

SUPER EASTER: I Can Win With Jesus!

OUTLINE: HopeKids Easter Special 2024 (31st Mar 2024)

The Big Point: I Can Win with Jesus!

God's Word: Jesus' death and resurrection (Luke 22:54, 66-71, Luke 23:1-5, 13-26, 32-38, 44-56 and Luke 24:1-12)

Creative Video (optional):  [God's Story: Jesus is Alive](#)

TEACHER'S WORD STUDY

Super Easter Synopsis

Overview: Calling all young heroes to join us for Super Easter! Embark on a quest to discover your unique superpower through exciting games, and discover the greatest superpower of them all. Come dressed in your best superhero outfit and receive a 'SUPER' badge at service!

Event Aim: For kids to discover that Jesus holds the greatest superpower to save all people and if we come to know this Jesus, He can give us strength and hope to win in life's challenges!

Primary Programme

5 mins - Welcome & Rules

40 mins - Games

20 mins - Praise & Worship

20 mins - God's Word

10 mins - Altar Call & Worship

20 mins - Huddle Time

Note to Preachers: Keeping the 'Super Easter' theme in mind, please take note that kids will be going on a quest to discover their possible super power through different elements of the service (e.g. warm up, games, praise and worship). Please check with your respective centres' programme ICs and service ICs if there are any changes to the programme flow in your own service.

Preachers will then present that Jesus is actually the one who has the greatest superpower of all, because only He is able to have the power to save all people and all the world from sin and death. Present the gospel to the kids and help them to know that they can know Jesus and by accepting Jesus into their lives, they are also saved from sin and death! With Jesus, they can also find the strength and hope to win in life's challenges!

♥ Prayer Points

Keep the Kids and the Kingdom in our hearts!

Let's pray for the following (and feel free to add on your own!) :

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you as you prepare your God's Word segment.
- Pray for new kids to join us in Easter service!
- Pray for the Easter serving teams throughout all centres and services to flow together with God and each other to bring the best experience to the children.
- Pray for the children to have fun in our Easter services!
- Pray for the children to experience and discover that Jesus is the biggest superhero and holds the greatest superpower to save us all from sin and death.
- Pray for the children to experience the gospel and Jesus' love in Easter service!
- Pray for the children to discover that they can know Jesus and have this superpower in their own lives.
- Pray for the children to make their own decisions to believe in Jesus and say yes to His superpower saving grace and know with Jesus, they can win in life's difficulties.

♥ Grow Deep Roots - Bible Study

Reminder to Preachers: Preachers will present that Jesus is actually the one who has the greatest superpower of all, because only He is able to have the power to save all people and all the world from sin and death.

Read Luke 22:54, 66-71, Luke 23:1-5, 13-26, 32-38, 44-56 and Luke 24:1-12

***Note:** Upon further reading, we have decided to use the passages from Luke. We have also removed parts of the story that are not relevant to what we would like to focus on in bringing out the story of Good Friday and Easter. Please remember that you don't have to go through every single detail of the following and it is for your preparation and learning rather than direct teaching!*

Luke 22:54, 66-71 Jesus was arrested at the Garden of Gethsemane and taken to the Elders

Jesus was arrested despite not having done anything wrong. This came to be as the chief priests and Pharisees did not believe that Jesus is from God and were unhappy with all that Jesus was doing and wanted Jesus to be dead. He was brought before the Sanhedrin, also known as the assembly of the Jewish Elders, important and religious people who served as the court of the Jewish law. They questioned Jesus if he was the Messiah / Christ – the promised saviour who God sent to save all people. Jesus' answer tells us that he knows it was futile to answer as they had already made up their minds that Jesus was not. Even so, when asked if he was the Son of God, Jesus does not deny, instead saying, "You say that I am" – A Greek expression that deflects responsibility back upon the one asking the question, which infuriates the Elders further. Their response shows that they consider Jesus' claims to be enough evidence to condemn him of religious blasphemy.

The terms "Son of God", "the Christ", "the Messiah", and "Son of Man" all refer to Jesus, emphasising different aspects of his person and role. "Son of God" points to Jesus' unique relationship to God and his equality with God the Father in his very being. The term "Christ"

indicates that Jesus claimed to be the Son of David, the Messiah and promised one from God who will save all people. "Son of Man" points to the person identified in Daniel 7:13–14, who will rule the kingdom of God.

Luke 23:1-5 Jesus was brought to Pilate

Jesus was brought to Pilate, the Roman Governor because only Rome possessed authority to impose capital punishment. Knowing that the religious grounds of Jesus' condemnation would be of little interest to Rome, the Sanhedrin changed Jesus' charge of religious blasphemy to political ones:

- a. They charged Jesus with misleading the nation away from loyalty to Rome.
- b. They also charged Jesus for opposing paying taxes to Caesar, the Roman King, which was false based on Luke 20:20-26.
- c. The third thing that they charged Jesus is that he himself is Christ, a king. This new charge focuses on insurrection: Jesus' claims to kingship would be a direct challenge to Caesar.

Pilate focuses on the third charge as the first was ambiguous and the second false. The third however, is of great gravity and asks Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews? Jesus' answer, "You have said so", is affirmative and once again, brings the responsibility back to one asking the question.

Luke 23:13-25 Jesus was sentenced to death

Based on Roman Law, Pilate did not find Jesus to be guilty and has never altered his official verdict that Jesus was innocent. Even so, Pilate agrees to sentence Jesus to death in his desire to maintain public calm rather than to follow the dictates of justice. Pilate did try to seek for Jesus' release by a custom of releasing at the Passover a prisoner chosen by the people, but he was overpowered by the crowds. The crowds consist of the chief priests, the rulers and the crowds of Jewish ordinary people who have been stirred up by the chief priests and rulers.

When the people were given the choice to release either Barabbas or Jesus, they chose Barabbas who was a notorious criminal who had committed robbery, insurrection and murder (Matthew 27:15-18, John 18:40) instead of Jesus. The crowds instead, called "Away with him!" when it came to Jesus, meaning that they wanted Jesus to be sentenced to death through crucifixion.

Pilate affirms Jesus' innocence for a third time in V22 (the other two being in V4 and V14-15), and that Jesus has not received any accusation worthy of death. He even tried to suggest simply sentencing Jesus to a beating and release. Even so, the crowd's animosity is so great that they would not accept anything but Jesus' crucifixion.

Pilate in his attempt to release Jesus, was perhaps trying to make the Jewish authorities solely responsible for the death of Jesus. But it happened under his jurisdiction and the fact is that Pilate was only the one who had the authority to allow Jesus' death, and he gave the crowd what they wanted rather than to uphold justice. While Pilate does not declare Jesus to be guilty, he did authorise for Jesus to be sentenced to death by crucifixion – the Roman means of executing criminals convicted of high treason.

Luke 23:26, 32-38 Jesus was nailed to the cross

Jesus is led out to be crucified up at a place atop a hill called the Skull, and forced to carry the cross on which he was to be nailed on. While it is not mentioned in Luke, the other gospels (Mark 15:15, Matthew 27:26, John 19:1) tells us that prior to crucifixion, the prisoner was first scourged, a flogging / whipping punishment which in and of itself could cause death. In the gospel of Mark (15:16-20), we also read that Jesus was made fun of and beaten up by the Roman soldiers. Jesus' physical condition was greatly weakened by the scourging and it prevented him from being able to carry his cross – a man named Simon of Cyrene was seized by the Roman soldiers to carry his cross.

Jesus was said to be crucified together with two other people, both of which are criminals. To be crucified means to be nailed to the cross on the hands and feet, and hung up till their death. They are hung for all crowds to see. Jesus was said to express prayers for the people, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do". Jesus fulfils his own teaching about loving one's enemies (see Luke 6:35) and highlights the fact that his death was providing the very basis upon which those who crucified him could be forgiven. Jesus thus provides an example for all believers who would follow him (see Acts 7:60; 1 Peter 2:21–24). Even so, Jesus' words does not absolve either the Jews or the Romans of their responsibility in Jesus' death, but it shows that they did not fully understand the horrible evil that they were doing in crucifying Jesus who was both the true Messiah and the Son of God.

The Roman guards are said to be casting lots, and while it was sometimes used in the OT to discover God's will, here it is a form of gambling by the Roman guards. As the crowds watched, we can see the behaviour of the Jewish ordinary people who simply watched, as opposed to the Elders in the Sanhedrin, who were said to sneer and scoff at Jesus. They also took another opportunity to mock Jesus, not even addressing Jesus directly but to each other, saying "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." The soldiers were also said to mock Jesus, telling him to save himself. They also offered him wine vinegar, which is the ordinary wine soldiers drank. The gesture is not a kind one, best interpreted as seeking to prolong Jesus' suffering by quenching his thirst.

The Bible tells us that there was a notice above Jesus as it was customary for the charge against an executed person to be displayed prominently (Matthew. 27:37, Mark 15:26, John 19:20). Over him suggests the shape of the cross was not an "X" or "T," but the traditional "t." Jesus was crucified on political grounds for claiming to be the Messiah, the King of the Jews. The inscription, considered a condemnation by the Romans, has become for Christians a confession of truth.

Luke 23:44-49 Jesus Dies

The sixth hour and till the ninth hour refers to noon till about 3PM. While it was the time of day when usually the sun is up and bright, on the day that Jesus was crucified, darkness came over the land and the sun stopped shining. This was a sign of something supernatural as darkness represents lament and divine judgement (Exodus 10:21-23). It was likely to be literal where it was really dark as the sun stopped shining, as well as figurative, signifying that Jesus was bearing God's

wrath for his people. This darkness was also said to express God's displeasure and judgement over humanity for crucifying Jesus, his son. The darkness was also not caused by a solar eclipse (Matthew 27:45), showing that indeed, it was something supernatural.

On top of that, the curtain in the Jewish temple leading from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place (referring to where God's presence is) was torn in two from top to bottom – this tells us that it was not torn by a person. At this moment, Jesus was said to cry out to God, "into Your hands, I commit my spirit – Jesus' own human spirit returned to the presence of God, the Father. He then breathed his last, and died. Matthew 27 also tells us that there was an earthquake.

A Roman Centurion is a Roman officer in charge of a hundred men, and he witnessed everything around Jesus' death:

- V34 - Jesus' behaviour towards his enemies
- V44 - the supernatural darkness
- V46 - Jesus' prayer to God and Jesus giving up his life

These things made the Centurion confess that "surely, Jesus must have been innocent" – this serves as the culminating expression of Jesus' innocence. Matthew 27:54 and Mark 15:39 tells us that the Centurion confessed that surely, Jesus must be the Son of God. Some of the people who bore witness to Jesus' death were also said to have beaten their breast, which is symbolic of grief and repentance, perhaps showing that they realised Jesus must have been innocent.

Luke 23:50-56 Jesus was Buried

Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin. Despite that, Joseph was also said to be a wealthy disciple of Jesus and he came to ask Pilate for Jesus' body. He wanted to bury Jesus in his own tomb, a tomb cut in stone where no one had been laid, which fulfils Isaiah 53:9. To place a body to be buried, the body has to be properly prepared with spices (Preparation Day). However, the Sabbath was about to begin, which means that they had to bury Jesus quickly before not being able to do any work. Jesus was buried and a big stone rolled over the entrance of the tomb to seal it.

The women disciples of Jesus (Mark 16:1 tells us they are Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James and Salome), thought that the body was inadequately prepared since the Sabbath was about to begin, so, they were said to prepare spices and ointments for the body.

Luke 24:1-12, 36-44 Jesus is Alive

The women (Mary and a few others) then returned to the tomb on Sunday, the day after the Sabbath. They came to the tomb to discover that the stone covering the entrance was rolled away. They were then met with two angels which first frightened them, a common occurrence when anyone in the Bible comes face to face with angels. The angels then told them that Lord Jesus is no longer in the tomb as he is now the risen Lord as Jesus himself has mentioned (Luke 9:22, 44, Luke 18:32–33). For the women, the empty tomb was at first perplexing but this is proof of Jesus' resurrection and confirmation that Jesus' claims to be the Son of God were in fact true (see Luke 22:70). As the women started to recall Jesus' words and how they were fulfilled, they were elated and went on to tell the other disciples that Jesus is alive!

While the eleven disciples at first did not believe the women, Peter was said to run to the tomb and find it empty, except for the linen cloth which was used to wrap Jesus' body. He was said to go home wondering what happened or marvelling.

It wasn't till later on, that Jesus appeared to his disciples, and showed them the actual physical reality of his resurrection body. Jesus came to appear and stood among them in V36, showing that in his resurrected state, Jesus is able to appear and disappear. Jesus then proves that it is really he who has risen from the dead by appealing to their sight (they can see him), hearing (they hear him talk), and touch (he invites them to touch him to see that he is real).

Jesus even asked for something to eat in V41, showing and proving further the corporeal nature of his resurrected body by eating and allowing the disciples to touch him, and that he is not a disembodied spirit since disembodied spirits cannot eat or be touched.

Jesus then addresses his disciples, referring to what he said when he was still with them – teachings concerning his death and resurrection (9:21–22). This tells us that Jesus of Nazareth and the risen Lord Jesus Christ are one and the same, even though the resurrected body of the risen Christ is gloriously different from his pre-resurrection body. Jesus' body now is fully healed, and strong, and not subject to the death and decay of the flesh.

♥ Teaching the Primary Kids

As mentioned, the above are for your own reading and preparation rather than to go through everything with the kids! Make sure to keep things age-appropriate!

Explore the Story with Appropriate Context! Below is an example, but you can change it up!

You can also link it to the 5-color gospel if you want to, but we will do that in Huddle Time, so it's not necessary for you to do so. Preachers are also encouraged to expand on the Easter story beyond just the 5-colour gospel, but you also don't need to go through all the details of the story.

Link to theme: Wow, today, we sure tried to learn about all kinds of amazing superpowers. But after so many years of being in superhero school, there is only one person who has the ultimate super power. He came from God. Are you ready to hear the story?

In the very beginning of time, when there was absolutely nothing at all, there was God. Well, God is the most powerful being of all and he has always existed and he is also a perfect God who is loving and righteous! And God decided that he wanted to create a beautiful world full of love and good things, and he did! He created everything in the world that we see [Insert more examples]. And then, he made people like you and I, and people were God's most favourite of all that He had created. He wanted people to live with love and according to His ways which is always to love each other and trust each other.

But sadly, people fell into sin... people decided that they didn't want to just trust and follow God's ways. They wanted to follow their own ways... and that was when sin came into the hearts of all people. Sin like selfishness, stealing, greed, pride came into our world. And so did things like sadness, sickness and hard stuff, even death.

Sin is all the opposite of God and it brings us far away from our righteous God. But God still loves all people. And so, God had a plan to save all people by sending the ultimate superhero with the most powerful superpower - Jesus! God came to be with us, to be a person just like us, named Jesus. Jesus shows us what God is like, how loving and good God is.

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Jesus lived his life on earth with an amazing super love and superpower! Jesus travelled around where he lived, to small towns and villages. Everywhere he went, he shared about God and said, "Follow me! God is doing a new thing! Together we will make the world just how God has always wanted it to be! No more sadness or sickness or death! Instead there will be joy and goodness and life!"

Link to theme: And wow, Jesus truly had amazing superpowers! He was able to heal hurt and sick people. (Give a brief example)

He was able to make people feel joy and love by being friends with them, even those who are lonely!

He fed many hungry people!

He was even able to raise people from the dead! (Give brief example)

Jesus showed love, God's love. So many people did follow Jesus. They wanted a world full of God's goodness and justice.

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But not all people liked Jesus and all that he was doing. Some people didn't believe that Jesus was God or from God at all. These people were the Romans leaders and the Jewish religious leaders - they did not like how so many people wanted to follow Jesus and they wanted Jesus gone. To the Romans, Jesus was dangerous in case people started being loyal to him and not being loyal to their empire. To the Jewish religious leaders, Jesus was dangerous for saying God was doing new things, bringing God's kingdom to earth, and that Jesus was the King of God's Kingdom.

So, they made a plan to kill Jesus. That would stop Jesus' mission, there would be no king for this so-called new kingdom of God.

But the truth is, nothing can stop God's mission. Nothing can stop the kingdom. Nothing can kill God's dream. Still, for a while, it sure seemed like it. One of Jesus' followers, a man named Judas, agreed to work with the leaders so that Jesus could be arrested. They arrested Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he'd been praying. Jesus had been talking to God about what he knew was coming-- that he would die. Even though Jesus knew that was his mission, to give his life to save all people, Jesus felt afraid, and alone.

He asked God if there was another way.

But Jesus knew that God's plan was the best way, it was the way of super love. And Jesus had done it the right way throughout his whole life --he spread the kingdom by showing love, spending time with people who most felt like outsiders, doing some special signs to show what God is like, teaching those who wanted to listen about how God wants us to live and how this kingdom would be. For Jesus' entire life, he had been faithful to God's ways of living life and loving others. He had been faithful to God's way of following God too.

But it was now time for Jesus to use His super love for all people, and he allowed himself to be arrested.

After Jesus was arrested, and while he waited for his trial, his guards made fun of him and hit him. The next morning the religious leaders met with Jesus and said, "If you're the messiah--the one God promised to send to us -- tell us." But Jesus said, "Even if I told you, you won't believe me." Jesus knew that they were already fixated on what they think is true, that Jesus was not from God. They asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You say that I am." To everybody there, this was the same as Jesus admitting that he had God's own authority. He was after all, since came as God to earth, in a body. But to the leaders who thought he was a regular person, this was not ok. People didn't claim to speak for God to act with God's authority, so they wanted so much to punish and put Jesus to death.

So the religious leaders took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman leader, and said, 'This man is not being loyal to Rome, or to Caesar the king. He says he's starting a kingdom of his own.' The Bible tells us the Pilate wasn't really sure, and didn't think Jesus deserved to be there.

Note: *You can add more details to this.*

Despite Pilate trying to release Jesus to the people, the crowds were stirred to anger by the religious leaders and they would not accept anything but for Jesus to be sentenced to death. Eventually, the crowd was so angry and loud that Pilate gave in to the people, and ordered for Jesus to be sentenced to death by being crucified--nailed to a cross. The sign above him--where the crime was displayed simply said 'The king of the Jews'. People mocked him, saying all this proved he wasn't king of anything.

The day that Jesus was nailed on the cross was a Friday. And about noon that Friday, the Bible tells us that the sky turned dark, and the sun stopped shining. This was not a natural thing but God had allowed it. And at about 3pm, Jesus said "God, I give you my life." and he died. On the cross when

Jesus was nailed on, Jesus showed His super love for us by letting the worst parts of our world – violence, meanness, arrogance, pride, power, lies, selfishness, we call it sin--all come onto him. And the weight of that sin took his life and Jesus allowed it because He came to save us all.

Some of Jesus' followers asked for Jesus' body and his body was buried in a tomb that's carved out of rock - a bit like a cave. A rock was rolled over the entrance of the cave, sealing the tomb shut. Jesus died on a Friday, day 1.

Then it was Saturday, day 2 which was a Sabbath and so none of the disciples could do anything, it was simply a day of waiting.

On Sunday, day 3, some women disciples went to the tomb where Jesus' body had been put. They had special spices to take care of Jesus' body. Jesus was so important to them and they wanted to make sure to send off Jesus well. When the women got to the tomb, they were expecting to be incredibly sad. But something completely different happened. When they reached, the stone that had been covering the entrance to the cave... had been moved.

When they got to the tomb, they only saw the strips of linen laying on the ground with no Jesus. What did the linen mean? Jesus wasn't there! Instead, angels appeared to them, telling them they will not find Jesus here because He has risen! One of the women, Mary, was crying because she didn't know what happened to Jesus. She told everything to a man in the garden, when suddenly Jesus revealed himself and she realised she was talking to Jesus himself.

At that moment, Mary and the other women realised that what the angels said was true, that Jesus is alive again! The women ran back to the rest of the group, telling them all that had happened, and that Jesus was not dead, but alive!!

Link to theme: And this, HopeKids, was the greatest superpower that Jesus had – a super love for all people and a power so strong that he was able to win over sin and death and come back to life! Jesus is alive!

Link to Gospel: And the truth is, HopeKids. Jesus knew he had to die, because he came to save us all from all the wrong and bad things we sometimes do as well as all the bad things in our world. We know these to be called sin.

Jesus came, and Jesus' super love for us is that he allowed himself to be killed and allowed himself to die. On that cross where he died, all sins are placed there.

And on the third day, Jesus shows his superpower where he came back to life, showing that He has the power to win over sin. And win over death. When Jesus died, he left all the sins to die, but with his power, Jesus came back to life.

And we can know Jesus for ourselves too, because Jesus is alive! If we believe in the super love and super power of Jesus, we are saying to Jesus to help us to follow God and make the world just

God has always wanted it to be, full of joy and goodness and life! When we say we believe in Jesus, we can be with God again and follow God's ways to build His perfect Kingdom of love and trust.

Lead the kids to accept Jesus' super love and super power if they want to by praying a Salvation Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for coming to earth to show me your super love and how to live life in God's good ways. I know that I have sinned and done wrong. I am sorry. Please forgive me of all my sins. I believe that you showed your super love for me when you died on the cross. I believe that you came back to life on the third day and that is your super power to save me and all people. Please come into my life and help me turn away from doing wrong. Help me to follow God and also tell more people about your love. Help me to learn and grow in you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Link to Big Point:

And now, HopeKids, you know Jesus' super love and superpower and you can always win with Jesus! Jesus isn't physically with us, but He is God and super powerful! He promised to love us and be with us in a different way through God's Spirit. Jesus loves us, shows up, and follows through. Today as we have a celebration of Jesus' life and resurrection, I want you to know that Jesus is alive and always with you. So if you ever need help in anything, you can always ask him for help and you can win with Jesus.

Repeat after me: I can win with Jesus!

Note: You can also give some more examples how they can ask Jesus for help and how they can win with Jesus! Be sure to repeat the big point again!

Huddle Plans for Easter (Primary)

- Sharing Gospel using Gospel Flipcards (a variation of the 5-colour gospel)
- [Sample of resource](#)



The truth is God is the one who made us and we are supposed to live with God forever in Heaven! **God wants us to be with Him in heaven.**

The Gold on this Button reminds us of how beautiful heaven is and the rich treasures God has prepared for us in heaven!

Heaven is a wonderful place:

- There is no sickness, no pain and no hunger
- No one ever dies
- Everyone is perfectly happy

	The most wonderful thing about heaven is that it is God's home. God loves us very much and wants us to be with him. But there is something that prevents us from being with God.
	This "something" is none other than sin. The Black on this Button is like the darkness we experience when we sin. In this darkness, we can't find our way to God. Because we have all sinned, we cannot get to heaven on our own because sin separates us from God. • Sins are the things we do that make God unhappy • Doing, saying or thinking bad things are sins • Telling lies, disobeying your parents, hurting others and being selfish are examples of sins • All of us have sinned The punishment for our sins is that we can't be with God in heaven. • Because of sin, our hearts are no longer clean • God is perfect. Perfectly good, and perfectly clean • Because God is perfectly clean, he can only allow those with clean hearts into heaven On our own, we can't make our hearts clean. But God loves us so much that he provides a way for our hearts to be made clean.



The way is Jesus! Jesus is God's son who has never sinned. Jesus came to earth as a human to take the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross. The Red on this Button represents the blood of Jesus — the only way our hearts can be made clean.

Jesus came from heaven to earth to take the punishment for our sins.

- Instead of us being punished, he took our place
- Jesus died on the cross so that all the wrong things that we have done can be forgiven
- And on the third day, Jesus became alive again

When Jesus took the punishment for our sins, something amazing happened.



This amazing thing is that Jesus made it possible for our hearts to be made clean. We can be made clean from sin by believing in Jesus.

Our hearts can be made clean by doing the following things:

- Admit that we have sinned and ask God to forgive us
- Believe that Jesus died on the cross to be punished instead of us, and
- Invite Jesus into our lives to help us turn away from sin

When we do these things sincerely, our hearts will be made clean.

And on top of that, we start a brand new friendship with God as citizens of heaven and children of God. The Green on this Button reminds us that we should grow in our friendship with Jesus. We grow by talking to God, reading God's word, the Bible, and by obeying him.

As we grow in God, we live lives that bring praise to Him, in hope that more and more people will come to know Jesus too.

The amazing hope we have through life is God will always love us and we will be with God forever and ever in heaven!