

Teachers Dig In**Dig In to the Bible**

- Read: John 14:1-14
- In This Passage: Jesus is getting ready to leave his disciples, but he promises he's preparing a place for them in heaven and that they know the way there. When Thomas is confused, Jesus says *he* is the way. Jesus' message is full of hope and comfort.
- Bible Point: Jesus brings hope...
- Application: ...so we're hopeful.
- Summary Verse: "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus brings hope*. Kids these days are facing *big* challenges and worries. There's so much pressure and stress on them that hope might feel like a pipe dream. Help them see that because of their faith in Jesus, they can have hope that one day they'll be with Jesus in the special place he's preparing for them. No matter how hopeless life seems, Jesus brings hope.
- Think About: What makes you feel hopeless? Ask Jesus to bring hope.

Dig In to Prayer

- Think of specific issues you know kids in your group are facing, and pray for Jesus' hope to rise up in these situations.

Quick Tip

- Jesus let his disciples know what was coming next. Follow his lead! For example, you could say something like "After you finish your craft, we'll play a fun game!" Doing this will help kids enjoy what they're currently doing while looking forward to what's next.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids design a room, follow a path, and bat a balloon.

Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- markers
- painter's tape
- "The Way Grid" handout (1 per child, plus 1 for you) (download [here](#))
- pencils
- uninflated balloon

Easy Prep

- For every 5 kids, tape a 4x4-foot grid of squares on the floor. Each square in the grid should measure about 1 foot.
- On 1 of the handouts, draw a path such as this across the grid:



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids share stories and pray.

Supplies

- index cards
- pens



OBJECT LESSON

Kids blow milk bubbles.

Supplies

- 3-ounce cups (1 per child)
- straws (1 per child)
- chocolate milk

Easy Prep

- Fill cups about half full of milk, and put a straw in each cup.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids fan bubbles.

Supplies

- bubble solution for bubble machines
- 2 bubble machines (or a few if you have a large group)
- dessert-size paper plates (1 per child)
- extension cords (if needed)
- bottles of bubbles with wands (optional)
- painter's tape (if needed)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Set up the bubble machines across from each other and roughly 10 to 15 feet apart so they'll blow a lot of bubbles into a concentrated area.
- If you need to use extension cords to bring the bubble machines closer together in a large room, be sure to tape the cords to the floor so preschoolers don't trip over them.
- Fill machines with bubble solution and plug them in.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids race to fill trash bags with balloons.

Supplies

- white trash bags (1 for every 5 kids)
- permanent marker
- balloons (3 per person)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Use the marker to draw a large, simple smiley face on each trash bag.
- Inflate the balloons.



CRAFT

Kids make roads for toy cars.

Supplies

- “Hope Road” handout (2 per child) (download [here](#))
- crayons
- smiley face stickers (1 per child)
- toy cars
- envelopes (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the cards on the “Hope Road” handout, making 1 set of 20 cards per child.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

- “Hope” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids thumb wrestle with a friend.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids sing “Happy Birthday” with their lips tucked over their teeth.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll learn that Jesus brings hope. That means we can believe Jesus will take care of us and give us every good thing we need. Jesus is even getting a special place ready for us called heaven, where we’ll see him and friends and family, too. Let’s start today by talking about people we hope to see this week.**

Share

- Share about someone *you* hope to see this week or someone you’re looking forward to seeing.
- In small groups, have kids share about someone *they* hope to see this week. They might share about a friend or neighbor or a relative.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Thanks for sharing your hopes with me. Today we’ll find out that Jesus brings us hope, and that means we can trust him to take care of us and amaze us with the wonderful things he has planned for us. Jesus has wonderful things planned for us today, tomorrow, and forever!**

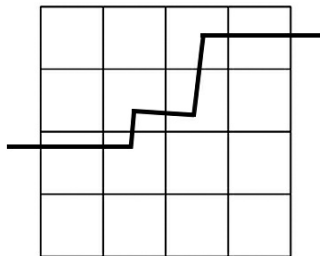
Pray, thanking Jesus for bringing hope.

**Supplies**

- Bible
- paper
- markers
- painter's tape
- "The Way Grid" handout (1 per child, plus 1 for you) (download [here](#))
- pencils
- uninflated balloon

Easy Prep

- For every 5 kids, tape a 4x4-foot grid of squares on the floor. Each square in the grid should measure about 1 foot.
- On 1 of the handouts, draw a path such as this across the grid:

**Design Rooms**

Ask: • **Tell about a time a friend moved away or you moved away from your friends.** Share your own story first. Then have kids share with a few others around them.

- **How did you feel when you and your friends were separated?**

Say: **Today's Bible story takes place just before Jesus was about to die on the cross. He'd spent about three years with his friends, the disciples, and he knew he was about to leave them. That could have felt like a hopeless time to the disciples—they'd left everything to follow him! What would they do without him?**

But Jesus didn't want to leave them without hope, because Jesus brings hope. So he said a bunch of things that would help bring them hope. What he told them can bring *us* hope, too! Let's hear what he said.

Read John 14:1-3.

Distribute paper and markers. Then say: **Imagine Jesus is preparing a place for *you*. Imagine the best room, designed to be perfect for you. Draw that on your paper.**

Allow time. Have kids share about their drawings and then tape the papers adjacent to each other on the wall to design a house of all their rooms.

Say: **When Jesus said there's plenty of room in his Father's house, he was saying there's plenty of room in heaven. There's room for all of us there, and Jesus is preparing that place just for us. It'll be better than we can imagine! That brings so much hope!**

Find the Way

Give each child a "The Way Grid" handout and a pencil. Show kids the matching grid on the floor. Have a child stand at one end of the grid.

Hold up your example grid with a path drawn on it. Explain that there is one right way to get through the grid, and your handout is like a map. Have the child demonstrate how to follow the map to get through the grid.

Say: **Now you're each going to make a map. Yours won't match mine...you'll each make your own map. Then we'll take turns going through the grid and trying to get through the right way.**

Allow about a minute for kids to make their maps. Then have kids split into groups of five, and have

each group choose a grid. Kids in each group will take turns being the Traveler, who will listen for instructions to go through the grid. Have the Traveler close his or her eyes while you silently choose another child to be the Instructor. Then have the Traveler open his or her eyes and listen for instructions to get through the grid. Everyone will be giving instructions at once based on their own maps, and the Traveler will have to determine who the correct Instructor is and follow that way. You can chime in and tell the Traveler when he or she is wrong, based on what the Instructor says.

After everyone has had a turn, lead kids in this discussion.

Ask: • **How did you feel as you tried to figure out the way through the grid?**

Say: **In our story, one of the disciples, named Thomas, felt confused about the way to the place Jesus was preparing.**

Read John 14:4-7.

Ask: • **What does it mean that Jesus is the way?**

Say: **In our game, a lot of people told you different ways to go, but only one Instructor had the true way. But unlike in our game, our true Instructor, Jesus, doesn't change for each person. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life for everyone! The way to heaven is by loving and following him. That's a really amazing message of hope. We don't have to work really hard or live a perfect life to get to heaven. If we did, no one would get there! But Jesus brings hope because *he* made a way for us to get to heaven when he died on the cross for us.**

And that hope isn't just for heaven. Loving and following Jesus gives us a more hopeful life here on earth! When we believe in Jesus, we can find hope even in the hopeless times. Jesus even left us the Holy Spirit, so we know God is with us right now.

Bat a Balloon

Say: **You've probably played the game where you bat a balloon around and try to keep it in the air. But have you ever played it with a deflated balloon?** Hold up the balloon.

Say: **Deflated balloons can remind us of hopelessness. As we bat this balloon around, whenever you touch it, think of something in your life that feels hopeless. If you're comfortable, say that thing aloud. For example, maybe you just lost a friend or you don't feel you're good at something you wish you were good at. Maybe your parents keep fighting or the things you hear about in the news make you feel hopeless.**

Allow a minute for kids to bat the balloon around.

Say: **Jesus brings hope, so we're hopeful. He fills us with his hope for now and for the future!** Inflate the balloon. Then have kids bat it around, cheering. After a minute, set the balloon aside.

Ask: • **Describe how it felt playing with a deflated balloon.**

• **How does an inflated balloon remind you of Jesus' hope?**

Say: **When things feel hopeless, turn to Jesus for hope. He's happy to give us hope for today, plus a hope of eternal life in heaven! Jesus brings hope!**



Supplies

- index cards
- pens

Tip

- If you have a larger group, this prayer could take a while. Consider breaking into smaller groups based on how many adult or teen helpers you have and assigning a leader to each group.

Share Stories and Pray

Say: **Jesus brings hope, so we're hopeful even when life feels hopeless. We're going to share things that make us feel hopeless, and then I'll pray for you.**

- Distribute index cards.
- Have each child write a word or draw a picture on his or her index card that signifies a part of life that feels hopeless. It might be school, family, friends, or something else.
- After kids write and draw, invite each child to hold up his or her index card one at a time.
- Kids who want to share more about what they wrote can explain what feels hopeless.
- After each child shares or holds up a card, pray for Jesus' hope to fill that child's life.

Wrap Up

Pray: **Jesus, thank you for bringing us hope! Help us feel hopeful no matter what happens. In your name, amen.**

Collect kids' cards so you can pray for their requests during the week.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



OBJECT LESSON

Bubbling Up With Hope!

[10 min]

Supplies

- 3-ounce cups (1 per child)
- straws (1 per child)
- chocolate milk

Easy Prep

- Fill cups about half full of milk, and put a straw in each cup.

Tip

- Provide a milk alternative for kids with dairy allergies. Almond milk works well, too.

Blow Milk Bubbles

Say: **Jesus fills us up with hope! We can be so excited for the great things Jesus has planned for us, it's like we're bubbling up with hope. That makes me think of a glass of chocolate milk that's filling up with bubbles. Let's see if we can blow bubbles to make our cups bubble up with hope, too.**

- Give each child a cup of chocolate milk.
- Have kids blow into the straws to create bubbles in the chocolate milk.
- Have kids stop blowing bubbles and wait for you to shout out a hope that you have for them. For example, say, “**I hope you know Jesus!**” and then have kids blow bubbles for about 10 more seconds. Then say, “**I hope you're a good friend!**” and then have kids blow even more bubbles. Continue to affirm and speak hope over the kids until cups are overflowing with bubbles.

Talk About It

Say: **My hopes for you helped the bubbles grow! Soon our cups overflowed with hope!**

Share an example of something you hope Jesus will do for you. Maybe you hope Jesus will bring you a new friend or help you with a project at work.

Ask: • **What's something you hope Jesus will do for you?** Kids might hope for a new friend, a baby sibling, or a new toy.

Say: **Jesus brings us hope. That doesn't mean he'll bring us everything we want, but we can be sure he'll give us everything we need. He takes care of us, and he's always with us. We can be hopeful: Full of hope!** Let kids blow more bubbles and drink any remaining milk; then collect and throw away cups and straws.



Bubble Over

Supplies

- bubble solution for bubble machines
- 2 bubble machines (or a few if you have a large group)
- dessert-size paper plates (1 per child)
- extension cords (if needed)
- bottles of bubbles with wands (optional)
- painter's tape (if needed)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Set up the bubble machines across from each other and roughly 10 to 15 feet apart so they'll blow a lot of bubbles into a concentrated area.
- If you need to use extension cords to bring the bubble machines closer together in a large room, be sure to tape the cords to the floor so preschoolers don't trip over them.
- Fill machines with bubble solution and plug them in.

Tips

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).
- If your church doesn't have bubble machines, you could purchase bottles of bubbles with bubble wands for each of your adult and teen helpers and have them blow bubbles around the kids for the game.

Fan Bubbles Toward Friends

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus brings hope. We hope when we expect something good to happen—like how I hope you all have fun playing a game to learn more about Jesus! Let's play.**

- Give each child a paper plate, and have kids spread out a bit within the area where the bubble machines will blow bubbles.
- If you're opting to have your teen and adult helpers blow bubbles, give them each a bottle of bubbles and have them spread out around the kids.
- Turn the bubble machines on or have the helpers start blowing bubbles as quickly as they can around the kids.
- Kids will use their paper plates to fan bubbles toward the person whose name you call out.
- Alternate kids' names and call out, "Jesus brings hope to [child's name]." Switch names quickly to keep kids moving around, and make sure you call out everyone's name at least once. If you have new kids, don't be afraid to ask for names before calling out—it's a way to get to know everyone!

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you like about being surrounded by bubbles?**

Say: **Like you brought the bubbles to friends, Jesus brings hope to you and all those friends.**

Jesus brings me hope that I will... Share a couple of examples of things you find hope for in Jesus, such as that you'll always be loved, you'll always have a friend who'll listen to you, or that because of your friendship with Jesus you'll get to spend forever with him in God's home.

Ask: • **What are some things Jesus gives you hope for?** Kids might share about their general hopes for things, such as toys they'd like to have or getting a new puppy, or they may share about the hope they have in knowing Jesus loves them.

Say: **We're full of hopes, and Jesus brings us the best hope of all!**



Supplies

- white trash bags (1 for every 5 kids)
- permanent marker
- balloons (3 per person)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Use the marker to draw a large, simple smiley face on each trash bag.
- Inflate the balloons.

Tips

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).
- To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly.

Fill Trash Bags With Balloons

Say: **We're learning today that Jesus brings hope. The hope we have in Jesus can fill us up and put smiles on our faces. Let's play a fun game about being filled with hope!**

- Form teams of five, and give three balloons to each person. Make sure each team has an adult or teen helper.
- Have teams stand in circles, and place a prepared trash bag in the center of each circle.
- Team members can take turns sharing something they hope for as they stuff a balloon into the trash bag.
- Teams will play and share until all the balloons are in the bag and it fills up, making the smiley face appear clearly.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while teams fill their bags.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Call out some of the things you told your team that you hope for.**

Say: **Hope is exciting! *Hope* means we expect very good things, and that can make us smile and fill us with joy. All our hopes are awesome, but the biggest and best hope we have is in Jesus. We're hopeful because Jesus brings hope—a hope that lasts forever!**

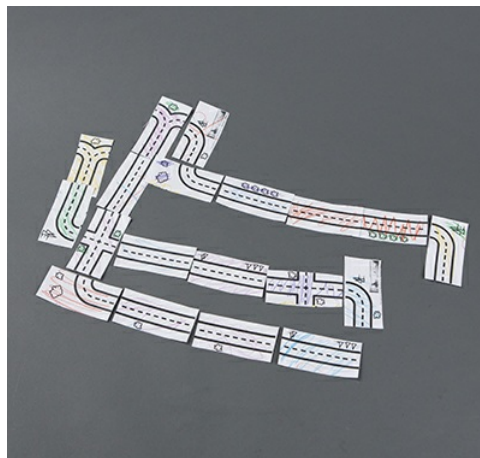


Supplies

- “Hope Road” handout (2 per child) (download [here](#))
- crayons
- smiley face stickers (1 per child)
- toy cars
- envelopes (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the cards on the “Hope Road” handout, making 1 set of 20 cards per child.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Roads for Toy Cars

- Give each child a stack of “Hope Road” cards.
- Set out crayons, and allow time for kids to decorate their roads.
- When kids have finished decorating, they can each choose one card to be the end of their road and put a smiley face on that card.

Play With the Roads

- Have kids make roads by arranging their cards any way they choose.
- Set out toy cars so kids can drive cars on their roads.

Say: **Jesus brings hope.** Sometimes your parents might drive you in a car, and you don't know how to get where you're going. But your parents know! Jesus made the way for us to go to heaven and to have hope everywhere we go. When you drive your car on your road, head toward the smiley face and remember that **Jesus brings hope.**

Have kids put their card sets in envelopes so they don't lose any cards. Collect the cars, and encourage kids to use their roads for their own toy cars or action figures at home.



Supplies

- “Hope” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch “Hope”

Say: Today we're learning that Jesus brings hope, so we're hopeful. Let's see some examples of how Jesus can bring hope in hopeless situations. As you watch this video, consider which story you relate to the most.

Watch “Hope.”

Ask: • Which story stood out to you?

- How have you seen hope when you were in that kind of a situation?
- How does this video change the way you think about hopeless situations?

Say: This video showed that even when things feel hopeless, Jesus brings hope. Nothing is ever hopeless when we have Jesus in our lives!