

Jesus the Hope of the World

Ask for 2 volunteers to chairs at the front facing each other.

Tie them together [www.professorwonder.com/magic22.htm].

I really hope we can manage to get you two apart again.

DISCUSSION: What is hope? When might we say “I hope...” ?

We hope for what we don't yet have. We hope things will get better.

I hope I can separate these two ... but it's not happened yet.

We hope for something when we want it, but we don't have it yet, but for some reason we feel it might be possible.

If we felt it was impossible, we wouldn't say that we *hope* for it: we wouldn't say we *hoped* to get an aeroplane for our birthday, even if we wanted one. When I was at school I might have said that I *hope* to get good marks in a maths test but I would never have *hoped* to get picked for a sports team.

But I think I can say that I hope to be able to separate these two, because I'd like to do it and I think it might be possible.

DISCUSSION: So what is it that makes us feel that it might be possible? What gives us confidence that things might turn out the way we want?

Maybe we've seen it happen before.

Or maybe someone we trust has told us that it's possible.

The reason why I **feel pretty hopeful about separating these two** is that I've seen it done before. Let's see if it works again this time...

Separate the volunteers and send them back to their seats.

Remember: we hope for something when we want it, but we don't have it yet, but for some reason we think it might be possible.

The Bible says that the world is a pretty tough place. It says that we humans have made some bad choices and made a mess of things. We hurt each other and we damage our world. We'd like things to be different, but that hasn't happened yet.

Do we have any reason to hope that things might get any better?

The Bible says that Jesus gives us that hope. No matter how bad things are, because of what we know about Jesus, we can never lose hope.

Jesus was born and died because God loves us. He rose again because God has so much awesome power that he could raise Jesus from the dead.

So whenever we feel sad or scared or worried, we can never lose hope if we remember Jesus. Jesus shows us that we have an awesome Father God who loves us so much and will never let us down.

We just need to ask for his help.

So, whenever we're scared or sad or worried, we need to remember to go to Father God and pray a prayer like this one.

Let us pray.

Father God,

we bring before you all the things that make us feel sad or scared or worried.

We want them to get better. We want them to change.

That hasn't happened yet,

but because you sent Jesus and raised him from the dead,

we know that you love us and that nothing is impossible for you.

So, Father, we come to you in hope,

in Jesus' name,

trusting you to make things better.

Amen.