



YESTERDAY, TODAY, FOREVER

SPECIAL DAYS

PREPARATION

- ➔ Print out *15 Bible verses of hope* for the future for each member (sourced from billy.graham.org)
- ➔ Prepare to display the quote on hope: 'God doesn't promise tomorrow, he does promise eternity.' from quotefancy.com - or provide as print-outs
- ➔ 15 envelopes for each member
- ➔ Scissors, pens and paper

Additional resources

- ❖ *15 Bible verses of hope*

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

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

As we say goodbye 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. 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

Challenge members to find out how many words they can make from the word **YESTERDAY**. Provide pen and paper to find out. The possible total number could be 276! A complete list of words is available from wordmaker.info.

SHARE

- 🎵 'Count your blessings, name them one by one'
SASB 909

Ask members to share the blessings which they enjoy **TODAY**.



Thought

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. The aim is that 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!

DISPLAY

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

Display the quote image with your group.

BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

HEBREWS 13:8

The world is a constant changing place. 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.*'

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 the 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!

With all the huge changes happening in the world right now, we can thank God that Jesus isn’t one of them! Whoever he was in the past is who he is in the present and who he will always be in the future! He truly is our eternal hope.

PRAYER

Father God,
We come to you, holding out our hands for you to embrace us,
lift us and lead us. Last year we experienced joy and happiness,
despair and distress, and you held us as we journeyed through it all.
There is no change in your eternal love towards your creation, nor in
your love to us; and so as we step into the new year, we confidently
continue to put our hope in you. AMEN.

SONGS

- ♪ SASB 26 ‘Great is thy faithfulness’
[Brass instrumental lyric video](#) by Pendleton Corps (4:03)
[Official performance video](#) ft CeCe Winans (press cc for lyrics) by Carrie Underwood (4:20)
[Lyric video](#) by Maranatha! Music (3:08)
- ♪ SASB 12 ‘Eternal God, unchanging’
[Piano instrumental video](#) by Stotfold Salvation Army (2:15)

‘Yesterday, Today and Forever’ (‘Everlasting God’) by Vicky Beeching
[Lyric video](#) by Josephine Tee (3:40)
- ♪ ‘Everlasting God’ (‘Strength will rise’) by Chris Tomlin
[Official lyric video](#) by christomlinmusic (4:22)

Connect



WEBSITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

- Connect website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect
- Family Ministries website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families
- Emails: 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



BIBLE QUOTES

15 BIBLE VERSES OF HOPE

✂-----

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

(Jeremiah 29:11)

✂-----

‘In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.’

(1 Peter 1:3-4)

✂-----

‘Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.’

(Philippians 3:20)

✂-----

‘The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing. Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.’

(Zephaniah 3:17)

✂-----

‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’

(Romans 15:13)

✂-----

‘But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.’

(Psalm 39:7)

✂-----



✂-----

‘Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.’

(Isaiah 40:31)

✂-----

‘ ... while we wait for the blessed hope - the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ ...’

(Titus 2:13)

✂-----

‘Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.’

(Romans 12:12)

✂-----

‘For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.’

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

✂-----

‘I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.’

(Romans 8:18)

✂-----

‘Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.’

(Revelation 22:12)

✂-----

‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’

(Revelation 21:4)

✂-----



✂-----
'For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.'

(Romans 15:4)

✂-----
'Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.'

(Lamentations 3:21-23)

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