



Hope

Aim: To encourage everyone to know that God promises to give hope when we face challenges

Gathering:

Light candle – Christ the Light of the world is here/*Lord Jesus shine upon us*

Ask: I wonder what am I hoping for?

Suggest 3 appropriate things at time for you *e.g. wedding? New baby.... That the weather will be nice today...*

Engaging:

What are you hoping for? Invite suggestions from children and staff

1. It is strange what people hope for sometimes – not the things that we might hope for!
2. In some countries people hope for peace more than anything else. Might seem strange to us, but some people live in places where there is war and fighting and what they hope for is that war and fighting will stop.
3. In a country called Sudan – people decided to make a cross to show that they hoped for peace. Took 2 pieces of dark wood and fastened them together to make a cross.

Decorated the cross, not with pretty things, but with the bullets and bits of metal on the ground that soldiers had used to fight each other with.

When they held special celebrations they held up the cross – a way of showing they want peace from the rubbish of war.

4. Ask everyone to make fingers into a cross. Hold it up – really high. Christians believe that even though sometimes things are difficult, sometimes we don't always get what we want, God gives us hope and he promises to always be with us, to help us get over the things that frighten us - & he can do that for us every day.
5. Reveal letters: HOPE in turn – this is what hope can mean for us -
He will always be with us
Overcoming our fears
Planting his love in us
Every day, in every way
6. God makes so many promises to us that help us to remember he loves us and cares about us. You might want to remind everyone what some of those promises are.

Responding

Prayer/Reflection

Allow time following each question for everyone to respond in quiet

Ask:

I wonder what you are worried about?

I wonder what you are frightened of?

I wonder what you are hoping for?

I wonder how our hopeful God can help you?

Sending

Make the cross sign with your fingers and listen to these words from the Bible

Hold on to the hope God has given you, because we can trust God to keep his promise.

Say after me:

God of love/ Watch over us/ all the days of our life. Amen

Resources needed:

- Rough wooden cross
- Letters for word Hope
- Candle etc for opening worship
- Picture of the cross made from bullets if you can find it

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