



Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR

Title: Isaiah 2: 1-5 - Hope

Theme: Where do we find our hope?

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

Over the next four sessions we'll be exploring Advent - in particular the themes represented by the four Advent candles which many churches light at the beginning of services during this season: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Advent is a time of preparation and patience as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. The birth of Our Saviour gives us hope that things can get better; not just for us but for everyone - and hope is the first candle we light, hope is the focus of our first Advent session.

Prophets weren't always known for speaking messages of hope. Very often their messages were about the bad things that would happen if the people they were addressing did not change their ways.

Isaiah (his name means ('Yahweh saves') was prophesying to the people, and rulers, of the Kingdom of Judah, which included the cities of Jerusalem and Hebron. Isaiah is best known for



his prophecies about the coming of the Messiah - although there were some 700 years between his prophecies and the birth of Jesus!

The passage we look at today talks of peace. Peace between countries, a time where there is no need for countries to have armies because they are at peace. If you have children or young people in your group who have experienced war, be aware that this might be a trigger for them. There may also be some general anxiety amongst your group about the potential for war in the future. It is worth spending some planning time agreeing how you will deal with these issues should they arise.

We have also included some resources which could be used by whoever is leading the service in your church. This is not a full order of service but, rather, some ideas about specific resources they could use for particular groups (for example: a toddler service, or an outdoor service). Please feel free to share these ideas with your worship leaders and encourage them to look at all the FACT/FAYR resources for inspiration throughout the year.

Together - prayer and games

Let's start our time with God and each other well

Use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

Alternatively, you may join with the widgit prayer found in the Faith Adventures: Children together or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

Active game - Hope is Coming!

Based on the game Captain's Coming, the instructions are adapted to link with this week's bible passage. Your group walk or jog around the space until they hear an instruction. When they do, they must stop immediately and complete the action. With older groups, you can eliminate the last person to complete the task each time, until you have a winner!

Climb the mountain (Climb the rigging) – jog on the spot, using hands to make a climbing motion

Clean the house (Scrub the decks) – drop to hands and knees, mime scrubbing the floor

Come to the light! (Port/Starboard) – run to the side of the room that the leader points at

Cut the vines (Bombs overhead) – hug knees/tuck themselves into a tight ball





Walk the paths in 2s/3s/4s (Lifeboats) – gather in groups the same as the number called by the leader

Quiet game - What is it?

You will need:

- simple shapes or objects on flashcards (e.g a house, a boat or a flower)
- plain paper
- pens or pencils

What you do:

Split your group into pairs – one person sits on the floor or at a table with the pen and paper, the other stands behind them.

Show one of the pictures to all the participants who are standing. At an agreed signal, all must draw the picture on their seated partner's back – in silence.

The seated partner interprets what they feel by drawing on the paper in front of them.

The first seated player to shout out the correct object gets a point for their team. Everyone stops drawing and gets a fresh piece of paper for the next picture. The team with the most points once all pictures have been drawn are the winners.

The partners can swap after each picture, so each gets a turn at drawing and interpreting.

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

This link takes you to Romans 15: 3-7, 13 from The living Bible translation

https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2015%3A%205-7%2C%2013&version=TLB

Words that cause us to hope in God

- 2 ¹This is the message that appeared to Amoz's son, Isaiah, about Judah and Jerusalem.
- ² This is what will happen in the last days. The mountain where the Lord's temple is will continue to be there. It will be the most important mountain of all. It will be higher than all the hills around it. People from every nation will go there all the time.
- ³ As they come, people from many nations will say, 'Come! We will go to the mountain of the Lord, Jacob's God. We will go to worship him at his temple. Then he will teach us how to live in a way that pleases him. We will be able to walk in his paths.'

At that time, Zion will be the place where people learn about what is right. Yes, in Jerusalem the Lord will teach people his message.[a]

⁴ God will be the judge between different nations. When they argue together, he will say who is right. They will take their swords and they will make them into ploughs. Their spears will become knives to cut their vines. Nations will no longer need weapons to attack other nations. They will not prepare to fight wars any more.



⁵ Jacob's family, come now! We need to live in the light that the Lord gives to us.

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You may wish to research different versions of this reading on www.biblegateway.com Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

Watch: I have a dream speech

https://youtu.be/JBhCd9GYbqk?si=JNcm4tRDWyEv Coz

An opportunity for reflection

I wonder what your hope is for the world?

Graves into gardens https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUboM9Gu7XA

- I wonder how we can bring hope and light into the world this Advent?
- I wonder how God guides us on this journey of hope?

Explore – ways into the theme

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

Alternatively, you may wish to use the Explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Have you heard of the Knife Angel? It's a truly amazing sculpture made from over 100,000 seized blades. Its purpose is to shed light on the devastating impact of violent behaviour and emphasise the urgent need for social change. This magnificent Angel isn't just a symbol of hope; it's also a beautiful memorial that pays

tribute to the lives lost due to these senseless acts of violence.

Advent begins in darkness. Advent is a time when the themes of light and darkness are important and at the end of it, we are meant to find ourselves changed as we welcome Jesus into the world. Slowly darkness fades as more candles are lit on the Advent wreath with each passing week and we are brought into the light.

Let's focus on the hope that is talked about in the story from Isaiah who gives us words that fill us with hope in God.

You will need lots of wooden knives and a template of an angel.

Arrange together the knives to recreate a knife angel to be displayed in your church, as a symbol of hope to the community. You could begin by drawing around someone, to give you





a template. Should you not have any wooden knives, perhaps you could make some from cardboard, tinfoil or paper.

Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.



A New Hope – a plan to achieve the impossible by Balls Tesla

https://youtu.be/TOgtj00Rp8s?si=nXUYiATuk6PNHMno

- Why do you think different characters respond differently to a seemingly impossible situation?
- Are there things that seem impossible about today's Bible passage?
- Is it possible to change the world as one person? Or as a small group of people?

Group discussion

- What is prophesy?
- What do you think needs to happen to bring hope to the world

Personal reflection

- What will God do about those who are wrong?
- I wonder if you can have hope if you haven't got patience.

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Praying together

Prayer Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.



Use the template to create a spoken prayer. With the group, identify things that they are concerned about, and would like to pray for. You could choose more than one thing if the group would like to create a longer prayer.

- 1.(Choose a way to address God) Dear God,
- 2. (Choose something that concerns the group) A specific person/place or a broader theme
- 3. (Think about Hope!) How could hope change this situation?
- 4. (Choose another concern or close the prayer.) Thank you loving God, that you hear us.

Amen

Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Hope banner:

You will need:

- large white area to paint on, this could be the reverse of a roll of wallpaper or a sheet
- paint
- protective sheeting

What you do:

Place the protective sheet on the area you intend to use, outside would be preferable. On top of the protective sheet place your white background, ensuring there is enough protective sheet around it.

Paint the word HOPE onto the white background. Then encourage those gathered to either flick, spray, shake paint over the word hope, with the joyful abandon that HOPE gives us.

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today. If not here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the "conversation starter" questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. What is it that you hope for?
- Research something suggested by JPIT, Resources (ipit.uk) Commitment for Life cforl.co.uk





There are stories of hope all around us, sometimes we need to look harder to see them. See if you can spot some signs and stories of hope during this week. Where can you see God in those things?

Thank you for exploring the Isaiah passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on www.bit.ly/FACT FB











