

April 10th

Bible Passage:

**From Matthew 26:17–30; Mark 14:12–25; Luke 22:7–20; John 13
(The Last Supper)**

Jesus Is Hope

Schedule

1. Optional Activity
2. Gather: Big God Story
3. Respond: Worship Response, questions
4. Bless: Speaking God's Truth over your child
5. Optional Worship music

Supplies

- Paper
- Markers
- Tape or glue
- Sequins, stickers, and other decorating materials you have on hand
- Bible

//Optional Activity//

Parents, this is a way to introduce the lesson and get your kids to thinking about the last meal he shared with his disciples.

A place at the Table

In The Big God Story, children will hear about the details of the last meal Jesus ate with His disciples. This meal was to celebrate Passover and was typically shared with family. Help children in their preparations for a special meal.

SUPPLIES

- Paper (construction, craft or any paper you have)
- Stickers, sequins, and other decorating materials you may have)
- Markers or crayons
- Tape or glue

SET UP

Place all materials on a table.

RELATE

Gather around the table. **Sometimes as a family we gather for a special meal to celebrate holidays or other special days. When do we have special meals?** Invite responses. **When we gather together as a family for a special meal, there are many things you do to get ready. One of the things you do is to prepare the table. Today we're going to make special place mats.**

Help children collect the items they'll need to decorate their mats. Encourage your children to decorate a special placemat and help them to begin.

//Storytime//

Hey parents! We will start with learning our Remember Verse. Write the Remember Verse (listed below) on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in your house near where you will be telling the story. Grab an empty box with a lid near where you will tell the story. This will be used to help tell the story 😊

Mail Time

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse written on a piece of paper
- Bibles (your personal and children's)

RELATE

Hide the Remember Verse somewhere in your house, perhaps near where you will tell the story. Choose one child to “seek” the Remember Verse. Give clues to its whereabouts by calling out “hot” and “cold.”

Once the verse is found, find the Remember Verse in Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with the children.

Lead the children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory.

REMEMBER VERSE

The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.

Zephaniah 3:17a

REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

Mighty Warrior: A name for God that means He is powerful in battle.

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

The LORD your God: Make “L” with right index finger and thumb. Move the “L” from right shoulder to left hip.

is with you: Put both hands in front of body and pull close to chest.

the Mighty Warrior: Make fists and flex to show muscles.

who saves: Make fists and fold arms across chest, then open arms.

Wardrobe of Wonder (Where a secret item is hidden that connects to the Big God Story. Use a box, a cabinet or whatever you have)

SUPPLIES

- What’s It: Table Setting (grab a plate, cup, and silverware from the kitchen)
- Covered place to hide secret item

What’s It: Table Setting

Jesus wanted His disciples to remember His love. To demonstrate this, He shared a special meal with them. He told them His plan to die for their sins and the sins of all mankind.

RELATE

Invite your child volunteer to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking into the “wardrobe.” Have him whisper the identity of the What’s It in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What’s It. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and bring it to you.

encourage him to sit with his small group.

ASK

What did you find in the wardrobe? Children will answer; interact with their responses. **That's right! We use these things to set the table to get ready for dinner. I wonder how all these things are used in The Big God Story. Well, let's find out because it's time for ...**

The Big God Story

This is the "meat" of the lesson where we open up the Bible to see how God moved in people's lives.

From Matthew 26:17–30; Mark 14:12–25; Luke 22:7–20; John 13
Jesus Is Hope

SUPPLIES

- Props: plate of crackers, cup of grape juice (or whatever juice you might have on hand)

SET UP

Set the crackers and grape juice on a table near you.

RELATE

Hello, I'm happy we get to hear a story together again! Before we go any further, let's take just a moment to pray and ask God to teach us. Lead the children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Do you guys remember what was in our Wardrobe today? Let children answer. **What do we do with all these things?** Children respond. **Good thinking. This reminds me of a very special dinner Jesus had with His friends. This special celebration dinner was called Passover. The feast of Passover was a time when God's people would remember and celebrate how God saved them in Egypt.**

As much as Passover was about remembering and celebrating, it was also about hoping for the promised Savior! What does it mean to hope? Hope means to wait for the good things our God promised us. In the very beginning, God made a promise to Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior, and after that, God's people began to wait and hope. The good news is that Jesus is that hope. Jesus is what the whole world has waited for; He is the promised Savior God sent. Let's practice a cheer to celebrate that Jesus is hope! Designate a side "A" and a side "B" among your family. Explain that when you point to side "A" they should shout "Jesus is," and when you point to side "B" they should shout "hope." You'll lead this cheer several times during Storytelling. Practice the call and response a few times. **Great job! We'll celebrate that Jesus is hope several more times during this story.**

So, Jesus knew it would be the last meal He would share with His disciples before He died. When it was time for the Passover dinner, Jesus gave thanks to God and gave bread to His disciples to eat. Break the crackers and

hold them up for children to see. **As they ate together, Jesus told them about what was going to happen in the coming days and what they were to do after He was gone.** Hold up a cup of juice. **Then, Jesus took a cup and told them to drink from it. As they did, Jesus told them to always remember Him, His death, and His great love. His love is so great that He was willing to die for the sins of the disciples, and all people—including you and me.**

The disciples didn't understand everything that Jesus was telling them that night. They didn't understand what it meant for Jesus to be the promised Savior. With the Passover feast, they were remembering the time when God saved His people in Egypt, but they were also celebrating that Jesus, the Lamb of God, the hope of the world, had come! He was right there. Jesus is hope! Let's celebrate with our cheer. Lead your children in shouting the cheer several times.

Jesus knew the disciples would be sad when He died, but He wanted them to remember the dinner they were having together and everything they talked about. He wanted them to be strong and brave and have hope, because He was going to come to life again! When Jesus came back to life, He showed the world His power—God's power. He is the promised Savior, the hope of the world. Let's celebrate with our cheer again. Lead children in shouting the call and response several times.

Just like Jesus loved His disciples and wanted them to put their hope in Him, Jesus also loves us and wants us to trust and hope in Him too. The greatest way He showed us His love was when He died for us! What are some ways we know Jesus' love for us? Interact with children's responses. Possible answers: He died for us; He is always with us; He helps us know the very best way to live. **When we say these things, we're remembering His love and remembering that we can put our hope in Him! Let's celebrate with our cheer.** Lead children in shouting the cheer several times.

Now, since we have God's love, what do we do with all that love? Encourage responses. **Do we keep it to ourselves?** Kids answer. **No. We don't keep it to ourselves. Instead, we can give it away to others. Jesus is the hope of the world. He is the promised Savior whom we can tell others about. Jesus always wanted His disciples to tell everyone how much God loves them and to show people God's love with their actions. When we do this, we're sharing His hope with the world. Jesus is hope.** Lead cheer for family one more time.

Worship as Response

After Jesus and His disciples finished what we've come to call the Last Supper, they sang a hymn together. Let's respond to Jesus and His love for us by doing the same. Let's sing some songs of praise together to celebrate how much Jesus loves us and that He is our hope.

Lead children into worship as they respond to Jesus and His love in song.
Worship Song #1: God, You're Big ([click here](#))
Worship Song #2: Jesus Saves ([click here](#))

//Questions to go Deeper//

RELATE

Jesus knew the Passover Feast would be His last meal with His disciples. He wanted them to know and always remember how much He loved them and that they could put their hope in Him. Jesus also wants us to know that He is our hope. We can always trust Him as we wait for the good things He promised.

I wonder ... What does it feel like to hope for something?

I wonder ... What are some good things God has promised to me?

I wonder ... How can I share the hope of Jesus with others?

//BLESS//

This is where YOU get to speak God's word over your child. It's powerful! Even if it feels awkward at first, give it a shot. You won't regret speaking TRUTH over your child.

RELATE

time of blessing is an opportunity for children to practice another physical posture of worship. Ask children to begin by squatting down and touching the ground. Explain that when you say the words "filled up," they should jump up, as high as they can.

May you be filled up with love! Children jump up from their squatting positions.

May you be filled up with hope! Children jump up from their squatting positions.

Repeat this sequence several times, and then ask them to take a seat.

As you speak the final blessing over them, invite children to place their hands out in front of themselves, palms up as if cupping them together to hold water. This is a posture that demonstrates our willingness to receive what God has for each of us.

Children, may you be filled up with Jesus' love and filled up with Jesus' hope.

//Worship Songs//

To find our weekend songs [CLICK HERE](#)