Faith is Believing God's Promise

Week 1:

The Big Point: Faith is Believing God's Promise

God's Word: God Promised Abraham a Son (Genesis 15:1-21, 17, 18:1-15, 21:1-7)

Memory Verse: Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.

(Hebrews 11:1)

Application: I choose faith and believe God's promise everyday!

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Series Aim: To help kids understand that having faith is an everyday decision to believe God, based on knowing God.

Creative Video: ■ Abram to Abraham (Genesis 15-21) | ■ Sarah Laughs (Genesis 18)

Huddle Guide #2

Duration: 20 mins

Before Sunday:

- *Pray* and prepare yourself by reading through this Huddle Guide and the Word Study of the week found on the <u>HopeKids Service Plan Blogspot</u>.
- All Huddle Leaders (or Huddle Hosts) are to prepare your own "script" and things to say. Feel free to inject your own questions or discussion points whenever necessary to suit the needs of your children.
- *To prepare and bring for Huddle:
 - Cooler bags you can purchase from Daiso if you don't have any at home
 - Ice pack/ice cubes in container bring in cooler bags
 - Tissue packs/paper towel
 - Plastic bag

Before Service on Sunday Morning:

- Bring for Huddle Place all of the below within the plastic bag:
 - Ice pack/ice cubes in container bring in the cooler bags
 - Tissue packs/paper towel

- Prepare all the items that are needed for Huddle Time. For this week:
 - Writing materials/ Stationary
 - HopeKids Journal
 - Bibles

During Huddle Time:

- Have the children sit in a circle, keeping it to 12 children per group.
- Welcome and ease the children into Huddle Time by:
 - o Introducing yourself and the kids to one another
 - Air high-fives, fist bumps
 - Playing small ice breaker games
- Remind the kids that the BEST rules still applies during Huddle Time

Activity 1:

Materials needed:

- Bring for Huddle Place all of the below within the plastic bag you bring:
 - Ice pack/ice cubes in container bring in the cooler bags
 - Tissue packs/paper towel
- Physical Bibles



Alright, HopeKids, before we start let me tell you first. I promise you, it will not last forever and it's going to feel better after a while. If you're wondering what I mean... you will find out soon.

I am now going to give each of you an ice cube/ice pack. You are now going to hold your ice cube/ice pack in one hand—and no switching hands. Hold your ice cube as we talk about a few things. And I promise—your hand will feel better . . . sometime. Trust me!

*As a group (and while everyone holds the cubes) discuss the story of Abram and how God gave him the promise of a son —as long as possible and encourage kids to hold on as long as possible but not until the kids are really hurting:

- What was the first promise that God gave Abram?
- Did the first promise of giving Abram the land come true quickly?
- What was the other promise that God gave Abraham?
- What is the meaning of Abraham?
- How long did the second promise take to come true?
- Did you think it was always easy for Abraham and Sarah to believe in God's promise?
- Have you ever waited a very long time for a promise to come true?

Alright, and how you can throw it into this plastic bag!

*Give each child a tissue paper/paper towel to wipe dry their hands.

Encourage them to rub their hands to warm up their hands.

Okay, thank you kids for giving your best in this challenge you did not sign up for, and thank you for sharing! Yet, remember what I promised you at the beginning? I promised you that it will not last forever and that it will feel better after a while. Did I keep my promise? *Allow kids to respond

I did keep my promise and holding the ice cube/ice pack did not last forever. And I did promise you that it will get better, just that it may not be as quickly as you would have liked.

You know HopeKids, our experiences in life can be like holding an ice cube. Sometimes life is "cold"—people treat us badly; life's not fair. Sometimes life is hard—we have problems and bad things that happen to us or in our loves. But things will get better. Some things can get better right away while others can take a while. But things will get better someday for sure! I know that's true because God promised to always be with us and love us. And God always has good plans for each of our lives. God also promised that if we know and love Jesus, someday we'll be with him in Heaven. And God keeps his promises—always.

Sometimes, God's promises to us do not come true right away, and it can get hard. It definitely got hard at some points for Abraham and Sarah. Faith is believing God's Promise, but it doesn't mean that there was no hardship. Abraham and Sarah went through their own share of problems and hardship in the 25 years waiting for God's promise to come true. And the reason why they can keep believing is simply because they know God is a good God who keeps His promise. God can do what He promises, and God will do what He promised. What we need to do is to keep trusting and believing in God and the promises He gave us.

But even so... how many of you enjoy waiting? *Allow kids to respond

Yeah, it's not easy to wait and that's something that most of us don't do well. Even us teachers can struggle to wait well. Even so, it is so important to wait and wait well, and when someone or God makes us a promise, we cannot only expect fast results.

It is a choice for us to make - to keep holding on to faith, choosing to believe in God's promise, like what Abraham and Sarah did. It was not always easy for them, but they know God is good and God is trustworthy. And so, they believed in what God says and in God's promise. They believed that what God says will indeed happen and come true! **Faith is believing God's Promise!**

So HopeKids, if there are things that we find hard to believe or trust in God's plan or promise, I want you to think why, note it down and write it down in your journal. It's okay to have difficulties believing in God's promise - it's not a sin to wonder why and find things hard to believe, we can go to God in our questions and thoughts. Wondering and thinking, asking questions shows that you care and want to learn and grow. Faith is believing God's Promise and believing in what He says, especially what He says in the Bible.

Here, I have some verses of some of God's promises for us, maybe all of you can each take one verse to flip to, read it out so that we can all be aware of these promises that God gave us in the Bible. Make sure to write in your journals too!

*Allocate to kids and get them to flip and read out. After they read out, you can emphasise on the following ideas within the brackets!

- Matthew 11:28, 29 (In Jesus you'll find comfort and rest.)
- Romans 8:37-39 (Nothing can separate us from God's love.)

- Romans 10:9 (You can be saved from sin.)
- 1 John 1:9 (You can be forgiven.)
- John 14:3 (Jesus has a place for you in Heaven.)
- Revelation 21:3, 4 (Heaven is a place of joy—forever)

Closing of Huddle Time:

- HopeKids, we can have the everyday faith to believe in God and God's promise, only when we already know God and trust in him like how we know a friend or trusted family member. So, never give up in knowing God more and more, and remember, it's okay to ask questions and go to God with questions! What makes faith faith is the choice to believe in His promise and what He says in the Bible.
- Remind them again that their faith in God will grow as they learn to know God more. We can have everyday faith as we know Him more. We can make the choice to have the everyday faith to believe in His promises! Faith is Believing God's Promise!
- *Pray together with the kids and if at some point, kids share their thoughts or worries, pray for the situation with and for them!

Activity 2: Memory Verse

Objective: To hide God's Word in the children's hearts

Materials needed:

- Writing Materials
- HopeKids Journal

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

This memory verse is the starting point of this whole series on faith, helping us to know that faith is simply to believe in God, in what God says and what He promised. When we hope for things in God, we can be sure of it despite not seeing it yet in the physical world. Having faith does not mean not having doubts but choosing to believe in God and what He says everyday it is an everyday decision to believe in God again. Since faith is a belief and being sure in who

God is, we can rest assured and continue to keep believing, even when it takes a long time for God's word/promise to come to pass. **Faith is Believing God's Promise.**

NOTE: Huddle leaders to think of creative ways to engage and motivate the children to hide the Word in their hearts, for example:

- Splitting the huddle group into 2 (by gender, by age, or randomly etc) and getting them to compete in memorising the memory verse
- Unscrambling the memory verse into pieces of paper, and asking them to piece together
- Play 'fill in the blank' kind of concept

Announcements



Come back next week to continue learning about having everyday faith through Abraham's story!!

Next week will be the last lesson learning about faith!