

A Living Hope

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Praise to God for a living hope; 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3

Memory Verse: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. - 1 Peter 1:3

The Children's Sermon

Hello, dear friends! Today, I want to share a very special story with you. It's about Jesus and how He came back to life after three days. This story is full of something called Resurrection Hope. Let's find out what that means together.

A long time ago, Jesus, who is God's Son, did something amazing. He came to Earth to be with us and teach us how to love each other. But the most amazing thing He did was to come back to life after He had died. This is what we call the resurrection. Because of Jesus, we have Resurrection Hope, which means we can always have hope, no matter what.

Resurrection Hope is like a little light inside your heart that never goes out, even when things are scary or sad. It's knowing that Jesus loves us so much, He made a way for us to be with Him forever. That's a really big deal!

Now, you might wonder, how did Jesus come back to life? Well, after Jesus died, His friends put Him in a tomb, which is like a big cave with a huge stone in front. But three

days later, something incredible happened. God's power brought Jesus back to life! The big stone rolled away, and the tomb was empty. Jesus was alive again!

When Jesus' friends found out, they were so happy and surprised! They saw Jesus, talked to Him, and even ate with Him. It showed them that with Jesus, anything is possible. That's Resurrection Hope - believing in the impossible because of Jesus.

But Resurrection Hope isn't just about Jesus coming back to life. It's also about the little ways we see hope every day. Like when you're sad and a friend makes you laugh, or when you see a flower growing in a place where you didn't expect it. Those moments remind us that good things can happen, even when it's hard to believe.

Resurrection Hope is also about helping others feel hopeful. When we are kind, share, and help our friends, we spread Resurrection Hope. It's like being little lights that shine bright, just like Jesus wants us to be.

You know, sometimes things can feel really tough, like when we miss someone we love, or when we're scared. But Resurrection Hope tells us that it's not the end of the story. Just like Jesus came back to life, there are always new beginnings and happy surprises waiting for us.

And here's the best part: Resurrection Hope is for everyone. It doesn't matter who you are, where you come from, or what you've done. Jesus loves all of us so much, and He wants us to share this hope with everyone we meet.

So, my dear friends, let's remember the story of Jesus and how He gives us Resurrection Hope. Let's be little lights of hope in the world, sharing love and kindness

wherever we go. And always remember, no matter what happens, we have a friend in Jesus who brings us hope and joy.

Bible Memory Verse

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. - 1 Peter 1:3

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large egg shapes, one for each child.
- Write the memory verse on a separate piece of paper to display in the classroom.

Do This:

1. Give each child a paper egg and ask them to decorate it with markers or crayons, drawing symbols of hope and new life (e.g., flowers, butterflies, sunshine).
2. While they work, discuss what 'living hope' means and how Jesus' resurrection gives us hope. Use simple terms, like 'Because Jesus is alive, we can have hope and be happy about the good things to come!'
3. Once they finish decorating, help them write the memory verse on the back of their egg. Encourage them to hang their egg at home as a reminder of the hope we have because of Jesus.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Colorful construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors (child-safe)
- Glue sticks
- Popsicle sticks
- Template of a large flower and individual petals (provided by the teacher)
- A printed or written copy of 1 Peter 1:3

Get Ready:

1. Cut out the flower and petal shapes from the construction paper using the templates. Ensure there's a large flower shape for each child and several petals.
2. Write or print the verse 1 Peter 1:3 in a simplified version suitable for second graders on the large flower shape. For example, "God has given us new birth into a living hope through Jesus Christ's resurrection."
3. Set up a crafting area where each child has access to markers/crayons, glue, scissors, and the prepared materials.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining the theme: "Today, we're talking about how God gives us hope because Jesus is alive! This hope is like a beautiful flower that keeps growing." Show them the verse on the large flower.
2. Ask the children to decorate their petals with drawings or words that represent things they are hopeful for or thankful to God for. Guide them to think about blessings, family, friends, nature, etc.

3. Once they have finished decorating, have them glue their petals around the edge of the large flower, creating a colorful and hopeful display. As they work, encourage them to share what they've drawn or written and why it gives them hope.

4. Finally, attach a popsicle stick to the back of the flower to create a "Hope Flower." Conclude by gathering the flowers together in a vase or on a bulletin board as a garden of hope, reminding the children that just like these flowers, our hope in God grows and brings beauty to our lives and the world.

Snack Activity: Easter Hope Gardens

You'll Need:

- Chocolate pudding cups
- Oreo cookies (crushed)
- Gummy worms
- Small paper umbrellas (or paper leaves cutouts)
- Plastic spoons

Get Ready: Crush the Oreo cookies into small pieces to make 'soil'. This can be done by placing the cookies in a ziplock bag and rolling over them with a rolling pin.

Do this:

1. Open the chocolate pudding cups - these are your 'garden beds'. The pudding is like the mud in which our hope grows, reminding us that even when things seem messy, beautiful things can grow.
2. Sprinkle the crushed Oreo 'soil' on top of the pudding. This represents the earth. Just as plants need soil to grow, our hope grows from our faith in God.

3. Place a gummy worm or two on the soil. Worms help gardens by making the soil fertile. They remind us that God works in ways we might not always see to make our hope grow.

4. Lastly, add a small paper umbrella or a paper leaf cutout to your garden. This represents the shelter and protection God gives our hope, just like a tree provides shade or protection for plants. It's also a symbol of the new life and resurrection we celebrate on Easter.

As you eat your Easter Hope Garden, remember that just like gardens, our hope in God can grow and flourish, even from the messiest parts of life.

Game Activity: Hopeful Hops

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A wide, open space like a driveway or a sidewalk
- Small stones or beanbags

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground. Instead of numbers, write the words 'Praise', 'God', 'For', 'A', 'Living', 'Hope' in the squares, leaving the last square blank for the moment.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that each word represents a part of 1 Peter 1:3, which talks about praising God for giving us a living hope through Jesus. Before starting the game, discuss what 'living hope' means - that Jesus is alive and because of Him, we can have hope every day.

2. Players take turns tossing their stone or beanbag onto the hopscotch grid. They must skip the square their stone lands on and hop through the rest, praising God for the living hope we have in Jesus as they go. For example, if the stone lands on 'Living', they skip 'Living' and hop on the others while saying, 'Thank you, God, for giving us a living hope through Jesus.'

3. When a player reaches the end of the hopscotch, they shout 'Hallelujah!' and turn around to hop back. On their return, they pick up their stone or beanbag without losing balance. The last square, which was initially left blank, is where they can write their name with chalk as a symbol of their personal praise to God for the living hope. The game continues until all players have had their turn.

Craft Activity: Hopeful Butterflies

You'll Need:

- Coffee filters
- Washable markers
- A spray bottle with water
- Pipe cleaners
- A printout of 1 Peter 1:3

Get Ready: Flatten out the coffee filters on a table and fill the spray bottle with water.

Do this:

1. Have the children color the coffee filters with washable markers. They can use lots of colors to make it bright and beautiful, just like the hope we have in Jesus!
2. Once they are done coloring, lightly spray the coffee filters with water. Watch as the colors blend together, creating a new and beautiful design. Explain that sometimes life

can be a bit like the water mixing the colors - unexpected but turning into something beautiful because of the hope we have in Jesus.

3. While the coffee filters are drying, read 1 Peter 1:3 together and talk about what it means to have a 'living hope'.

4. Once the coffee filters are dry, gather them in the middle and twist a pipe cleaner around to form the butterfly's body and antennae. Attach the printout of 1 Peter 1:3 to one of the pipe cleaners.

5. Encourage the children to hang their Hopeful Butterflies somewhere they can see every day as a reminder of the living hope we have in Jesus, especially during the Easter season.

Prayer Activity: Hopeful Hearts Prayer Garden

You'll Need:

- Colorful construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Cut out several flower shapes from the colorful construction paper. Each child will need one flower.

Do this:

1. Read 1 Peter 1:3 together: 'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.' Discuss what it means to have a 'living hope' because of Jesus.

2. Ask the children to think about something they hope for that is good and brings joy, and how they can praise God for giving them hope. Have them draw or write their hope on the flower they were given.

3. Create a 'Prayer Garden' on a wall or bulletin board. Have each child come up and tape their flower to the garden area. Lead the children in a prayer, thanking God for the living hope we have through Jesus, and for the specific hopes they've written on their flowers.