

1st– 5th Grade Small Group Lesson

Session Title: Paul Gave Hope

Bible Passage: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11

Main Point: Paul encouraged the Thessalonians by reminding them that Jesus will return.

Key Passage: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Big Picture Question: How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return? We remember God's truth, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel.

Christ Connection: *The prophets in the Old Testament told about the Day of the Lord, a day when God would come to judge the world and save His people. Paul said that in the future, on the Day of the Lord, Jesus will return for His people and judge the wicked. Believers live with hope, knowing that Jesus will come again.*



Cards of Encouragement

Materials: construction paper/ paper, markers/crayons

Paul truly cared about the people of Thessalonica. He took time to write them a letter to encourage them when they were going through a hard time.

Don't you think that meant a lot to the people when they received his letter? We can do the same for our friends and family. We're going to create cards of encouragement to brighten someone's day and remind him or her that true hope is found in Jesus.

Help boys and girls think of people they can create a card for. Consider making cards for families who have not been to church in a while, kids who are out sick, church staff members who have been working hard, thinking of you, someone who recently had a death in the family, and so on.

Challenge the group to do their best in creating their cards, as these cards can make a big difference in someone's day. Invite everyone to pray with you or as a group for the person receiving the card and deliver their cards this week. Encouragement with a card can bring a lot of joy and show the love of Christ!

Hopeful Questions

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer each question by writing a few words or drawing a picture.



**I hope to have _____
for dinner.**

**I hope my friends at school
will call me by this cool
nickname _____.**

**I hope to be a _____
when I grow up.**

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return? We remember God's truth, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel.

BIBLE STORY:

PAUL GAVE HOPE

- The church in Thessalonica wondered about people who died before Jesus returned.
- They expected Jesus to return in their lifetime, but he did not.
- Paul encouraged the Thessalonians by reminding them that Jesus will return.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What does it mean to have hope in something?
- Do you ever hope in things that are not certain?
- How can we know Jesus will return?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Use the "Big Picture Cards for Families" to review times God made promises. Point out promises God has already kept and those we await.