



Without hope, we lose heart.

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Jesus used culturally relevant stories to share timeless kingdom truths to lead people to God.

God, are you listening?

¹ Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea... ¹⁷ Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.
Psalm 55:1,17 (NIV)

God cares. He knows my thoughts and hears my prayers.

Even though we can't see it, God is always working.

Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."
John 5:17 (NIV)

Nothing is hopeless because we know who God is and that He is always working.

Prayer is joining God where He is at work, not asking God to join our work.

¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.
¹ John 5:14-15 (NIV)

Faith is trusting in who God is and hoping in what He can do. [Author Unknown]

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

I pray because I have faith in who God is and my hope is in what He can do.

Our hope in God inspires us to pray and prayer brings hope to others.

Hope changes us as we pray—we become more like our Heavenly Father.

If our Heavenly Father can adopt us through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, we can put our hope in Him through prayer.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Luke 2:8-18 (NIV)

Jesus is our hope, and we can share our hope in Him by praying with one another.

ADVENT AT THE MOVIES

Week One: Angels in the Outfield

MY NOTES



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

Jesus used everyday stories to teach the timeless truths of God's Kingdom so people could find life in Him. In the movie *Angels in the Outfield*, a foster child sees that the only hope to have a family is to pray that the Angels win the pennant.

This story helps us see that prayer inspires hope and hope leads us to pray. However, many don't believe that God is even listening. Scripture shows us that not only does God listen to our prayers, He answers them when we join Him in His work by praying for His will to be done.

Prayer gives us a confident hope that God can do what He wills to do. Faith is trusting in who our God is and hoping in what He can do.

Hope is powerful when it is combined with our prayers. It can change us. And, our prayers can bring hope to others.

TALK-IT-OVER:

Why do you think that people have a hard time believing that God hears their prayers?

When was a time that someone prayed with you and it encouraged you to have hope?

How does 1 John 5:14-15 give you hope?

Who is someone you need to pray with to help encourage them to have hope?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) Psalm 33:17-18, 42:11

Day 2) Psalm 62:5-6

Day 3) Romans 5:1-5

Day 4) Romans 8:26-28

Day 5) Matthew 6:7-13

Day 6) Matthew 26:36-44