





YESTERDAY, TODAY, FOREVER

SPECIAL DAYS

PREPARATION

- + Print out [15 Bible verses of hope for the future](#) for each member
 - + Prepare to display an image based on a [quote on hope](#) by Chris Seidman, perhaps on the large screen, as a poster, or provide as print-outs
 - + 15 envelopes for each member
 - + Scissors, pens and paper
-  *Ask members to have a pen and paper*
-  *Email a Bible verse to members each day*

If your group has not met in a while, give time for a general chat and catch-up.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The new year is a time for looking back and looking forward.

The year 2020 will probably go down in history for all the wrong reasons. The Covid-19 pandemic has deeply affected all of our lives. Some of us will be living with the effects of long Covid. Some of us will have lost people we love. All of us will have lost our liberty and freedom for a while. The high street has seen the disappearance of many businesses, even long-established ones, which are now gone for good.

As we say good bye to the old year, we can thank God for his help and presence with us throughout it. We now face a new year and there is already much to give us hope. We have several vaccines being created and we will see the end to the Covid-19 pandemic and all its misery. Wonderful as this might be, even more wonderful is the promise that this amazing, powerful and faithful God of our past is the same God of our future.

 **'As he has been, so he will be!'**

(paraphrased from Joshua 1:5)



ACTIVITIES

PUZZLE

How many words can you make from the word YESTERDAY? Ask members to use pen and paper to find out. The possible total number could be 276! You can find a complete list of words [here](#).

SHARE

‘Count your blessings, name them one by one’ SASB 909

Share the blessings which you enjoy TODAY. How does counting your blessings help you on your faith journey? Give thanks to God for them as you conclude this time of sharing with a prayer or prayer time.

BIBLE VERSES


Ask each member to cut out the Bible verses about the FUTURE and place each one in an envelope. Over the next 15 days they open a random envelope at the beginning of each day. Encourage members to recognise it as a message from God for them!

 *Over the next 15 days email a Bible verse each day to each member.*

DISPLAY

God promises so many things about the FUTURE but he doesn't actually promise tomorrow. Chris Seidman's quote reminds us of an amazing truth: 'God doesn't promise us tomorrow, but he does promise us eternity.'

Display the quote image with your group.

 *Use share screen to share the image.*

BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

Hebrews 13:8

It is true to say that as we emerge from the grip of the pandemic, the world is a very different place in so many ways. That said, we do well to remember that there is one thing that never changes - and that is Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13:8 says, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.'

Connect



The Greek word used for 'same' states that Jesus Christ is unchangeable. Now that is good news for each one of us living in a world that seems to be changing at alarming speed. Jesus Christ is the one person we can depend upon to be the same, regardless of what is happening now or has happened in the past. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

The word 'yesterday' used in the Greek text describes all that ever has been until this present moment. It is describing the past in all its fullness.

The word 'today' literally means this very moment in time, the present.

It is worth noting too that in the Bible when the words 'yesterday and today' are used in one phrase, it also portrays continuity. There has never been a moment in time when Jesus has been any less than he is today - nor will there ever be. Jesus will always be all that we need him to be.

The words 'for ever' in Greek mean all time to come, including all ages that will ever be known; they describe an eternal future.

Jesus Christ is exactly the same in the past, in the present, and in the future. He is unchanging in every way.

We can rejoice and be thankful!

PRAYER

Father God,
We come to you, holding out our hands for you to embrace us, lift us and lead us. In 2020 we experienced dread despair and distress, but you held us as we journeyed under the shadows of Covid-19. There is no change in your eternal love towards your creation, nor in your love to us; and so as we step into 2021, we confidently continue to put our hope in you. **AMEN.**

Commissioner Anthony Cotterill, Territorial Commander UKI
Family Ministries Calendar 2021 *Live in Hope*
available from [SP&S](#)

SONGS

- ♪ SASB 26 'Great is thy faithfulness'
- ♪ SASB 12 'Eternal God, unchanging'
- ♪ ['Yesterday, Today and Forever'](#) ('Everlasting God') by Vicky Beeching, SoF 1754
- ♪ ['Everlasting God'](#) ('Strength will rise') by Chris Tomlin, SoF 2034



Connect



WEBSITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

- Connect Website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect
- Family Ministries Website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families
- Email: familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk
- Facebook: @sarmyfm
- Twitter: @ukifamily
- Instagram: safamily_ministries



Family Ministries

Having faith in the family

Providing intergenerational support, training and resources for

Children | **Adults** | **Everyone**



**Family
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Having faith in the family