



Hope- content ideas for Christian collective worship

Definition: Christian hope is grounded in the character of God. Often, in the Psalms, the writer says to God: 'My hope is in you'. It is a hope rooted in the love and faithfulness of God. Hope is not wishful thinking but a firm assurance that God can be relied upon. It does not remove the need for 'waiting upon the Lord' but there is underlying confidence that God is a 'strong rock' and one whose promises can be trusted. The writer to the Hebrews describes the Christian hope as 'an anchor for the soul, firm and secure'. Even when experiencing exile, persecution, doubt or darkness, the Biblical writers trust in God's 'unfailing love' and know that he will be true to his covenant promises. That is the basis of their hope. Hope is not always spontaneous or easy. There is work to be done. As well as trusting God, we have to develop qualities of steadfastness in our own character.



Key Bible Character - Joseph

Joseph is the perfect example of hope in that God had already shown him through dreams that his father and brothers would bow down to him, but then he became a slave in an Egyptian home and later a prisoner. After a crazy series of events and many years later, Joseph becomes Pharaoh's right hand man, is reunited with his brothers and his father, and the prophetic dreams come to pass. God had a much larger plan for Joseph than anyone could have imagined as he saves his whole family (and Egypt) from famine.

Questions – What does it mean to be hopeful? Where does hope come from? How can we make our school a more hopeful place? How can we bring hope to others? How does your school work with other agencies to bring hope to those in difficult circumstances (locally, nationally, globally)?

Key Bible verse: We hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. - Romans 8:25

Bible stories and verses linked to hope		Bible chapter and verse	Key message
1	The Parable of the Mustard Seed	Matthew 13:31-32 watch	I wonder... what do you think hope is like? I wonder how it starts and how it grows? I wonder how big it can become? In today's Bible story, Jesus talks about something very tiny. A seed. A very, very small seed called a mustard seed. Seeds are hope carriers. If we keep hold of our hope it starts to grow... little by little... until before we know it, it has grown into something huge – like an enormous tree!

2	<p>Joseph and his brothers</p> <p>The Lion Storyteller Bible- Joseph series (p 22-26)</p>	<p>watch</p> <p>Genesis 37 - 48</p>	<p>Joseph had 11 brothers and was his father's favourite. He didn't keep his dreams of his brothers bowing to him to himself. His brothers were jealous so sold Joseph as a slave into Egypt. Joseph is the perfect example of hope in that God had already shown him through dreams that his father and brothers would bow down to him, but here he was a slave in an Egyptian home and later a prisoner. We must cling to hope when our life appears to be going in the opposite direction than what we thought God was telling us. After a crazy series of events and many many years later, Joseph becomes Pharaoh's right hand man, is reunited with his brothers and his father, and the prophetic dreams come to pass. God had a much larger plan for Joseph than anyone could have imagined as he saves his whole family (and Egypt) from famine.</p>
3	<p>Jesus heals a paralysed man</p>	<p>Luke 5:17-26</p> <p>watch the sand tale</p>	<p>How did the hopeless situation change? Feeling ill can make people feel really hopeless. The friends in this story never gave up hope for their friend.</p>
4	<p>Jesus heals a man with leprosy</p>	<p>Mark 1:40-42</p> <p>watch</p>	<p>Leprosy was a terrible, hopeless disease with no cure. Other people were not even allowed to touch you. Sometimes, we may find ourselves in a situation where we are uncomfortable but there may come a time in our lives when we find ourselves in a situation that is truly hopeless. For Christians, when the situation is hopeless, Jesus is our only hope.</p>
5	<p>Jesus' death and resurrection</p> <p>The Lion Storyteller Bible- A dreadful day and A happy day p.138+</p>	<p>John 19 and 20</p>	<p>Christian hope for the future has its guarantee in the resurrection of Jesus. The prophets always spoke of a time to come when the whole world would be restored to God. For Christians, Jesus' death and resurrection has set this in motion.</p>
6	<p>Noah and the flood</p> <p>The Lion Storyteller Bible- A special promise p. 12</p>	<p>Genesis 6-9</p> <p>watch</p>	<p>Everything seemed hopeless – people had become so evil that God could only find one person on the whole earth who still followed his ways. Noah and his ark were a tiny dot of hope in a sea of darkness and destruction - yet God used him to bring new hope to the world</p>

7	Abraham and Sarah The Lion Storyteller Bible- God's friend p. 16	watch Genesis 12:1-9	Abraham had given up hope of ever having any children. Him and his wife were old – too old to have children any more! In those days, there was no medical help available for them. So, he took matters into his own hands a married a second, much younger wife, who had a baby. But, God had still promised him that he would have children, and grandchildren and many, many descendants with his wife! Had God forgotten? He had to wait and hope for 25 years. Eventually Abraham and Sarah were blessed with a child.
8	Moses	watch and this Exodus 4 – 14	Moses was the leader who eventually freed his people from the Egyptians. We may know some of the stories- the plagues, parting the Red Sea and leading God's people through the wilderness for 40 years. But Moses was already 80 years old before any of this happened. He grew up with the Egyptians and saw terrible treatment of them. He runs away into the desert for 40 years and during this time he must have hoped for the deliverance of all the Hebrews. The Hebrews, having been strangers in a foreign land for roughly 400 years, enduring the death of their children, slavery, and forced labor for several hundred, beg God to free them. Their hope of a deliverer stays strong. Their hope that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had not deserted them does not diminish. They believe God is hearing them and their hope does not disappoint.
9	Gideon	watch Judges 6-7	God is on our side. He sees "mighty" when we see "weak." He sees victory when we see defeat. He gives hope, when we're filled with disappointment. He is still with us, no matter how we might feel, or what struggles flood our thoughts.
10	Daniel	Watch this Book of Daniel	It gives us hope that we can walk into a situation where the odds are stacked against us and still come out triumphant.

Other free resources on hope: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/faith-home-videos/collective-worship-primary-schools-hope-s2e6>