

faith at home

Weekly Resources for Schools
PHASE: SECONDARY

**How can we have hope for
tomorrow?**



KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

Theoretical physicist Albert Einstein said:

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.”

In the Bible the word hope appears over 160 times depending on the translation. Hope means to cherish a desire with anticipation and for Christians hope is rooted in God in the person of Jesus Christ. It is the confident affirmation that God is faithful, that He will complete what He has begun. The salvation of His people. We too can have hopes, hopes for ourselves for our families and friends and a confidence in a belief that we can work towards a better future.

BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:

Luke 24:28-35 - New Revised Standard Version

The Road to Emmaus



²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us^[1] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Gathering

Start your time together by saying something positive to each other as a greeting:
I hope you have a great day today..... or you can use 'Peace be with you')

What difference does it make, to our day when someone, we know wishes us well and shares their hopes for us?

How does it make you feel?

Does it make you wonder how you can do this more often?

Take a few moments to think about how a sense of expectation and hope impacts on you and the belief that you will achieve all you need to do today.

Engagement

Print out or project some photos everyday objects seen from unusual angles (for example):

<https://www.insider.com/close-up-photos-everyday-objects-2018-11/#can-you-tell-what-this-is-19>

Honey Combe, Cork, Lime, Flame, Cornflakes, Pepper, Cheese Grater,

Which ones were easy to recognise? Why? What clues and previous knowledge helped you identify them?

Reflective questions:

- Is it always easy to see things and totally believe you have the whole picture?
- Are our assessments of people, situations and objects always based on prior knowledge?
- How might hope impact at times of doubt, challenge, and uncertainty?

In the Bible reading, two friends and followers of Jesus are travelling back from Jerusalem along the road to a town called Emmaus on their way home. They are talking about the events around the death of Jesus and they cannot quite believe he has died. Another person suddenly appears next to them and joins in the conversation. The two friends just don't recognise this stranger, yet such is the impact of the conversation that they invite the man to come to their home and have supper. The stranger is suddenly revealed as Jesus when he blesses and breaks the bread when he is at the table with them. The impact of their sudden recognition of Jesus changes their plans. In response to this encounter with Jesus their faith is strengthened, and it gives them confidence to return to Jerusalem to tell the 11 disciples of their experience... "our hearts burning within us" they say.

Response

Try to convince the class that you once met a famous person? How easy do they find it to believe you ?

Watch this sudden encounter with a famous person <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iZb6eP73rk>

Imagine you were one of the people the President Obama met on his walk. How would you convince your family and friends that this happened to you? Even if you had a selfie would how would you convince people that the president wasn't made of wax?

How confident are you around explaining things you have experienced but others haven't seen?

What key words would you need to use?

How could you help others develop questions to enable them to believe in what they haven't seen or experienced and what role would 'hope' and 'faith' play in your strategy?

Sending

How might these examples of hope, faith and confidence help us in times of need?

Watch this video.

Quietly watch how someone explains what it feels like to keep faith and have confidence that their hopes will be fulfilled <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muvdda-LTGg>

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Watch this extract from the Polar Express: Does seeing someone support a person's belief-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNByy5-wlsc> what question does this raise about seeing and is believing and the role of faith?

Project this picture of 'The Raising of Lazarus' by Duccio di Buoninsegna

Reflect on the faces and the expressions.

Think about impact of this event on all who are there.

Read aloud John 11:17-44: Jesus hears about the death of Lazarus

Slowly read through the verses 32 - 36.

As you read out Mary's response to Jesus after her brother has died

- Consider Mary's strength of belief in Jesus
- Consider the times you have had your faith tested in someone:
- Consider yourself forgiven.

Read again verse 40 and consider Jesus words: Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God.

- o Repeat the phrase 'if you believed, you would see' at the end, how could you apply this phrase to a situation you face?

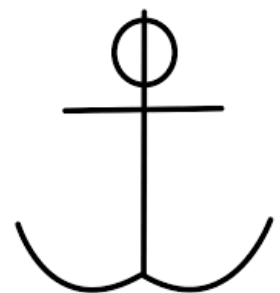


ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS: The anchor is a Christian symbol for hope and steadfastness. The source for this symbol is Hebrews 6:19, "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast."

Anchors are found in many inscriptions in the catacombs of Rome. Think of the things that anchor you and give you confidence to have hope and faith.

Draw an anchor shape.

- Write in the names of people who support and help you.
- place around your anchor the names of the places where you have experienced a sense of hope and faith
- Use this as a way to remind yourself of times of hope, faith, confidence or as an opportunity talk to a trusted adult about how they can help you find a renewed sense of faith and hope.



PRAYERS that can help us REFLECT, FOCUS and SPOTLIGHT hopes

The following prayer can be used as a focus on hope and strength for yourself family and friends and to create a prayer chain. Taking a sheet of paper write each sentence out so that you can cut into strips, to create your chain. Using a strip for each sentence, write out the sentence line as below and fill in the name of a person. Then glue or staple the ends of the strips so they inter link.



Our Heavenly Father, we are gathered here today to pray for _____.

_____ is facing a difficult situation right now

Lord, we ask that you bless _____ with your peace and hope.

Give _____ strength to face their challenges

Help _____ to overcome the obstacles in their way.

Lord, give _____ hope for the future.
Amen.

Read the words of the St Columba:

or this Irish Blessing

Be thou a bright flame before me,
Be thou a guiding star above me,
Be thou a smooth path below me,
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today – tonight – and for ever

May you see God's light on the path ahead
When the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear,
Even in your hour of sorrow,
The gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness
Never turn your heart to stone,
May you always remember
when the shadows fall—
You do not walk alone.

Take a few moments to consider each line...

I wonder

how these words impact on you?

what questions are raised or answered by them?

if you would feel encourage?

a sense of confidence?

supported in your faith?

|

wonder if they ignite a sense of hope in you today...in the future?

Now take time to listen to St Columba's prayer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ooPz-mMonNE> and imagine that Jeff Johnson is singing this track standing next to you

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Discussion starters for groups:

How easy is it to believe an account of events if we haven't witnessed them?
What can we do to nurture an understanding of hope and confidence in each other?

How can we tell if something we witness is real or imaginary?
What could we say to help them reflect on what they are seeing to truly understand the impact and implications?
Are you ready to stand up for your beliefs and hopes for the future?

Have you ever been lost for the answer to a question?
A time when you couldn't figure something out?
Did you hope someone would help you? How did you feel?

Who can you see in the Bible who had shared a message of hope and faith, who helped people understand how God was always with them?
How can we have hope for tomorrow?

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – OUR APPROACH

INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?