



Week One Kids' Connection

NOVEMBER 29

Family Activity

Wrap up some straw or the manger from a nativity set in an enticing looking package. Set it under your tree or on the dinner table but don't let anyone open it. Call attention to it all day, helping to build suspense about what might be inside the package.

Later in the evening, ask everyone what they hope is inside this package. Make a list or have each family member draw what he or she hopes for. After all have shared their ideas, let someone open the package. ASK: Was it what you expected?

Read Jeremiah 33:13-16

The verses in Jeremiah 33:13-16 speak of someone Israel is hoping for...someone who will save Israel and bring justice (punishment for doing evil and reward for doing right) and righteousness (right living according to God) to their land. They believed that this One they were hoping for would rescue them from their enemies—the people in other lands who were mistreating them and trying to take away their homeland.

But this rescuer God sent arrived as a baby in a manger, not the great warrior king the Israelites were hoping for. He was not the one they expected. Jesus would not go to war to defeat Israel's enemies. Instead, God sent Jesus, God the Son, the HOPE of the world, to die on a cross and save all who would believe in Him from their greatest enemy: sin.

Display the manger or straw as a reminder of Jesus' birth and that hope in Jesus to save us from sin is the greatest gift ever!



Week One Family Advent Devotion
"A Real Hope for a Savior"

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Week Two Kids' Connection

DECEMBER 6

Do you know what an outsider is? An outsider is someone who doesn't belong to a group. An outsider is outside the group. Today we are reading from the book of Ruth. Did you know Ruth was an outsider?

Ruth was a woman who grew up in the land of Moab. Most likely she would have worshiped a god named Chemosh. She did not belong to the people of Israel because she did not worship the God that Israel worshiped, the One True God. But after marrying a man from Israel and sharing life with her husband's mother, Naomi, Ruth said these words:

Read Ruth 1:16-17

Ruth chose not to follow the false god of Moab anymore. Instead, Ruth believed or trusted that the God of Israel was the One true God, and He would take care of her. Ruth now worshiped the One true God.

Today, just like Ruth, people around us are following false gods. They do not worship God the Father or God the Son, the Lord Jesus. Many people choose to give their love, honor and respect (their worship) to other things like sports, or friends, or even to themselves. These people do not believe in or belong to Jesus. These people need to be shown Jesus. They need to know that Jesus, God the Son, died on a cross to give all who would believe in Him the greatest gift ever-the gift of forgiveness from sin. Who do you know who needs to know about Jesus?

Family Activity

Discuss some things you might do to share Jesus with others this Christmas. Then, as a family, choose one way to share the hope of Jesus with a friend or family member who needs to know Jesus during this Christmas season.

Ideas might include:

- Make Christmas cards that share the love and hope of Jesus and send it to friends and family.
- Make a treat and attach a note or Gospel tract that shares the hope we have in Jesus to save us from sin. Leave the treats at a neighbor's door.
- Invite a friend or family member to church.



Week Two Family Advent Devotion
"Hope in the Outsider"

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Week Three Kids' Connection

DECEMBER 13

Have you ever awakened in the middle of the night? What do you see? Not much, right...it's dark! How do you feel when it is dark?

There are some who feel frightened in the dark. Darkness hides things. If we are afraid, we want to get out of the dark, but often the darkness keeps us from seeing the safe, or good and right way to go. When we walk, we might bump into or step on something. When it is dark, we need light so that we can know the good and right way to go.

Read Micah 7:7-8

In verses 1-6 of chapter 7, Micah the prophet has shared the evil things he sees in Israel. He is in a very dark place. In the Bible, darkness often means that something is full of sin. Micah sees that Israel is full of sin. It is hard for Micah to see the right way to go. But then Micah says a very helpful thing: Micah says that in this darkness, in this sin, God is his light.

In John 8:12 Jesus, God the Son, tells us this: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

The world is a dark place. It is full of sin because each person born into the world is sinful. Because of our sin, we don't go God's good and right way...we can't even see it. Jesus tells us, "I am your light. I will show you the way that is good and right." That doesn't mean Jesus will keep us from bumping into things in the dark. It means that Jesus shows us the way to be free from sin. And that way is to believe that

when Jesus died on the cross, He took God's punishment for sin that each sinner deserves. Reading about Jesus in the Bible and seeing how He lived while on the earth shows us the good and right way to walk.

Family Activity

Turn off the lights and light some candles or turn on flashlights. Sing "Silent Night" found here: [youtube.com/watch?v=Z-RQGUbAjZk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-RQGUbAjZk)

The words in the 2nd verse share how Jesus is the light, born to free those who believe in Him from the darkness of sin.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth



Week Three Family Advent Devotion "Hope Found in a Small Place"

[EastWhiteOak.church/christmas](https://www.EastWhiteOak.church/christmas)





Week Four Kids' Connection

DECEMBER 20

Family Activity

Play a game of Simon Says. If a family member does something when he/she shouldn't or doesn't do something when he/she should, he/she must sit out of the game. The winner is the last one standing. Make it tricky so it is very hard to do as Simon Says.

Read Romans 7:7-12

In the time when Jesus was born, the religious leaders taught the Israelites that following the law, or all of the rules, was the way to know God and enjoy a relationship with Him forever. The Israelite people thought they could do something (follow all the laws) to earn God's approval and God would let them into His heaven. Kind of like our game of Simon Says. Following Simon perfectly was the way to win the game.

God, through the apostle Paul told the people that God's law was sent for another reason. Paul teaches us that the law is not bad. The law helps people to see how perfect and good (righteous) God is and how full of sin each person is. But following God's laws is NOT the way to God's

heaven. God has a very different way for people to know Him and have a relationship with Him forever. That way is through faith in Jesus Christ.

How does a person have faith in Jesus? When a person believes that Jesus is the One who died on the cross to pay the price that he or she owes God for sinning that is faith. Faith is a gift from God that no person deserves. You or I could never think, say or do enough good things to get God to give us faith or let us into His heaven. One time of breaking just one of God's laws (sinning) means we deserve punishment from God for sin.

God's gift to the world is Jesus. Jesus, God the Son, is the only one who follows all of God the Father's laws perfectly. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment each person deserves for sinning. When a person believes in Jesus, he or she is given the perfect goodness of Jesus. God looks at a believer in Jesus as if they had followed all His laws perfectly. That means the believer in Jesus is justified before God.

Take time as a family to thank God for sending Jesus to the earth so that all who would believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life.



Week Four Family Advent Devotion "Hope in the Midst of Sin"

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