keeps us from God and that there’s nothing we can do to fix it. We need a rescuer – and Jesus is the only one who can save us. Next...”

## **(SLIDE: WE RECEIVE)**

“When we believe with our whole heart that only Jesus can save us and promise God that we will follow Him with our life, we receive the gift of eternal life – to never be separated from Him again! All you have to do is pray and ask Him to be your Lord and Savior.

“So, if you would like to make that decision right now, you can. I’m going to say a prayer and all you have to do is repeat after me. Ok? Let’s all close our eyes....”

“God, you are perfect and holy. We know that our sin keeps us from you and there’s nothing we can do to save ourselves. We are sorry for doing things that make you sad. We want to love you and follow you with our whole heart. Thank you for sending Jesus to save us. We trust you. Amen.”

“If you prayed that prayer for the first time today, then you are what our Basic Truth says,

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.

“You are a part of God’s family forever! You will never be separated from Him again. That’s good news! Be sure to tell your small group leader and the person who takes care of you of the decision that you made.

“Let’s head to small groups...”

## **DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**



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## SMALL GROUP

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## GOSPEL FOLLOW UP

(‘Decision Card’ - 1 per kid, ‘Big Story Card’ - 1 per kid, Writing utensils)

Ask kids if anyone made the decision to follow Jesus for the very first time. It's an important decision that you only have to make once - and it's worth celebrating! It's a BIG deal! It is ok if this takes a bit of time. The following games are just if you have extra time.

1. Before Small Group Time, write your name in the ‘SGL’ blank.
2. Hold up the ‘Decision Card’ found in your bin and read through each option. Be sure everyone knows what each option means. If you want to read through the ‘Big Story Card’ when talking about starting a relationship with Jesus - go ahead!
3. Pass out a ‘Decision Card’ and something to write with to each child. Have them write their first and last name and circle their decision.
4. Gather the cards back up, quickly look through them and celebrate anyone who made a decision to follow Jesus today. Pass the cards to your room coach BEFORE going on the games below.
  - a. If you have an opportunity - try to talk to the parents of kids who made a decision to follow Jesus and let them know!
5. Pass out the Big Story card to each kid as they leave.

## PEEP LAUNCH

(‘Gospel Sheets’ - 1-3 Sets per Group, precut, Stuffed Bunny Peep - 1 per group, 1 Stiff Paper Plate, 1 easter basket or bucket)

### What You Do:

- Show kids the “Gospel Sheets” Activity Page pieces one at a time. Quickly go through each icon one at a time in the following order:
  - **John 3:16:** Start reading the verse. *Say:* “Jesus said this to a man who thought he was doing all of the right things. The man didn’t understand that just ‘being good’ didn’t make you right with God. Sin still separates us from God. We need a rescuer. God sent Jesus to save us.
  - **“God Loved:** Our sin - which is anything we think, say or do that breaks God’s law or makes Him sad - separates us from God forever. We can’t do enough ‘good things’



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- to earn our way to a life with God forever.
- **“God Gave:** God knew that someone who had never sinned needed to die to take the punishment for our sins. We could never do it, so God gave us His son, Jesus, who lived a perfect life, to die on the cross for our sins. But because sin and death are not more powerful than God, God raised Jesus back to life!
- **“We Believe:** When we believe that Jesus is who He says that He is – the only way to have a relationship with God – and we believe that we need a savior to rescue us from the punishment for our sins, then...
- **“We Receive:** We ask Jesus to come and change us from the inside out! We want to love and trust Him more than we love and trust ourselves. We believe that His way is better. Once you ask Jesus to forgive you and save you from your sins, nothing in this world will ever separate you from Him again!”
- After going through the icons with the kids, tell them that they will play a game where they will have to win all the icons.
- Depending on the size and ability of your group, choose to either play the game with teams (using the same supplies, just switching back and forth between groups) or to work collaboratively.
- **How to play:**
  - Each round will consist of 3 kids – one to toss the stuffed bunny, one to catch that bunny on a plate and then toss/launch it to the next kid, and then the last to hold the easter basket and try to catch the bunny in it.
  - If the bunny makes it into the basket, no dropping at any point, then a Gospel Icon from earlier is earned.
  - Continue until all 5 Gospel Icons have been collected.
  - Congratulate the kids!
- **ADAPTION:**
  - *To make game easier:* Play with 2 kids per round and eliminate the paper plate role
  - *To make the game harder:* Play with two kids per round, but do not have someone hold the basket – simply place it on the floor a good distance away from the kid with the paper plate.

### What You Say:

“The story of Easter is GOOD NEWS! There are many people who have never heard about God, or don’t know that God loves them and wants them to have a life forever with Him. You can remember these icons and words to help you tell your friends, family, or people you just met about God and how much He loves them.”

## PRAY

### (The Big Story Handout)

### What You Say:

“Dear God, thank you for sending your son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Thank you even more for bringing Him back to life so we can have a life with you forever! Amen.”

Pass out the **Big Story handout** and turn the names of those who accepted Jesus into their heart for the first time in to coach/coordinator



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## **FUN ACTIVITIES (Only to be done once everyone has finished the activities above)**

### **Have a Thumb War Tournament!**

- Kids pair up and lock one hand together so the thumbs are up.
- On the count of three, kids will try to use only their thumbs to pin down their opponent's thumb for 5 seconds.
- Winners pair with other winners (and the rest can continue to play) until there is a champion.

### **Play Telephone Pictionary**

- Have kids line up and then sit down.
- Whisper a prompt to the kid at the back of the line (A star, tree, cross, spider, etc.) and they will use their finger to draw that prompt on the back of the person in front of them.
- Just like the game 'Telephone', kids will draw what they think was passed to them.
- When it gets to the person in front, have them draw what they think it is on a whiteboard or piece of paper.

