

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

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers build a special room and play a game.

Supplies

- Bible
- painter's tape
- blocks (at least 5 per child)

Easy Prep

- Use the masking tape to make a 4x2-foot rectangle for every 8 kids in your class. Segment each rectangle into 1-foot squares, 1 for each child. Leave enough room between each 4x2-foot rectangle so that 8 kids can sit around it. These will be like blueprints for a home, where each child has a room to design (a 1-foot square). Put the blocks beside each rectangle (at least 5 blocks per child).



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers play a version of London Bridge.



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers 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

Preschoolers 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.



PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

Recommended for preschoolers.

Supplies

Easy Prep

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- backpack
- Nutter Butter cookie
- throw blanket
- water bottle
- small ball
- Place the items in the backpack.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers 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

Preschoolers 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 preschooler.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.

**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
- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers give an “elbow-five” to three friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say, “Long live [name of birthday child]!”
- 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 leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about someone *they* hope to see this week. They might share about a friend, neighbor, or relative.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers 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
- painter's tape
- blocks (at least 5 per child)

Easy Prep

- Use the masking tape to make a 4x2-foot rectangle for every 8 kids in your class. Segment each rectangle into 1-foot squares, 1 for each child. Leave enough room between each 4x2-foot rectangle so that 8 kids can sit around it. These will be like blueprints for a home, where each child has a room to design (a 1-foot square). Put the blocks beside each rectangle (at least 5 blocks per child).

Design a Home

Show the Bible. Say: **Today we'll find out that Jesus brings us hope. That means we can look forward to Jesus' special plan for our lives today, tomorrow, and forever! In the Bible, Jesus even tells us that he's making a special home for us in heaven. We'll each have our own room made especially for us!**

Share a few things *you'd* include in a special room for yourself. You might say you'd want lots of books, a comfy chair, and a jetted bathtub.

Ask: • **What would you want to have in a special room made just for you?** Preschoolers might share that they'd like to have toys, a beanbag chair, and a warm blanket.

Say: **Let's make some special rooms right now.** Lead kids to the tape rectangles in groups of eight. Have four kids sit on each side of their rectangle, with a child in front of each square. Have adult or teen helpers sit with each group.

Say: **Pretend the square in front of you is your special room.** Lead all the kids to touch inside the square in front of them. Have adult and teen helpers check that each child understands which square is his or hers.

Say: **Let's start by adding a bed or a nice place to sleep.** Have adult or teen helpers distribute one block to each child and encourage kids to choose where they want their beds to be in their special rooms. They might want their beds right in the center, across one corner of the room, or up against a wall. Allow time for kids to choose and then share in their group where they placed their beds.

Say: **Think of the other things you'd want to have in your room, and put them in there.**

Remember to plan where they'll go in your special room! Have adult and teen helpers lead kids to take more blocks and help kids decide what they want to include in their rooms and where to put it. Encourage kids to have at least five items in their rooms. Kids might want to have a TV, a bookshelf, a toy box, a bathtub, a hamster cage, or many other things. Encourage kids to be creative, and allow about 10 minutes for them to not only plan their rooms but also to share with their small groups how they planned their rooms. Adult and teen helpers may need to be more hands-on with younger preschoolers to help them choose.

Say: **It's fun to plan special rooms for ourselves. And thinking about a special place to go to can help us feel hopeful.** Show the Bible. **Jesus says he's making an amazing home for all of us—it will be better than we can even imagine! God will be there with us, too. Jesus brings us hope for a great today and a great future!**

Play a Game

Say: **Let's talk about things Jesus brings us hope for. Remember, *hope* means to expect something amazing. And we can expect Jesus to take care of us, to be with us, and to love us so much! Jesus brings us joy and happiness instead of sadness. Jesus helps us be strong instead of being scared. Because Jesus brings us hope, we can be hopeful. Let's sing a song about that!**

Lead kids in singing this song to the tune of "London Bridge." Have a teen or adult helper join you to make the bridge, and have kids skip under your bridge and in a circle as you'd normally play London Bridge.

**Jesus makes a place for you,
Place for you, place for you.
Jesus makes a place for you,
He brings you hope. (*drop arms and capture a child or two*)**

**Jesus will take care of you, (*hug and rock the child/children back and forth*)
Be with you, and love you.
Jesus brings you joy and smiles,
For your future. (*release the child/children*)**

Repeat the game as time allows or until all the children have had a turn inside the hug on the second verse.

Say: **Jesus loves you so much, and you can always trust him to take care of you and give you what you need—today, tomorrow, and forever! Jesus brings us hope for today and for when we're in heaven someday!**



Sing and Play

Say: **Today we learned that Jesus brings hope, so we can be hopeful. We found out that Jesus is making a special place for us where we can live happily with God forever. Let's sing our song again to remind us that Jesus brings us hope.**

Lead kids in singing this song to the tune of "London Bridge." Have a teen or adult helper join you to make the bridge, and have kids skip under your bridge and in a circle as you'd normally play London Bridge.

**Jesus makes a place for you,
Place for you, place for you.
Jesus makes a place for you,
He brings you hope. (*drop arms and capture a child or two*)**

**Jesus will take care of you, (*hug and rock the child/children back and forth*)
Be with you, and love you.
Jesus brings you joy and smiles,
For your future. (*release the child/children*)**

Repeat the game as time allows, or until all the children have had a turn inside the hug on the second verse.

Pray

Say: **We can always find hope in Jesus because we know for sure that Jesus will always take care of us. Let's thank Jesus!** Lead kids in a brief prayer, thanking Jesus for bringing you hope.

Say: **Come back next week to learn more about the ways Jesus brings us hope!**



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. You may need to demonstrate first.
- 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?** Preschoolers 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 in the preschool area or nursery, you could purchase bottles of bubbles with bubble wands for all 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?** Preschoolers 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

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- backpack
- Nutter Butter cookie
- throw blanket
- water bottle
- small ball

Easy Prep

- Place the items in the backpack.

Tip

- Before printing, turn on page numbering in Word to keep the pages in order (or simply hand-number each page after printing). You may also find it helpful to highlight your part and set the script on a music stand nearby during the skit.

Leader: **It's time for our puppy friend, Theo, to come for a visit. Let's call him to our class with a "woof, woof." Ready?** *(Leads kids to bark until Theo is brought into view.)*

Theo: *(Enters lugging the backpack and drops it near the leader with a huff.)* **It's good to see you!** *(Pants.)* **I really, really want a good scratch. Friends, will you scratch my back?** *(Circulates among kids so each child can pet him.)*

Leader: **Thanks for giving a friendly welcome to Theo, kids!**

Theo: **Thanks! I needed that scratch after lugging this bag around.**

Leader: *(Briefly lifts the bag, acting as if it's heavy.)* **This bag is heavy, Theo. What's it for?**

Theo: **I heard Jesus was having a sleepover, and I was hoping he'd invite me.** *(Looks to kids.)* **Want to see what I brought?**

Leader: **Sure, Theo.**

Theo: *(Takes out the throw blanket.)* **I brought a bed.** *(Looks to kids.)* **What's your bed like?** *(Encourages kids to share about the size, color, and location of their bedding.)* **This is my favorite blanket, so I have to have it with me when I sleep.**

Leader: **It looks nice and soft, Theo.**

Theo: **Yep!** *(Takes out the water bottle.)* **I brought this water bottle, and I'm hoping Jesus can help pour it into a bowl for me because I can't drink from a water bottle. I LOVE water!** *(Looks to kids.)* **What's your favorite drink?** *(Responds to kids' answers.)*

Leader: **What else do you have in there, Theo?**

Theo: *(Takes out the Nutter Butter and hops excitedly.)* **I had to bring a Nutter Butter. Not only do I love cookies, but I also don't want to get hungry!** *(Looks to kids.)* **What's your favorite kind of cookie?** *(Responds to kids' answers.)*

Leader: **It looks like you're prepared, but...** *(Cut off by Theo.)*

Theo: **That's not all!** *(Pulls out the ball.) I also brought this ball in case Jesus will play catch with me. (Pauses.) Say—will you be going to the sleepover, too?*

Leader: **I was just going to say, Theo, I don't know about a sleepover that Jesus is having.**

Theo: *(Looks disappointed.) Oh...I guess I don't need this backpack. (Picks up the backpack and tosses it aside.)*

Leader: **But we ARE learning from the Bible today that Jesus is making a place for us in God's house.**

Theo: *(Quickly picks up the backpack.) Really?*

Leader: **Yes, and we're learning that Jesus brings us hope because he's planning a wonderful future for us.**

Theo: **What's a future?**

Leader: **Future means tomorrow and the next day and every single day after that. Jesus has every day planned for us, and after a while we'll have a special room in God's house so we can be with our best friend, Jesus, forever. We'll have everything we need in our special room, so we don't need to pack a bag.**

Theo: **Cool! I hope there will be Nutter Butters there.** *(Looks to kids.) What do you hope will be in your special room? (Responds to kids' answers.)*

Leader: *(Chuckles.)* **Maybe those things will be there. But even if they aren't, it will be the best place we can ever imagine!**

Theo: **Nice! I think I'm going to go unpack, then.**

Leader: **Okay, Theo! Let's give Theo a "woof, woof, goodbye"!** *(Leads kids in a "woof, woof, goodbye," and then places Theo out of sight.)*



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!**

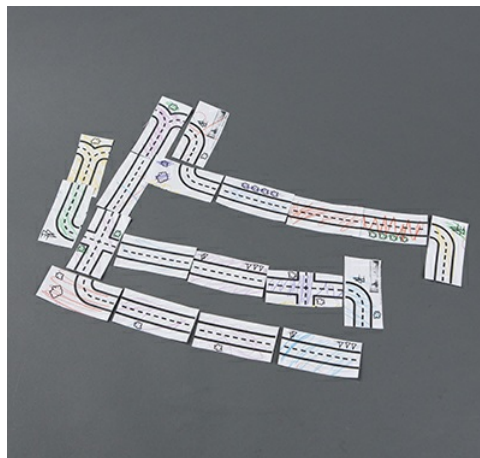


Supplies

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