

Hope for the Future

Dear Facilitator: For several weeks we have studied what it means to be a family and then uncovered strategies leading to healthy behaviors that reflect its values. We started in Genesis to see who we are, and now we are going back to Genesis at the end of this series to see what God’s purpose is for our families.

In each legacy lesson, we will look at the “why” first and then the “what” and “how.” If you know your purpose, or why God has put you here on this earth, then what you do and how you do it will be much easier to determine.

This week we will start with considering our hopes and dreams. It’s important to encourage everyone to set aside past experiences and just spend a few moments considering their dreams. Why should we hope and dream? What are our hopes and dreams? How do we prepare to work toward achieving them? How will this impact the legacy we leave for our families, neighborhoods, communities, and world? These are questions we will consider first before we dive into more practical aspects of planning. We will finish with a final focus on your families’ kingdom purpose.

The scripture for the lesson is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17: “May our LORD Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”

God is for us and not against, and He has given us eternal encouragement and good hope through His Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore, this message should encourage our hearts and strengthen us in what we work to accomplish and in what we share with others. Encourage your group to ask God to show them what His dreams are for them too.

continued

Notes


Participants will:

1. Explain the source of hopes and dreams.
2. Identify hopes and dreams (tangible and intangible) individually and for the family.
3. Be inspired to continue to dream.


We pray that God will give you direction and clarity as you prepare the lesson and activities. We hope that the families in your group will grow together in God's love and become a source of friendship and support for one another.

Blessings


Welcome *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Welcome back! I hope it's been a good week for all of you as you have been working diligently on many things that are positively influencing and leading your family.

Last week we spent time learning about how families are created to be a team.

 **Ask:** Did anyone try something this past week that made a positive difference in your family that you would be willing to share?

Introduction *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Today we are beginning our sessions on family legacy. We started in Genesis to see who we are, and during this series, we are going to end back in Genesis to see what God's purpose is for our families.

In each legacy lesson, we will look at the "why" first and then the "what" and "how." If you know your purpose, or why God has put you here on this earth,

then what you do and how you do it will be much easier to determine.


What about our hopes and dreams? Would understanding our hopes and dreams make a difference in our families, neighborhoods, and communities? If God has put hopes and dreams in all of our hearts, it implies that He has a purpose for our families. He will help us on our journey to discover those dreams.

Why should I have hopes and dreams? Because God has created me in His image and filled my heart with hopes and dreams to benefit others.

Today's teaching objectives are to:

1. Explain the source of hopes and dreams.
2. Identify hopes and dreams (tangible and intangible) individually and for the family.
3. Be inspired to continue to dream.

Family & Table Talk 20 minutes

 **Say:** We've written questions on the whiteboard or printed them on cards at your table for you to discuss and enjoy.


1. What is something people dream about or hope for?
2. Share something you dream about doing, being, or having. Also, share something you hope for.

After the meal, children are dismissed to their group.

As you begin this portion of the evening, explain that each time you will start with the overview and then the lesson time.

Notes

<i>40 minutes</i>	
<h1>Parent Training</h1>	
<i>Legacy</i>	HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

 **Say:** How many of you had plenty to discuss at dinner? Did you learn about any secret hopes and dreams from others in your family?

It's exciting to think that God has put these hopes and dreams in our hearts.

Tonight, we will begin with understanding “why” we should hope and dream, and then we will talk more about “what” we are hoping and dreaming for, and finally, “how” we can keep on dreaming and hoping and not give up.

Dr. King gave the “I Have a Dream” speech not the “I Have a Plan” speech. It's our dreams that change the course of history.

Dreamers are the ones who have the courage and creativity to see beyond “what is” to “what can be” to make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of others.

Our hope as followers of Jesus Christ is found in Him alone, and He gives us the power to live our lives knowing that He is

the Hope of this world and is coming back someday to make everything right.

As we live our lives, and allow God to work in us, hope shows through our actions as we dream about the future.

It says in 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, “May our LORD Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”

God is for us not against us, and He has given us eternal encouragement and good hope through His Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore, this message should encourage our hearts and strengthen us in what we work to accomplish and in what we share with others.

DISCUSS

Why has God put hopes and dreams in our hearts?

(Facilitate a short discussion around this question. If your group needs help, encourage them to think back to how God has created them. We are created in the image of God with talents, abilities, and passions to do things for God and according to His purpose. We then can make a difference in our families, neighborhoods, communities, and world. This point is very important to emphasize. If we know the “why,” we will be better prepared to think about “what” we do and “how” we do it.)

What dreams has God put in your heart?

ACTIVITY

Tangible Versus Intangible worksheet

Provide each person with a copy of the worksheet from the end of the lesson.

Explain that tangible things are those we can see or touch, while intangible things are those that describe something we do or how we are.

Ask everyone to write down a few hopes and dreams in each category.

The following questions may be helpful:

1. What do I find myself thinking about or excited about? “I can’t wait to...”
2. Are there things you would like to change?
3. What do you wish was different in your life?
4. “Next year, I hope to be...”

Please note that we will be coming back to this next week, so make a copy that you keep or collect their paper at the end of the lesson.

DISCUSS

How will you keep on dreaming even when things don't work out or you are disappointed or overwhelmed?



Scripture SUPPORT

Romans 15:13

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.

Psalms 71:5

For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.

Psalms 37:4

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11

“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.”

Psalms 91:15

He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

- Are there things that keep you from dreaming or that shut down your hopes?
- How do you overcome obstacles?
- How could you trust in God and be thankful? Does realizing God's timing is perfect help your perspective?

ACTIVITY

Neighbor Nudge

Each person should ask the other the following questions:

1. What is one of your hopes and dreams?
2. What would be an encouragement to you as you pursue your hopes and dreams this week?

After one minute, have the inner circle move to the next person to hear their answers and share their own. End the activity with prayer for the group.

SUMMARY

We covered a lot of material in the lesson.

Our objectives were to:

1. Explain the source of hopes and dreams.
2. Identify hopes and dreams (tangible and intangible) individually and for the family.
3. Be inspired to continue to dream.

As we close, let's remember that leaving a strong family legacy will change our families, neighborhoods, and communities. It all begins with hopes and dreams. Why should we have hopes and dreams? God has created us in His image and has filled our hearts with hopes and dreams to benefit others and to make a difference in our world.

Ages 4-16

40 minutes

Student Training

Legacy

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Objectives

- Help children be aware of the reasons we need hopes and dreams.
- Help children to think about their hopes and dreams.
- Help children be aware of the need for family hopes and dreams.
- Help children think about what motivates them to want to achieve.

This week we're going to spend time together talking about hopes and dreams! Did you know that the Bible tells us we need both hopes and dreams to live an enjoyable and satisfying life? The Bible says that God gives us hope. As Christians our hope is expecting God to be with us and do something good for us (Romans 15:13).

Psalm 71:5 says, "For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth." When you ask Jesus to be in your life, He gives you hope! God wants us to know that He loves us, and He is on our side. He tells us that He will give us hope and a good future. (Jeremiah 29:11). He has great plans for our lives!

Life can sometimes be difficult. As individuals and as families, we will experience failures and disappointments, but as children of God, we have been promised that God will be with us in times of trouble (Psalm 91:15). And that's why our dreams are important. Dreams are your goals and desires—the vision you have for your life. Our dreams inspire us and motivate us to keep moving forward through life's challenges. God's word tells us that to be successful, we must have a vision for our lives.

Without a vision, a person will have no focus and will not be able to achieve his or her dreams. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no revelation [vision], people

cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction."

God created each one of us with a very specific purpose in mind, and He puts the dreams in our hearts that will lead us through the experiences we must go through to achieve these dreams. As years go by and we learn and grow in our homes and schools and through various life lessons and experiences, we begin to discover what our gift areas may be. This causes us to start thinking about our lives and what kind of work we may want to do in the future. Year by year, we begin to create a vision for our lives and start setting goals to make our dreams become a reality.

Maybe you want to be a doctor, a teacher, a singer, a minister, or an airplane pilot. God knows the world will need people to fill these job positions, and He has a specific job in mind for you! God placed a gift in each person who is born, and He downloads the dreams into your heart to accomplish the purpose He has for your life. With God's help, when you are focused, you will achieve your dreams.

Just like God has a purpose for each one of us, He also has a purpose for each family. For this reason, God puts hopes and dreams in the hearts of parents for their families. Maybe they have a dream for their children to love and serve God or for their children to receive a college education. Maybe they have a dream of starting a family business or building a new home. Perhaps they feel God is leading their family to serve as missionaries. And just like with individuals, when parents pray together and invite God to be involved in their family, God will be with them and show them His purpose. As God guides them, He will help their dream become a reality.

Although God wants us to have hopes and dreams, He also wants us to be sure that our dreams are a part of His plan for our life. The Bible says, "Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). Our dreams are the desires of our heart. Because God is the one who

puts the dreams in your heart, He will help make your dreams come true.

In order for us to see our dreams come true, we need to do our very best in everything we do as individuals and as families. By trusting that God will help us, we will achieve our dreams. God also tells us that when we put our trust in Him, we are able to do far more than we could ever ask or dream (Ephesians 3:20). Hope changes everything!

DISCUSS

- Lead children in a discussion about their hopes and dreams.
- Lead children in a discussion about why we need to have hopes and dreams.
- Lead children in a discussion about why it's important to have a vision for our lives.
- Lead children in a discussion about why families need to have hopes and dreams.
- Ask children to tell about some of their unique gifts.
- Ask children to share their hopes and dreams for their future.

Notes



Activities

Activities are age appropriate. One is focused on ages 4-11, and the second is for older children ages 12-16.

AGES 4-11

Materials

Cloud handout

Pencils, markers, and crayons

Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/rqCplr1c72w>

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

- Then have children write some dream words for their family in the center of the cloud to help them think about their parents' vision for their family. Give children a chance to share some of the words they chose and why. (See cloud Handout.)
- Children that cannot write are encouraged to draw a picture of what they want to be.

AGES 12-16

Materials

Paper

Pencils, markers, and crayons

Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/WnYuA8cmtt8>

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

- Have children write down three things they have always wanted to do, but never acted on.
- Now write down three steps they can take to begin to make them happen.



CHALLENGE QUESTION

AM I SPENDING ENOUGH TIME TALKING TO GOD
ABOUT MY HOPES AND DREAMS?

CHALLENGE COMMITMENT

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO
TO WORK ON THE CHALLENGE
QUESTION THIS WEEK?

	AFFIRMATION <i>Have children repeat:</i>
	<i>God has great plans for my life!</i>

Cloud Handout

