

Faith At Home

Welcome to the second week of “Faith at Home” resources based on material by WOW VBS. Each week we will be sending your family a pdf like this one with a theme word, memory verse, Bible story, family devotion, and family activities.

The word of the week is **Hope!**

Overview

Key Word: Hope. Hope is trusting the promises of God are true.

Message: God Gives us Hope!

Memory Verse: “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” – Isaiah 40:31 NIV

Bible Story

Paraphrased from John 11

A man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village where Mary and her sister Martha lived. All three were friends with Jesus, so the sisters sent a message to Jesus. “Lord,” they told him, “your friend is sick.” They had seen Jesus heal people before and believed Jesus could heal Lazarus.

When Jesus heard this, he said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory. God’s Son will receive glory because of it.” Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. But after he heard Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days. And then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him up.”

Jesus knew that Lazarus had died from the illness. When Jesus said, “Lazarus has fallen asleep,” he had been speaking about the death of Lazarus. But his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. The disciples said, “Lord if he’s sleeping, he will get better.”

Then Jesus told them clearly what had happened, "Lazarus is dead. For your benefit, I am glad I was not there. Now you will believe. Let us go to him."

When Jesus arrived, he found out that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. But Mary stayed at home.

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask for."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha answered, "I know he will rise again on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she replied. "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. I believe that you are the one who is supposed to rescue the world."

Then Martha went and got her sister Mary. When Mary saw Jesus, she fell at his feet. She said, "Lord, I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died."

Jesus saw her crying. His spirit became very sad, and he was troubled. "Show me where you've placed Lazarus" They took Jesus to the tomb; it was a cave with a stone in front of it. When Jesus saw the tomb, he wept and was full of sadness.

"Take away the stone," Jesus said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, "Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days. There is a bad smell." Then Jesus said, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?"

They put their hope in Jesus and took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up. He said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me. But I said this for the benefit of the people standing here. I said it so they will believe that you sent me."

Then Jesus called in a loud voice. He said, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of linen. A cloth was around his face. Lazarus was alive. Jesus said, "Take off the clothes he was buried in and let him go."

Family Devotional

Our word of this week is **HOPE!**

What does hope mean?

The dictionary gives two definitions; the first is “*a feeling of expectation*”. This would be the *hope* for a specific present for Christmas or that our favourite team wins the game.

The second definition the dictionary gives is “*a feeling of trust*”. This is when we put our hope in someone or believe their words. In our Bible Story this week, friends of Jesus had a chance to put their hope in Jesus.

The story is from John 11, Jesus’s friend Lazarus was very sick. Lazarus’ sisters, Mary and Martha, put their hope in Jesus asking him to come heal their brother. By the time Jesus has arrived Lazarus has been dead for four days and everyone is sad. But their trust in Jesus is proven true when He prays to God and calls Lazarus out of the tomb, returned from the dead.

Part of the power of this story is in the two words of John 11:36, *Jesus wept*. His friends were grieving and hopeless. His friend Lazarus had died. Everyone mourned him. And Jesus cried, too. There are times we want life to be happy and easy. This story shows us the reality: sometimes, things are sad. Or hard. Or frustrating. But Jesus is right there with us, crying alongside us. We are not alone. Jesus promised to always be with us. We are put our **hope** in that truth. And know that Jesus is still right there with us, helping us through the Holy Spirit, and preparing life for us on the other side of this hard time.

The end of this story is life and joy and celebration, and our story is, too! As a family, talk about a time when you’ve had great **hope** and when you felt like there wasn’t much **hope** at all. Were there times when you recognized that Jesus was with you, even when things were hard? Work together on memorizing:

Isaiah 40:31 – “Those who **hope** in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

As a family, can you think of other times people put their hope in God?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Lazarus Race – Family Game

Imagine what it would have been like to be wrapped up like a mummy, and then called to walk out of the tomb!? That must have been nuts!

In a space with plenty of room (outside, or in the hallway, or in a big room), set up a start line and a finish line.

For this race, all participants must keep their ankles together and their hands together the entire time. Hop, hop, hop your way down to the finish line!

You can make this game more complicated by telling the participants to keep their eyes closed for the race, too. Who knows, maybe Lazarus' eyes were bound up, too! Have fun!

Lazarus Wrap – Family Challenge

Materials:

- A roll of toilet paper for each participant.

Wrap someone from the family up in toilet paper (like a mummy). Grab a selfie for the memories.

For an added challenge have teams and race who can finish wrapping the whole roll the fastest.

Hint: if you don't have an extra roll, we find the cheapest option is often at the dollar store.

Simon Says – Preschool Fun

Play a family game of Simon Says.

Simon Says Ideas"

- Wiggle your fingers
- Touch the ground
- Turn around
- Run in place
- Hop three times
- Close your eyes
- Raise your leg
- Shake your arms
- Sit down
- Stand up
- Each to the sky

In the Bible Story Jesus spoke and Lazarus listened. We can listen to Jesus too because we can trust His ways are good for us.