

Jesus is Your Only Hope!

Memory Verse: Roman 8:38-39 *“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels no rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Main Teaching: Jesus is your only hope!

Word Up: Thank God – Jesus gives hope!

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Thank you written out in different languages on cards – Small Group (Make from words in the lesson plan)
- Recording for “Christ Redeemed Us” and “Jesus is the Good News” - Worship (Sing About the King 3 CD)
- Optional Song Visuals for “Christ Redeemed Us” and “Jesus is the Good News” (cefpres.com)
- Whiteboard or large paper to draw on – Word Up
- 3 Glass vases, 3 water bottles, 3 t bleach, 1 t iodine, picture of a person, dark heart and cross – Object Lesson
- Memory Verse Visual – Memory Verse (Resource Pack)
- Joni Eareckson Tada Missionary Story – Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Piece of paper and writing utensil for each child, 2 trash cans - Activity
- Copy of Thank You Note for each small group & optional verse cards – Small Group / Wonder Time (Resource Pack)
- Memory Verse Token Romans 8:38-39 for each child – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group color sheet
- 10 min – Worship
- 10 min – Sin Gospel Experiment
- 15 min – Memory Verse
- 5 min – Missions Story
- 10 min – Trash Can Basketball Relay
- 10 min – Small Group Wonder Time

INTRODUCTION

Where would you be without the hope Jesus gives you? How would your life be different? Jesus is the greatest hope anyone could ever ask for! How often do you stop and thank God for the hope He gives you in Jesus?

In this evangelistic lesson, you will tell the story of ten lepers but focus in on one leper in particular – a Samaritan. These lepers were banished from society and without hope.

The ten lepers decided to take a step of faith. They went to see Jesus, the Great Physician. He offered them hope when everyone else offered rejection. The Great Physician healed all ten, yet only one offered thanks. It was the Samaritan – the one who was a double outcast.

We all have so many reasons to thank the Lord! Above all of them is that it is only through Jesus' death on the cross that our debt can be paid and we can be in a relationship with God. Praise Him for the hope He brings!



SMALL GROUP

Thank You in Different Languages

When someone does something nice for you, what do you say? Thank you. Do any of you know how to say thank you in a different language? I'm going to show you a card with thank you on it from a different language and you can try and guess the language:

Shukran (shoe-kran) – Arabic

Dank u (dahnk oo) – Dutch

Merci (MEHR-see) – French

Mahalo (ma HA lo) – Hawaiian

Grazie (GRAHTS-yeh) – Italian

How do you show your thankfulness to others?

WORSHIP

“Jesus is the Good News”

“Christ Redeemed Us”

CLUB RULES

Review your looks like/sounds like chart to make sure kids know how they are expected to behave during club.



WORD UP!

“Thank God – Jesus gives hope!”

Use a whiteboard or paper to draw pictures of things you are thankful for. Have kids guess what they are. We can look around and see many things to thank God for. We can also thank God for many things we can't see like love, joy, and hope. Today we are going to learn how Jesus can give hope even in terrible situations. Any time today that a teacher says “Word Up!” stand up and say with me, **“Thank God, Jesus Gives Hope!”** (Say with children.)

OBJECT LESSON

Sin Gospel Experiment

For the Gospel Experiment: You will need 3 glass containers. Glass vases or containers from the Dollar Store would work well. One needs to have a stick person on it representing us. **This will have clear water in it.** You will have a 2nd container with a dark heart on it, representing sin. **This will have water and iodine in it.** The 3rd container will have a cross on it representing Jesus. **This will have water and bleach in it.**

Before club, gather 3 empty plastic water bottles. Put 3 teaspoons bleach in one, then fill it slowly (so no bubbles form) with water. Put 1 teaspoon iodine in the next water bottle, then fill it with water. The 3rd water bottle will just have water in it.

(USE GREAT CARE WITH CHEMICALS AROUND CHILDREN.)**

You will need a flat table with paper towels on it set up to do the experiment. You will need to practice the experiment before doing it with the children. **Make sure you wash each container after practice because leaving the residue chemical will make the experiment not work well.**

TIP: A second teacher to do the experiment as you teach will work really well. However, you will need to practice it!

Jesus wants everyone to know something very important. Are you ready to know something very important? Nod your head Yes, if you do! Ok, Jesus wants you to know that He loves you very much. He loves you so much that He wants to make sure that you know the way to get to Heaven. When you are done living on this earth, Jesus wants to make sure you know how to be with Him. I have something fun to show you so you can understand how Jesus is the only way to go to heaven.

I have these 3 containers. This one here reminds us of Jesus. **(Point to cross container and slowly pour the water bottle with bleach into the container. Tilting the container as you pour will help prevent bubbles. We want the kids to think it is just water.)** It is clear and pure. Jesus is pure. He is perfect. Jesus never sinned because Jesus is God the Son, and He can't sin. This middle container reminds us of sin. **Slowly pour the iodine water into this container.)** Sin is the thing that keeps us from Jesus in Heaven. Do you remember what sin is? Sin is anything you do, **(punch fists together)**, say, **(point to mouth)**, see, **(point to eyes)** or think, **(point to head)**, that displease God and make Him sad, **(make a tear on your face with your finger.)** That could be lying, or hitting someone that makes you mad, or even thinking mean thoughts about someone else. The Bible says we all sin. Every person was born wanting to sin. Even when you try to be good, you can't be good all of the time! You are born with sin in you. **(Pour part of the dark liquid into people until it turns dark.)** The Bible calls sin darkness. You can't be good enough, you can't say nice enough things, you can't try to think good things all the time. It just won't work. Because of sin you deserve to be punished. The punishment for sin is being separated from God forever. Jesus tells us there is only One way that you can be saved from the punishment of sin - Jesus! Jesus was telling his friend Thomas that very thing in the Bible, God's word. He said, **(Read John 14:6.)** "Jesus said, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'".

Jesus came to earth for one reason. Jesus came to take the punishment for sin. Jesus came to die on a cross and be punished for you so your sin and my sin can be forgiven. So, Jesus left Heaven and came to earth as a baby and He grew up. The whole time Jesus grew up He never sinned. He was pure! **(Point to clear liquid representing Jesus.)** He was perfect! After He grew up, He went around telling people how much he loved them. He did lots of miracles to show people that He was God. He healed people and He told them that He was the one way to get to Heaven.

Then it was time. It was time for Jesus to take our punishment. He was willing to do it because He loves us. So Jesus allowed some men to take him and nail Him to a cross. Jesus was bleeding on the cross. Then he died on the cross. They took Jesus off the cross and they buried him in a cave, called a tomb. Jesus was dead for 3 days

and then on the 3rd day, Jesus came alive again! He wasn't dead anymore! Jesus walked around and spent time with people. Jesus said that he was going to leave them. And He did just that. He left. He went up to Heaven. Jesus is in Heaven right now. Do you know what Jesus is doing in Heaven? He is making a home for us! That's right. Jesus wants to have a relationship with you that starts right now and goes on forever. He wanted to make sure you understand that He is the only one who can take care of your problem of sin.

The Bible says that believing in Jesus is the only way to have our sins forgiven. When you believe that Jesus died for your sins and took your punishment, your sins can be forgiven. You can be made clean (**Pour part of Jesus container water into people container until it is clear.**) If you believe that Jesus died and came alive again. Your sins are forgiven and your heart is clean from all of its sin. Jesus is so holy and pure and powerful that when He died on the cross. He was able to take all the sin of the world on himself. He took the punishment for your sin! (**Pour the rest of the sin container into the Jesus container. It will be clear.**)

INVITATION



Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe that Jesus took your punishment for your sin? The Bible God's word says *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but will have eternal life."* (John 3:16) If you believe that you have sinned, and you believe that Jesus is the only one that can take care of your problem of sin, then you can have eternal life. You can have a life with Jesus that starts right now and continues forever and ever. I want everyone to bow your head and close your eyes. If you have believed in Jesus for the first time today, or would like to talk to someone about believing in Jesus, please show me by raising your hand. If you raised your hand, please meet me by the back door and I will show you more from God's word. (Dismiss kids who raised their hand to meet with a counselor)

When you believe in Jesus it doesn't mean that you still won't want to sin and do things that displease God. You may still choose to sin. And when you do, you should pray and ask God to forgive you. And He will! Let's pray right now and thank God for sending Jesus so that we can have a way to go to Heaven.

Prayer: "Dear God, thank you for loving us enough to make a way to have our sins forgiven so we can someday live with you forever. Amen."



MEMORY VERSE

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

INTRODUCTION

What is the opposite of night? What is the opposite of up? What's the opposite of in? What's the opposite of love? Our verse today talks about some opposites!

PRESENTATION

Read Romans 8:38-39 from Bible. These verses are found in the book of Romans, chapter 8, verses 38-39. Is Romans in the Old Testament or New Testament? (Allow response.) It is a New Testament book written by Paul, the same man who wrote Ephesians. Even though God used Paul to write the words, they are God's words and you can know they are true. Everything in the Bible is true because the Bible is God's Word. The Bible can help you with whatever is happening in your life. God can speak to you with His words in the Bible to help you. These verses are two important ones to learn and keep in your memory always because they can help you have hope. We are going to say just the address is 3 fun ways – standing on one foot, the other foot, and no feet. Now let's read the verses together. (Read from visual with children.)

EXPLANATION

For I am sure—The writer is saying, “I am convinced!” Here’s what he’s convinced about. A lot of them are opposites. See if you can spot them.

that neither death nor life—Death is the opposite of life.

nor angels nor rulers—These two are spiritual beings that you can’t see. Angels serve God, but the rulers this verse is talking about are demons that serve God’s enemy, Satan.

nor things present nor things to come—Here’s another opposite. Paul is talking about things happening now and things that will happen in the future.

nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord—Paul listed all of these opposites to make this point—nothing is able to separate you from the love of God in Jesus!

God’s love is with you no matter what.

APPLICATION

Saved: If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, this is a wonderful promise from God for you! Nothing can keep you away from God’s love. No matter what other people think of you, no matter what might happen to you, you are surrounded by God’s love. Because of this, you can **thank God for what He has done for you**. This can give you amazing hope—a confidence in the awesome things God has promised! Say with me, **“Thank God—Jesus gives hope!”** (Say with children.)

Unsaved: This verse is talking about God’s special love for those who believe in Jesus. God loves you with a great love but if you haven’t believed in Jesus as your Savior, you do not experience God’s special love this verse is talking about because you do not have a friendship with God. But Jesus died and came alive again so you could be close to God. When you believe in Jesus, you will be a friend of God and have His special love. You will be close to God and even if you don’t always feel it, you can know nothing can separate you from Him—ever!

REPETITION

“Motions”

Pick out a few key words or phrases from the verse and make up motions for those words. You could also have the class help you make up motions. Say the verse adding one motion. Repeat adding another motion each time until you have actions for the whole verse.

MISSIONS STORY

Joni Eareckson Tada

Part 5 & 6

What is something you remember about Joni? (Allow response.) God has been using Joni to do some pretty amazing things even though she can’t use her legs or hands. God used many people to help Joni learn and grow. Not long after Joni made the movie about her life, God brought another person into her life.

One day in church, Joni’s eye caught the back of someone’s head a few rows in front of her. During the rest of the sermon, Joni prayed for him. She prayed that he would love God with all his heart. Even though she’d never met him, she prayed for his family, job, and anything difficult he might be going through.

A few weeks later a friend surprised her by introducing her to a handsome young man named Ken, and Joni couldn’t help but feel like she’d seen him somewhere before. Suddenly, it came to her. “Please turn around,” Joni said. With a grin, he turned, and Joni exclaimed, “I

know you! I prayed for the back of your head a few weeks ago during church.”

A few weeks later, Ken asked Joni on a date.

During the date they discovered that they both like a lot of the same things but more importantly, they both had a deep love for God. Soon Ken asked Joni to be his wife!

Joni said yes, and she now had a husband and a new name—Joni Eareckson Tada! On top of the normal struggles that can happen in marriage, Joni and Ken had to learn how to make their marriage work with Joni's disabilities. It wasn't always easy but they have fought hard to make it work and are still married today. Together, Joni and Ken have continued to grow closer to Jesus and to know Him better. They both know their marriage is only possible because of God's help. When it's hard, they remember that God is greater than anything and He will give them His strength.



God has worked in Joni's life in many special ways. In 1979, 12 years after her accident, Joni and a small team of volunteers met in a two-room office in California and started a new ministry. They called it Joni and Friends*. This ministry shares the Gospel with people who are affected by disabilities and helps churches and organizations be better equipped to help all types of people. Joni and Friends is now an international ministry that has many different outreaches and ministries to families all over the world!

Let's learn about some of what they do.

They have a radio program. The Joni and Friends radio program was first recorded in 1982. Joni encourages listeners, shares teaching from the Bible, and raises awareness on disabilities.

Wheels for the World is a program that provides people affected by disabilities in

developing countries with both the Gospel and wheelchairs. The first wheelchair they delivered was in Ghana, West Africa in 1994. Since then, Wheels for the World has grown to reach people with the Gospel and offer encouragement and help in their disabilities. Over 150,000 wheelchairs have been donated to people worldwide. Every person who receives a wheelchair from Joni and Friends is also trained on how to use and care for their wheelchair. What's even better, though, is that every person also receives a Bible and hears about Jesus!

Wheels for the World also helps people in prison. Wheelchair restoration shops for Wheels for the World are inside of U.S. prisons, where inmates work hard to restore donated wheelchairs to be like new. These men and women can know their work is going to something important and they can learn a skill to help them in their futures.

Joni and Friends hosts Family Retreats both in America and overseas for families who have members affected by disabilities. They offer resources to train churches and individuals how to love and care for people with disabilities. Joni and Friends also started the Christian Institute on Disability to educate people on the biblical view of life and human value. Cause 4 Life is Joni and Friends' internship program for students who want to learn how to change their communities for Jesus and advocate for people who are affected by disabilities.

Joni and Ken both work hard to do the many things God has led them to do through this ministry Joni started. They love sharing God's love with others and letting people know that God is greater than the bad things that happen in our lives. They want people to know that God loves them and uses suffering for His greater good.



Joni learned a lot about God during her hard times. She learned to look to God instead of focusing on her problems. She learned more about God's love for her and she grew in her love for God and others. When Joni prayed as a teenager for God to help her know Him more, she had no idea what God would do. When Joni was scared and hurting in the hospital after the accident, she didn't know how God would use it. When Joni struggled with depression and felt like she was useless and worthless, she didn't know that God would use her to encourage thousands of people that God is bigger and greater than any problem. God has used Joni and her story to bring many more people to Himself. God has used her to help many people who believe in Jesus better understand how they can trust God even in hard times. God has used her to show others how to love people who aren't like them. God has used Joni and the ministry she started to share the Gospel and to help with the physical needs of people all over the world.

Maybe you are going through a tough time. It might not be like Joni's accident. Maybe it's not something you can see on the outside. But you can know God can and will use even the bad things in your life for your good and His glory. Will you trust Him and look to Him when hard things happen in your life? Will you let God use those bad things in your life to share the Good News of Jesus with others around you? If you do, you can know that God will work in you. You might not always see it, but you can know it is true!

When you think about Joni's story and how God has used her, you can also remember that it is important to show love to others—no matter how different they might seem.

He doesn't think less about certain people based on the different abilities they have. If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, God wants you to show His love to others, too! In fact, the Bible tells us to be kind to one another. (Read Ephesians 4:32a.) Whether someone is similar to or different than you, you can be a friend and show them the love of God.

Joni said "I'd rather be in this wheelchair knowing God than walking without Him." Whatever hard time you are going through, you can remember that God is greater and knowing Him is better than anything else—even walking and being able to use your hands. You can use your hard time to learn more about God and His great love for you just like Joni did. Then you can tell others about how great God is.

Will you trust God no matter what? Will you show His love to others in the good times and the bad times? Remember that God has made you and He loves you. You have worth and a purpose. Let God use you and you never know what might happen.

God has used Joni to help many people. Through movies, videos, music, books, radio and TV programs, speaking opportunities, and her ministry to people and families affected by disabilities, God has used and continues to use Joni to show His love to others and tell them about Jesus. Maybe God will use you to share His love with someone too. Will you?

ACTIVITY

Trash Can Basketball Relay

Hand out a piece of paper to each child. Have them write on the paper something that worries them. Remind them that nothing can separate them from God's love. Have them scrunch up the paper into a ball. Line the kids up in two lines, each facing a trash can. The first person in the line runs shoots their paper ball into the can. As soon as they make it, they go to the back of the line and the next person shoots. The first team to finish wins!



SMALL GROUP / WONDER TIME

“A Thank You Card”

We have another card to open today. Let's guess what kind of card it might be. *(have someone open the envelope with the card with the word Toda on it.)* Do you recognize the word on it? The word is Toda (Toe-DAH). It is Hebrew and it means Thank You.

If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, you have so many things to be thankful for! One of those things is hope. When the Bible talks about hope, it doesn't mean wishful thinking like when you say, “I hope this movie will be good,” or “I hope I don't have a test at school tomorrow.” Hope in the Bible is something that you are sure about. Hope in God is knowing that when God says something is true, then it is!

Here are some things God says are for those who believe in Jesus. When you remember these and remember that God means what He says, it can help you have hope even in hard times. You can know that your hope in God is a sure thing! *(If time allows, have the verses below written on slips of paper and hand them out to different children. Have child read the verse after you say what they can have hope for.)*

- Hope for everlasting life (*John 3:16*)
- Hope for God's help (*Hebrews 13:6*)
- Hope for God's love (*Romans 8:38-39*)
- Hope for God's wisdom (*James 1:5*)

DISMISSAL

Hand out a memory verse token to each child and encourage them to memorize the verse and bring the token back completed next week. Remind kids to exercise their “Thank you muscle” this week – being thankful to God for all He has given them and promised them.

Reproducible Hope Verses:

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Hebrews 13:6 “The Lord my helper;”

Romans 8:38-39 “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”