



HOPE

BB2

Related values **Aspiration, Faith, Patience**

Intro Object

Binoculars



Game

Appendix B

Prize Choosing

Story

Appendix A

Sarah and Abraham

Reflection

Appendix B

Hope is exciting.
Never give up?

Song suggestion

'Hope'
Worship for Everyone

Follow-up activity

Ask a trusted adult:
"What are your hopes for me?"
Draw your future self living that hope.

Other Equipment

Envelopes and
prize cards

Suggested Entry Music

'High Hopes'
Panic! at the Disco

Prayer

***Let's pause and take a moment to
consider what hopes we have in our
hearts....***

***Now we've done that, let's bless each
other. Look at somebody else and
repeat after me:***

"May the God of Hope fill you with
all joy and peace as you trust in
Him.

May you overflow with hope by
God's power"

Notes:





Story

Ref: Gen 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-8, 18:1-15, 21:1-7, 25:7-11

The Bible is not just one book, but a whole library, 66 books with different types of writing and stories, songs and letters. Our story today comes from the first book of the Bible, Genesis... let's explore it together.

Abram and his wife Sarai loved one another and they loved God. They listened to God and trusted in God. One day God made a promise to Abram and Sarai, that they would be blessed with a big family and a wonderful place to live. What an amazing promise for the future, Abram and Sarai listened to God and trusted in God... and waited for the promise to come true.

When God told Abram and Sarai to move to a distant land, they listened and they trusted and they moved. They settled in the new land... and waited for the children that God had promised.

Abram and Sarai grew older, they waited and waited, but still they had no children. "I don't think we will ever have children," Abram said to Sarai, "we should decide who we will leave my property to when I die". One day God spoke to them again - "look at the stars in the sky" God said, "so many that you cannot even count them, and your family will be so big that they will be hard to count too." Even though Abram and Sarai were growing old and they had no children, they listened to God and trusted in God... and waited.

Abram and Sarai grew older, they waited and waited, but still they had no children. Abram had a son from another woman called Hagar "At least somebody will be able to carry on my family line," Abram thought. One day God spoke to them again - "I am giving you new names" God said, "you will be called Abraham and Sarah, meaning the father and mother of many nations. This will be a sign of my promise, that you will have a family so big they can't be counted" So Abraham and Sarah listened to God and trusted in God... and they waited.

One day, some strangers came to visit Abraham and Sarah, they made their guests welcome and cooked them a meal. "This time next year you will have a son," the strangers told Abraham and Sarah. Sarah listened to the strangers and she.... laughed! "How can I have a child," Sarah thought to herself, "I am so old and I have waited so long, surely it is impossible!"

"Why is Sarah laughing?" God said to Abraham, "don't you know that nothing is impossible for me? Listen to me, and trust in me and wait".

And one year later, just as the strangers had said, the thing that God had promised all those years ago came true... Sarah and Abraham had a little boy and they named him Isaac.

Isaac grew up and he listened to God and he trusted in God, he married and had children. And his children grew up and they listened to God and they trusted in God and they had children. And they had children. And they had children. So many children that you couldn't even count them if you tried. Because God's promises always come true.





Introduction / Object Lesson

[comedy opportunity to look at children with lens the wrong way and pretend they are faraway, then switch right way round and be surprised]

Binoculars are really useful for looking at things that are far away, or things that we haven't got to yet. When people invented binoculars it must have felt like magic, but it was real! With binoculars you can see the path ahead of you as if you were really there. Binoculars remind me of hope.

Game

[Negotiate with Teachers/staff beforehand about an appropriate prize (eg: extra play/golden/choosing time)]

Show the children 7 envelopes (or 1 for each class present) and tell them that 1 envelope contains the prize. Take a volunteer from each class to choose an envelope; if they choose the correct envelope, their class will win the prize. One child gets one chance to choose.

Take time to build suspense with each opportunity to choose.

None of the envelopes contain a prize card - this ensures that the suspense builds with each choice. At the end of the game, reveal an extra surprise card that gifts the prize to the whole school!

Reflection

Hope is about the future. Not just that; hope is about your future. Not just that; hope is about your future being better.

I think all of us have an idea of what hope feels like - we were all hoping during that game!

I think that hope is one of the most exciting things in the universe; it's a vision of where I can go, it's a fuel that keeps me going, it's the expectation of Christmas and birthdays, it's the safety of faith and trust, it's the confident power of patience, and hope IS FOR EVERYONE.

Nobody hopes for things they've already got, and nobody hopes that life gets worse - we hope for better and 'gooder' and brighter and 'funner' - I love hoping because it's so exciting to naturally stretch your imagination about what might happen...

I wonder if you have anything that you are hoping for... [take ideas]

There are some lovely hopes here, but hope isn't the same as wishing. You might wish you could fly, or you might wish for a billion pounds, or that you speak in animal languages. It's fun to wish, but hope is more real than wishes. Hope can be difficult too because hope is also a little bit about waiting...

Abraham and Sarah had a hope. Their hope was a promise from God. In another part of the Bible it says 'God always keeps his promises' (Numbers 23:19), so they knew it was real, but they had to wait, and they had to wait, and they had to wait - all the time faced with the problem that the promise seemed like a bad joke - a baby at 100 years old! it made them laugh.

We should never give up because someone laughed at us. We should never give up because something feels too long to wait for, or too hard to do. Abraham and Sarah believed in the God of promise-keeping and kept on hoping and their hope became a great reality.

I hope that you too can become a strong hopeful person.



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