

HOPE

WEEK
ONE

**BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING GOOD
CAN COME OUT OF SOMETHING BAD**

READ DEUTERONOMY 31:6

DAY 1

Have you ever been scared? Maybe there's a bully at school and you're afraid your friends will get hurt. Maybe you're afraid you'll never understand the math lesson at school. Maybe you did something wrong and when your mom or dad asked you about it, you were too scared to tell the truth. This month we're talking about hope. Hope is believing something good can come out of something bad. In those moments when you know you should be strong and brave, you can remember this verse. You can be strong and brave no matter what because God is WITH you. He will never leave you. Ever. You can trust in him because He always keeps his promises. Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

In the space to the right, use the letters of the word to create an acrostic that defines the word brave. (For instance – next to the letter "B" you might write "Bold").

B _____
R _____
A _____
V _____
E _____

THANK God for the promise that He is with you, no matter what happens.

READ NUMBERS 23:19

DAY 2

If you could be a superhero, what superhero power would you most like to possess? Write or draw it down in the space to the right.

It would be SUPER cool to leap tall buildings in a single bound, or shoot webs from your hands or trap the bad guys or walk through walls or freeze things. Wouldn't it be awesome to set aside your human limits and do something super amazing like a superhero?

Guess what? God can do all those things. See, God isn't human like you and me. He created the mountains by simply speaking. He can control the wind and the waves. And He's the mastermind behind that spider that can create an amazing web of beauty. God can hear every single prayer that's spoken from every part of the world, and He even knows the number of hairs on your head as you read this. You don't have to be a superhero to have access to power and strength. You just have to trust in God's power. What an amazing reason to have hope.

ASK God to help you trust in His power.

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READ PSALM 46:1-3

DAY 3

When you play game like tag or "Hide and Go Seek" after you find out who's "it", what's usually the first thing you want to know? You want to know where "base" is, right? "Base" is your safe point. No one can tag you or take you out of the game if you make it to "base" first.

This verse reminds us of a very important truth. God is our place of safety. He is our "base" where we will always be protected. Whatever happens, you can know that God is powerful enough to help. Even if the mountains fall. Or the water rises. Or you break your leg. Or you lose your favorite bracelet. Or you feel lonely. God is your place of safety and strength. It's the reason you can have hope that something good will come out of something bad. There is **NOTHING** you will face that is bigger or stronger than God. Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

Just for fun, go find your friends and play a game of "Hide and Seek".

KNOW that God is your place of safety no matter what happens.

READ JOHN 16:33B

DAY 4

To start off, take a minute and write down your favorite sport in the blank below.

When you head out on the field or court, what are you hoping for? A WIN! Every time you or your favorite team takes the field, you're hoping you'll come out on top. What if your coach could promise that winning was a sure thing? How would you play the game if you knew from the beginning that your team was going to walk away with a victory?

There's a **HUGE** promise found in this month's memory verse. And that promise is that no matter what happens, in the end, God wins. He **WINS**. And because of what He's done to save us, because Jesus took our punishment on the cross, we win. When we face trouble, we don't have to be afraid. Because in the end, when it's all over, with God on our side, we **WIN**. God won the battle over sin and death through Jesus. What an amazing reason to have hope.!

KNOW that in the end, God wins!

Whatever
Happens,
remember HOW
POWERFUL GOD IS.

HOPE

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TWO

**BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING GOOD
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READ JOHN 4:13-14

DAY 1

Have you ever been really thirsty? When you're thirsty, what does your body want? Of course—water!

When Jesus met a woman at the well, she had come for water, too. But Jesus offered something better. He knew that even if she drew enough water for the rest of the day, she would be thirsty again. He had a different kind of water—living water—that leads to eternal life.

Because of Jesus and his death on the cross, we can have a relationship with God forever. His living water is offered to ALL who believe. What an amazing promise. We don't have to be afraid of the future because God has made a way for us to live with Him forever in heaven.

Drink a glass of water today and remember that you can have hope because of what Jesus promised.

THANK God for the hope He offers to you.

READ JOHN 14:28-29

DAY 2

When Jesus told His friends He would be going away, they were so confused. Why would He leave now? Weren't they just getting started on their mission? Where was He going and why couldn't they go with Him? They had lots of questions, but they didn't know what we know. We know that Jesus' death wasn't the end, but the beginning of the most amazing rescue in the history of the world.

Jesus knew He had to die on the cross to make a way for everyone to have a relationship with God. He made a promise to His friends that even though things were about to get really bad, they would get better. He wanted them to have hope that something VERY good was about to come out of something VERY bad.

What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "I am going away and I am coming back"? Write your answer in the box. If you need help, discuss this question with a parent or trusted adult in your life.

ASK God to help you understand the promise Jesus made to His friends.

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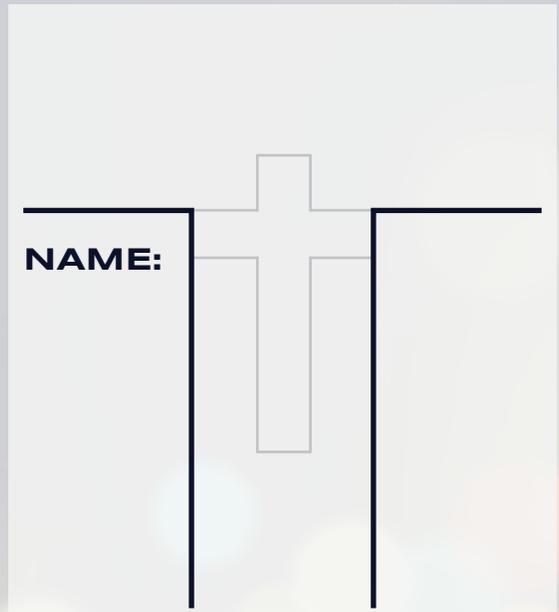
READ JOHN 14:6

DAY 3

Check out the picture to the right. On the left hand side of the picture below, write your name. On the right, write "God." Do you see how there is a big valley between you and God? Write the word "sin" at the bottom of the valley. Our sin, the times we disobey God, separate us from Him. But God didn't want that. So He made a way through His son Jesus. Trace the outline of the cross in the middle. Cross out the word "sin" and write "JESUS". Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin. Jesus is THE way to God. No one gets to God except through what Jesus has done on the cross. It is the bridge to God.

Pray and ask God to help you understand the picture to the right. If you have questions, ask your parents or your small group leader. This picture is the reason we have hope.

THANK God that He made a way for you to have a relationship with Him.



READ ROMANS 8:24-25

DAY 4

Is there something exciting that you're waiting for? Maybe a birthday. Or a spring break trip. Or summer vacation. Or maybe you're already counting down the days until next Christmas. Waiting is hard. Patiently waiting is even harder. But thinking about what's coming helps!

In these verses, Paul is talking about waiting too. When you ask Jesus to be your savior, you start that waiting game until heaven. It's hard to picture exactly what heaven will be like, but Jesus promised us that it is better than anything we could ever dream up on our own. No matter what bad things we might face here on earth, as Christians, we know the best is yet to come. And heaven is WAY better than the best birthday party, or Christmas morning or summer vacation. What an amazing promise and reason to have hope.

Draw a picture or create a doodle page of what you think heaven will look like.

KNOW that the promise of heaven is real!

Whatever
Happens,
remember what
Jesus Promised.

HOPE

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THREE

**BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING GOOD
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READ ROMANS 5:2-5

DAY 1

When life gets rough, it's hard to imagine that it will ever get better. When you do poorly on another test or miss every shot during tryouts, or argue with a friend, it's hard to believe that the bad stuff won't continue. But when hard things happen, which this verse calls "suffering", good CAN come out of it. Even if the situation doesn't ever get any better. Even if that friend is never nice to you again. Even if you try out again and still don't make the team, God is STILL at work.

God's not working to give you a better jump shot (though He certainly could) and He's not going to make sure you're the most popular kid in school (though He could do that too). That's because God is much more interested in doing something IN you than He is in doing something FOR you. He knows that all the hard things you face make you stronger on the INSIDE, where it really counts. You can have hope because whatever happens, God is still at work.

Read today's verses again and fill in these blanks:

Suffering leads to _____. Strength to _____. Character to _____.

THANK God for working IN you to make you more like Him.

READ ROMANS 8:28

DAY 2

Have you ever baked a batch of chocolate chip cookies with your Mom or Dad? If so, you probably had to gather several different ingredients. Unscramble the words in the ingredient list to the right.

Have you ever tried eating these ingredients before they were baked into a cookie? A spoonful of flour or baking soda is pretty gross! What about chocolate chips or sugar? Not so bad, eh? All of these ingredients are like the events in our lives. Some of these events are awesome and sweet like those chocolate chips. And some are yucky like a spoonful of salt. But when you combine all the ingredients above, you end up with a delicious batch of cookies. The same is true for the things that happen to you.

God is working everything together for good! Every hard thing and every good thing is all a part of His perfect story for your life. So, the next time you face something difficult, think about that chocolate chip cookie. Remember that you can have hope because whatever happens, God is still at work.

ASK God to help you remember that He is working all things together for good.

rlfuo _____
garus _____
tals _____
oolchctea spich _____
gnkiab asod _____
llavina _____

HOPE

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THREE

**BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING GOOD
CAN COME OUT OF SOMETHING BAD**

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

DAY 3

Have you ever read the book called "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day?" In the book, Alexander faces all kinds of terrible, no good, very bad things that add up to one pretty awful day. Do you ever have days like that? Days where nothing seems to be going right and you just want to give up?

We *all* have bad days. When bad days come, it's good to remember that our troubles are only temporary. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, when we believe in Him we get to spend eternity with God. And when we are with God, there are no terrible, horrible, no good, very bad days. Isn't that awesome?

Interview a grown up by asking the following questions.

1. Was there ever a time as a kid that you faced a hard situation?
2. What happened and how did you respond?
3. Did things ever get better? What did you learn from this experience?

LOOK for ways to trust that God is still at work no matter what.

READ ROMANS 12:12

DAY 4

When Jesus died on the cross, the disciples were so sad and confused. They thought that his death was the end. But it wasn't the end! We know the rest of the story. Jesus didn't stay dead. He rose on the third day and beat death once and for all. God was still at work, even when things seemed like they could never get better.

That's hope. Believing that something good can come out of a something bad. Hope can lead to joy! Suffering can lead to patience. And prayer can lead to bigger faith.

Fill in the circle diagram below, starting at the top with the word "Joy". Read the verse for clues to help you fill it out.

KNOW that God wants to make your faith bigger as you put your hope in Him.



whatever
happens,
remember **GOD**
IS STILL AT WORK.

HOPE

WEEK
FOUR

**BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING GOOD
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READ ROMANS 5:8

DAY 1

How do you know God loves you? Well, you can see it in the beautiful things He's created. You can see it through the good gifts He's given you. But we truly know that God loves us because of one single event in history. God loved us so much that He sent His only son, Jesus.

But there's something even more amazing about God's love for us. God didn't say, "Okay, when you guys get your act together and stop disobeying me, then I'll send Jesus to help you out." Nope. God doesn't work that way. He made a way by making the first move. He showed us His love when we didn't deserve it to prove that we couldn't *earn* it. How amazing is that? Hope is possible in any situation because whatever happens, God loves you.

Write down this verse on separate pieces of scrap paper. Hide the words inside of some plastic Easter eggs and ask someone else to hide them around the house. Search for the eggs and then work to put the words of the verse in order.

THANK God for His great love for you.

READ ROMANS 8:38-39

DAY 2

God's love is BIG. No matter where you go, no matter how many times you mess up or forget about God or think you can handle things on your own, nothing—no person, no circumstance, no unwise choice or hurt or mistake—can separate you from God's love. He loves you. Always. And there's nothing you can do about it.

So, the next time you start to feel like you're not that important, or that no one cares about you, read this verse. Ask God to help you BELIEVE these words deep down in your heart. You are deeply loved by a big, BIG God. So whatever happens, remember God loves you.

Write down a time you didn't feel loved. Why? Then flip the page over and write the down the words of this verse.

THANK God to help you see His great love for you.

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FOUR

**BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING GOOD
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READ PSALM 130:7

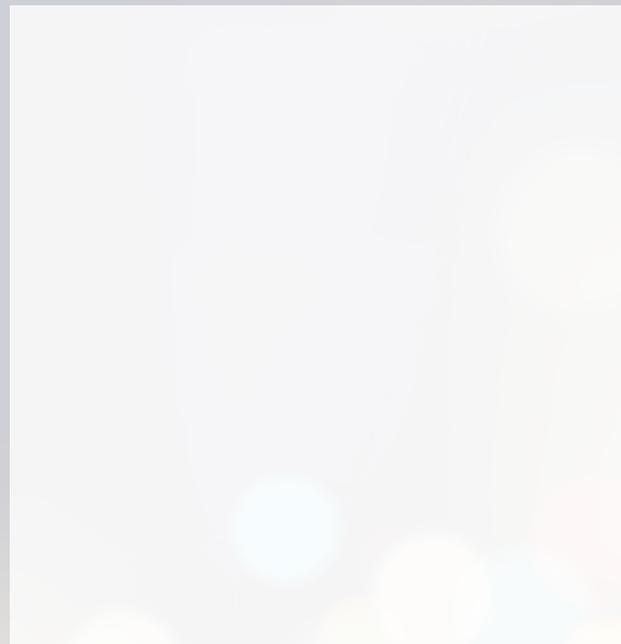
DAY 3

Do you know why you can put your hope in the Lord? Because God loves you. He made you. He has a plan for your life. And He has made a way for you to have a relationship with Him forever. Jesus's death and resurrection sets you free from sin. When you trust Jesus as your savior, you become a part of God's family forever.

God loved you so much that He sent Jesus. And His love never fails. When you put your hope in Him, you can know that He will never ever let you down. Whatever happens, remember God loves you.

Draw a picture of what this verse means to you in the space to the right.

LOOK for opportunities to put your hope in God's unfailing love this week.



READ LUKE 24:5-7

DAY 4

Did you hunt for Easter eggs this year? Did you find any empty ones? Were you SUPER disappointed? Everyone knows that hunting eggs is no fun if the eggs are empty. What do we want? CANDY! When it comes to Easter egg hunting, empty is BAD!

But on that first Easter Sunday, empty wasn't such a bad thing. When the two Mary's arrived at the tomb, they found the huge stone that covered the entrance had been rolled away. At first they thought that someone had stolen Jesus' body. But they were in for the biggest surprise in history. Empty meant LIFE. Empty meant that Jesus had risen! Empty meant that anyone who believes in Jesus can have a relationship with God forever. Empty proved that God loves you BIG time. For us, the empty tomb is a very good thing.

Grab one of your Easter eggs. Make sure it's empty—you can even eat the candy if you need to. Place that empty egg on your bedside table as a reminder this week that empty is GOOD!

KNOW that God loves you and that He proved His love with the empty tomb!

Whatever
Happens,
remember GOD
Loves you.