

A season of hope

**Bible verses:**

Isaiah 9:2-7

A new day is coming

**Aim:**

To discover the message of hope found in the birth of Jesus

**Today's fruit:**

Kindness



In today's session we focus on the promise given to Isaiah by God to share with the world.

Isaiah, a prophet, shared this promise with the Israelites – God's promise that, through the birth of Jesus, there was hope for the future. But they had to wait 700 years for this promise to come true.

Jesus brings hope to us all through the kindness he shares throughout the world.

Each child will need:

- *Memory verse poster*
- *Memory verse wristband*
- An envelope or jar; scissors and decorating resources like Christmas stickers and glitter glue (alternatively use paper, pens and sticky tape)
- *Bible verses or Bible references* handout
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Kindness*



Start it

Say:

In the original film *Back to the Future* Marty McFly travels back in time. It was recently made into a West End musical, but the film was first in the cinema back in 1985 – way before any of you were born! In the second film in the series (1989) Marty travels 30 years into his future ... to 2015.

Ask:

How many years ago was 2015?

Say:

So, Marty travelled into his future, which is (insert number) years ago for us. The following clip shows what people in the 1980s thought life might be like today. Watch the clip to discuss whether they were right or not.

Video

Back to the Future Part 2 Hill Valley, by Universal uploaded by MovieClips (1:57)

Say:

It's difficult to know what things will be like in the future and often the only thing we can do is guess.

Ask:

What do you think the world will be like in 30 years' time?

Sing it

Say:

Our song for this week reminds us that our hope is found in Jesus. No matter what we face, no matter how confusing life becomes, we can always be certain that God is by our side.

Song

'Hope' Kids worship song by Allstars Kids Club (3:50)

Tell it

Say:

Throughout our *Explore it* sessions this month, we are going to look at five different themes linked to the Advent season. They are hope, faith, peace, joy and love. Today we are going to think about hope.

Ask:

- How would you describe hope?
- What kinds of things are you hoping for?

Say:

The Israelites had been waiting for a very special person, the Messiah, to arrive for a very long time. This person, who turned out to be Jesus, would lead them and help connect them with God. But even though they tried, no one could predict the future to know exactly when he would arrive.

Say:

Although we are thinking about the birth of Jesus, our Bible story today happened around 700 years before he was born. When God wanted to tell his people something important, he would use someone called a prophet and give them special messages to share with the people. Our prophet for today is Isaiah.

Video

Isaiah God's Story by Crossroads Kids' Club (4:02 secs)

Ask:

- What is a prophecy? **A prophecy is when God makes a promise and tells us something important or something that is going to happen in the future.**
- What was the most amazing prophecy that God told Isaiah?

Read:

'Now those people live in darkness.

But they will see a great light.

They live in a place that is very dark.

But a light will shine on them.

God, you will cause the nation to grow.

You will make the people happy.

And they will show their happiness to you.

It will be like the joy during harvest time.

It will be like the joy of people

taking what they have won in war.

Like the time you defeated Midian,

you will take away their heavy load.

You will take away the heavy pole from their backs.

You will take away the rod the enemy uses to punish your people.

Every boot that marched in battle will be destroyed.

Every uniform stained with blood will be destroyed.



They will be thrown into the fire.
A child will be born to us.
God will give a son to us.
He will be responsible for leading the people.
His name will be Wonderful Counsellor, Powerful God,
Father Who Lives For ever, Prince of Peace.
Power and peace will be in his kingdom.
It will continue to grow.
He will rule as king on David's throne
and over David's kingdom.
He will make it strong,
by ruling with goodness and fair judgement.
He will rule it for ever and ever.
The Lord of heaven's armies will do this
because of his strong love for his people.'

(Isaiah 9:2-7 ICB)

Ask:

- How do you think the people felt when Isaiah told them what was going to happen?
- How long did the people have to wait for Isaiah's prophecies to happen?
- Do you find it difficult to wait for things? Do you think you could wait 700 years for something?
- What do you think made the people keep believing and hoping that Isaiah's prophecy would come true?

Say:

The people knew that no matter how long they had to wait, God would keep his promise to them. They were used to having leaders who used fear and violence to stay in charge. God promised that King Jesus would be different.

Display the *Kindness* sign.

Ask:

In what way does Jesus show kindness as he guides his people?



Action it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us of the promise God gave Isaiah to share with the people.

Display the *Memory Verse* poster for the children and hand out the wristbands. Share the memory verse together. You may want to make up some actions with the children to help them to remember the verse.

Read:

'A child will be born to us.

God will give a son to us.

He will be responsible for leading the people.

**His name will be Wonderful Counsellor, Powerful God,
Father Who Lives For Ever, Prince of Peace.'**

(Isaiah 9:6 *ICB*)

Say:

Throughout the Bible we are reminded of God's promises, and during December we will look at a different promise each day.

Promise jar/envelope

Explain to the children that they will be making a promise jar/envelope so that they can read one of God's promises each day of Advent in December. There are two options: the full Scripture verses (*ICB*) or the Bible references.

Ask the children to decorate their envelope or jar. If you don't have stickers or glitter glue, the children can draw their own decorations on paper and stick them to the jar with sticky tape.

The children then cut out all the Bible promises, fold up each one and put them into their jar/envelope. Each day of Advent they can take out a promise and share it with the people at home.

Pray it

Ask the children to share some of their hopes for the future and prayers they are waiting for God to answer. When the group have shared, then ask them to promise to pray for each other over the coming week.

You may also want to share with the children that 10 December is *Human Rights Day*. This day celebrates respect for everyone, and you could use part of this reflection time to pray for those whose human rights are not being respected.

Share the following song together based around the words of Isaiah 9:6-7 and then bring the session to a close in prayer.

Song

'Isaiah 9:6-7' (lyric video) by The Corner Room (3:10)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

A season of hope

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Isaiah 9:2-7



Aim:
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Today's fruit:
Kindness



Pray

During the session your friends shared their hopes for the future and the prayers they are waiting for God to answer. Spend time praying for each member of the group.

Don't forget to take a Bible promise out of your promise jar/envelope and read it each day.



Discuss

Chat with the people at home about what life was like 30 years ago.

- What were the telephones and TVs like?
- What were the popular toys, cars or clothes?
- What music did people listen to?
- What might life be like 30 years from now?
- What are your hopes for the future?



Song for the week

'Hope' Kids worship song by Allstars Kids Club



Memory verse

**'A child will be born to us.
God will give a son to us.
He will be responsible for leading the people.
His name will be Wonderful Counsellor,
Powerful God,
Father Who Lives For Ever, Prince of Peace.'**

(Isaiah 9:6 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

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(Isaiah 9:6 ICB)



Start it

Today we are going to think about the message of hope found in the words of Isaiah.



Tell it

Isaiah was a prophet who shared messages from God with the people. Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah described what Jesus would be like.

Share a child-friendly version of Isaiah 9:2-7 or watch the following clip which shares the story of Isaiah.

God keeps his promises Isaiah 9 by GCFKids Eugene (2:11)

Sit in a circle, share the memory verse, and ask the group to share together:

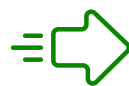
- How did Isaiah describe Jesus?
- What does the word 'hope' mean?
- How do you think the words of Isaiah helped the people to feel hopeful about the future?
- How did Jesus show kindness as he lived his life on earth?
- How can we show kindness to others?



Sing It

'Christmas song' by Saddleback Kids (2:34)

'Wonderful Lord' (official video) by Doug Horley (3:13)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Act out the different ways Isaiah described Jesus. Use the memory verse to help you.
- Name something you feel hopeful about.
- Draw a picture showing three ways you can show kindness to others this week.
- See if you can create a fun way to remember how to spell Isaiah's name.