

Large Group



## LESSON 1: LARGE GROUP

### Hope

#### MAIN IDEA

Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled God's promise of a king and savior, though he arrived in a humble and unexpected way. His life and mission were part of God's divine plan, and we should place all our hope in him because he is the only one who can truly save us.

#### BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 2:8-20
- Isaiah 7:14

#### MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.  
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.  
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.  
(25 minutes)

## Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.  
Plan for the lesson.

## QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bible
- 2 wrapped boxes
- Candy canes or other holiday candy
- Chair
- Printout 1, copies for each character
- (Optional) Name tags for skit

## Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.  
(10-15 minutes)

### INTRODUCTION

Consider going through the “Who is Jesus” call and responses before the lesson.

**Today we are starting our four-week series on Advent. These are four lessons that will lead up to Christmas!**

**The word Advent means the arrival of a notable person or event. For Christmas, it is both because it’s about the birth of Jesus!**

**This week we will be focusing on the topic of hope, specifically the hope that Jesus gives us.**

Show children a large and beautifully wrapped box and a gift wrapped very simply. Explain that they will be able to open it and look inside. But first they will have to wait. Have children sit as still as possible for at least a minute (variable depending on age), without any movement or noise.

- **Is it hard to sit still, quietly waiting? Why?**

Discuss briefly the struggle of patience.

- **What kinds of things do we have to wait for?** (birthdays, visits from friends, special events, the bathroom, etc.) **Why is it hard to wait?**

Pick two students to unwrap the packages, revealing that both gifts are the same thing.

- **What is the difference between these two gifts?** (just the way they are wrapped)
- **Which one did you expect to be a better gift?** (most likely the gift wrapped with nicer wrapping paper) **Why?**

Pass out candy canes or other Christmas candy for all students.

Say, **As we talk about Christmas, the very first Christmas was the birth of Jesus. He was the chosen Messiah. The Messiah was supposed to be the King that would save God’s people and who would rule and reign forever.**

**People had been waiting for a long time for this King to come!**

**Is it hard to wait? (Yes!) Still, God’s people had hope that God would send the Messiah and King, but they had to wait a long time.**

### SKIT (BASED ON LUKE 2:8-20)

Ask for several volunteers to help with a skit.

Characters:

- Shepherd 1
- Shepherd 2
- Shepherd 3
- Angel
- Chorus of Angels (depending on group size, consider using the whole group of students)
- Mary
- Joseph

Printout 1 contains the script. Consider printing multiple copies for characters to read.

## HELPFUL HINT

Provide name tags with each character's name on it. As you assign students to roles you can have them place the name tag so that students in the audience know the characters.

**God's chosen people, the people of Israel, were waiting for the Messiah to come. The Messiah was supposed to rule and have a kingdom that would last forever! If you heard that a king was going to be born, where would you expect him to be born?** (a palace or castle)

Say, **When the Messiah was born, it wasn't what anyone expected, just like you experienced when you opened the wrapped box.**

**We can have expectations about how things look, but the way Jesus was born was not what the people expected. They expected a king to be born into royalty, to live in a castle or palace, and to fight against the enemies of the people.**

**More important than that, God's people had hope in God that he would keep his promise to send the Messiah who would rescue them and lead them. What does it mean to have hope in someone?** (Take answers.)

## OBJECT LESSON: COMMON HOPE

Place a chair in the front of the room.

Explain, **This chair serves as a symbol of support and stability. Chairs are something we use all the time, but each time we sit down, we are putting our hope in this chair to hold us up.**

**Just as a chair offers physical support, hope provides emotional, mental, and even spiritual support during challenging times.**

Ask for a volunteer to come forward and sit on the chair.

As they sit down, say, **Hope can give us a sense of grounding and strength, even when we feel overwhelmed or uncertain. What we place our hope in is important.**

**What are some other things that we place our hope in everyday?** (cars, fridge, food, water)

Say, **It's important to hold onto hope, even when faced with adversity. The people of Israel had hope that God would send the Messiah to save them and lead him. God did keep his promise!**

## WRAP IT UP

Ask students to have a seat.

Say, **The birth of the Messiah, the King, came in an unexpected way. It was special and beautiful!**

**We will discuss the hope that Jesus brings more in small groups.**

Pray and dismiss kids into small groups.