

☀ Sunday School Lesson: When Hope is Hard to See

Target Age: Preteens

Time:

Theme Verse: ***“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”*** — Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

Big Idea: Even when we don't see hope, we can trust God is working behind the scenes.

♥ Lesson Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Understand what hope in God looks like during tough times.
 - Explore examples of people in the Bible who held on to hope.
 - Reflect on their own situations where hope might be hard to see.
- Learn how to encourage others with hope.

☀ **Bible Story: Joseph in Prison (Genesis 39-41)** Joseph was one of Jacob's sons. His brothers were jealous of him and sold him as a slave to Egypt. Even though that was really unfair, Joseph didn't give up. He trusted God and worked hard, and soon he became a trusted servant in the house of a man named Potiphar. But then something really unfair happened again. Potiphar's wife told a lie about Joseph, and he was thrown into prison — even though he hadn't done anything wrong! Even in prison, Joseph didn't lose hope. He still trusted God. While he was there, he helped two other prisoners by interpreting their dreams. Later, when Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) had strange dreams, someone remembered Joseph. Joseph told Pharaoh what the dreams meant — that a big famine (no food) was coming. Pharaoh was so impressed that he made Joseph second-in-command over all of Egypt! God had a plan all along — even when Joseph couldn't see it. Joseph's hard times were part of a bigger story. In the end, God used Joseph to save many people, including his own family.

♥ **Group Discussion: Real-Life Hope Moments**

Ask:

- Have you ever gone through a hard time when it was difficult to feel hopeful?
 - What helped you keep going?
- How can we help others who might be feeling hopeless?

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think Joseph felt when he was in prison?
2. How did Joseph show faith and hope, even in a bad situation?
3. What does this teach us about God's timing?

♥ **Closing Prayer and Snacks**