

A Living Hope

UPPER 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:

- Construction paper in various colors
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers related to hope and new life (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into strips before the class.
- Write the memory verse on a whiteboard or large piece of paper where all the children can see it.

Do This:

1. Have each child choose their favorite color of construction paper strip. Explain that this strip represents their life.
2. Ask the children to decorate their strip with markers, crayons, and stickers that remind them of hope, new life, or things they are thankful for. While they work, discuss what the verse means and how Jesus gives us hope and a new life.

3. Once everyone has finished decorating, help the children form a circle. Glue the ends of each strip together to create a chain, linking all the strips. Hang the chain in the classroom as a reminder of the living hope we have in Jesus and how we are all connected in God's family.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or colored pencils
- Sticky notes
- Bible or printed copies of 1 Peter 1:3

Get Ready:

- Write "Praise to God for a Living Hope" at the top of the poster board.
- Divide the poster board into three sections: "Praise to God", "Living Hope", and "Our Response".
- Place the poster board where all children can see and reach it.

Do this:

1. Start by reading 1 Peter 1:3 together. Discuss what "living hope" means and why we should praise God for it.
2. In the "Praise to God" section, ask the children to write or draw on sticky notes things they are thankful to God for, focusing on the hope and new life we have in Jesus. They should then stick their notes on the poster board.
3. In the "Living Hope" section, encourage the children to draw or write about how knowing Jesus gives them hope. They can illustrate personal experiences or general blessings of hope, such as peace, love, or forgiveness.

4. For the "Our Response" section, have each child think of one way they can show their gratitude for God's gift of living hope this week. They should write or draw this on a sticky note and add it to the section. This could be helping someone, sharing a Bible verse with a friend, or spending extra time in prayer.
5. Conclude with a group prayer, thanking God for the living hope we have through Jesus Christ and asking for help to live out the responses they've committed to on the poster board.

Snack Activity: Living Hope Seedlings

You'll Need:

- Chocolate pudding cups
- Oreo cookies (crushed)
- Gummy worms
- Mint leaves (to represent 'living' hope)
- Plastic spoons
- Small clear cups

Get Ready: Gather all your materials on a clean table. Make sure each child has their own set of materials to work with.

Do this:

1. Open the chocolate pudding cups and pour the pudding into the clear cups. This represents the 'dirt' where our hope grows.
2. Crush the Oreo cookies into small pieces and sprinkle them on top of the pudding. This adds another layer of 'soil'.
3. Place a few gummy worms into the cup, pushing some down into the 'soil' to show that just like worms help plants grow, our challenges help our hope grow.

4. Finally, insert a mint leaf into the center of the cup. This represents the 'living hope' we have through Jesus Christ, as mentioned in 1 Peter 1:3. The mint is fresh and alive, symbolizing our vibrant hope in Christ.

5. As they enjoy their snack, encourage the children to discuss what 'living hope' means to them and how they can keep their hope alive in their daily lives.

Game Activity: Hopeful Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A printed or written copy of 1 Peter 1:3

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a traditional hopscotch grid on a flat area of pavement. Instead of numbering the squares 1-10, label each square with a word from 1 Peter 1:3, breaking the verse into ten parts. For example, the first square could say 'Praise', the second 'to God', and so on, until the verse is fully laid out in the hopscotch grid.

Do this:

1. Have the children line up behind the starting line. The first player tosses their stone or beanbag onto the first square.
2. The player then hops through the grid, skipping the square with their stone or beanbag, reciting the words from the squares as they go. If a player misses a square, steps on a line, or loses balance, they start over.
3. After reaching the end, the player turns around, retrieves their stone or beanbag on the way back, and completes the verse. Then, it's the next player's turn.

4. The game continues until all players have successfully completed the course. After everyone has had a turn, gather the children and discuss the meaning of 1 Peter 1:3, focusing on the living hope we have in Jesus Christ. Encourage them to share what this hope means to them and how they can share this hope with others.

Craft Activity: Living Hope Lanterns

You'll Need:

- Clear glass jars (one per child)
- Tissue paper (various colors)
- Mod Podge or white glue
- Paintbrushes
- Battery-operated tea lights
- Permanent markers
- Printed copies of 1 Peter 1:3

Get Ready: Cut the tissue paper into small squares or shapes. Print out the verse 1 Peter 1:3 on paper that can be cut out and glued onto the jars.

Do this:

1. Have each child read 1 Peter 1:3 aloud. Discuss what it means to have a 'living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.'
2. Use the paint brushes to apply a thin layer of Mod Podge or white glue around the outside of the glass jar. Stick the tissue paper pieces onto the jar, overlapping them slightly to create a stained glass effect. While the jars are drying, talk about how our hope in Jesus colors our world and brings light into darkness.
3. Once the jars are dry, glue the printed verse onto the jar. Then, have the children write their names and date on the bottom of the jar with permanent markers. Place a

battery-operated tea light inside each jar. Turn off the lights and let the children see how their 'Living Hope Lanterns' light up the room. Discuss how we can be lights in the world, showing others the hope we have in Jesus.

Prayer Activity: Praise Pebbles

You'll Need:

- A collection of small, smooth pebbles (one for each child plus a few extras)
- Permanent markers in various colors
- A large clear vase filled with water

Get Ready: Gather all materials and set up a table where children can comfortably sit and work on their pebbles. Fill the vase with water and place it in the center of the table where everyone can see it.

Do this:

1. Begin with a brief discussion on 1 Peter 1:3, focusing on the theme of 'a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.' Ask the children what hope means to them and how knowing Jesus gives us hope.
2. Give each child a pebble and a selection of permanent markers. Instruct them to think of a word or short phrase that represents the hope they have because of Jesus. They will then write this word or phrase on their pebble.
3. Once everyone has finished decorating their pebbles, gather the children around the vase of water. Explain that the vase represents their lives and the water inside it represents the hope that Jesus brings. One by one, have the children come forward and drop their 'praise pebbles' into the vase. As they do, encourage them to say a short prayer of praise or thanks to God for the hope He gives us through Jesus.

4. Conclude the activity with a group prayer, thanking God for the living hope we have in Jesus and asking Him to help us share this hope with others.