

Church at Home Pack – 18th July 2021

Join us in church for our 10:30am service on Sunday or watch live at home on

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

God of hope,
in all the stories of our lives, you are with us.
As we turn you, and turn to each other,
may we give and find all the comfort that we need.
Our hope is in you.
Amen.



Action reminder –

From the top of my head
(Touch head)
to the tips of my toes;
(Touch toes)
from the lobes of my ears
(Touch ear lobes)
to the end of my nose;
(Touch nose)
from my back, to my front
(Turn round)
to my wiggly fingers,
(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)
God loves me!
(jump up and down)

READ TOGETHER

1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 5:11



International Children's Bible (ICB)

¹³ Brothers, we want you to know about those who have died. We do not want you to be sad as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and that he rose again. So, because of Jesus, God will bring together with Jesus those who have died. ¹⁵ What we tell you now is the Lord's own message. We who are living now may still be living when the Lord comes again. We who are living at that time will be with the Lord, but not before those who have already died. ¹⁶ The Lord himself will come down from heaven. There will be a loud command with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God. And those who have died and were in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, those who are still alive at that time will be gathered up with them. We will be taken up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ So comfort each other with these words.



⁵ Now, brothers, we do not need to write to you about times and dates. ² You know very well that the day the Lord comes again will be a surprise like a thief that comes in the night. ³ People will say, "We have peace and we are safe." At that time they will be destroyed quickly, as pains come quickly to a woman having a baby. And those people will not escape. ⁴ But you, brothers, are not living in darkness. And so that day will not surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all people who belong to the light. You belong to the day. We do not belong to the night or to darkness. ⁶ So we should not be like other people. We should not be sleeping, but we should be awake and have self-control. ⁷ Those who sleep, sleep at night. Those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But we belong to the day; so we should control ourselves. We should wear faith and love to protect us. And the hope of salvation should be our helmet. ⁹ God did not choose us to suffer his anger, but to have salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ Jesus died for us so that we can live together with him. It is not important if we are alive or dead when Jesus comes. ¹¹ So comfort each other and give each other strength, just as you are doing now.



New International Version (NIV)

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

⁵ Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and

safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.



WATCH TOGETHER



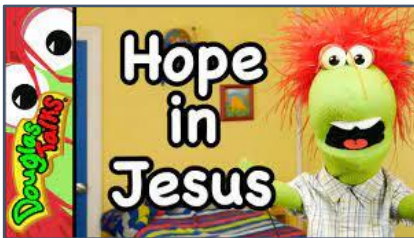
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 – Wenty Anglican:

<https://youtu.be/Nhf2N9hntjl>



1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 – Wenty Anglican:

<https://youtu.be/gTBslZpgXi4>



Hope in Jesus – Douglas Talks: <https://youtu.be/zh9QaH-qJkM>

TALK TOGETHER

- Have you ever been through a difficult or sad time?
- What gives you hope?
- How does your hope in Jesus' return help?

STUDY TOGETHER – *Authentic Hope*

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11

- What will happen when Jesus comes back? Who will rise first? Who will rise next?
- How will we know that Jesus is coming?
- Why can't Paul tell the Thessalonians when Jesus will come back?
- Why will many people be surprised when Jesus comes again?
- Do you think that we should be waiting for Jesus to come back?
- How should we behave while waiting?
- How can we encourage and build-up each other?



PLAY TOGETHER

Action Passage!

Have a copy of **1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18** ready (the International Children's Bible version printed in the **Read Together** section would be good for this).

Before reading the passage, practise the following actions for key words: **died** – fall flat on the floor; **sad** – pretend to cry; **hope** – cheer; **Jesus/Lord** – point upwards; **rose again** – jump up.



Read the passage and see if everyone can remember the actions. Read it again, faster and faster. Can you keep up?!

MAKE TOGETHER

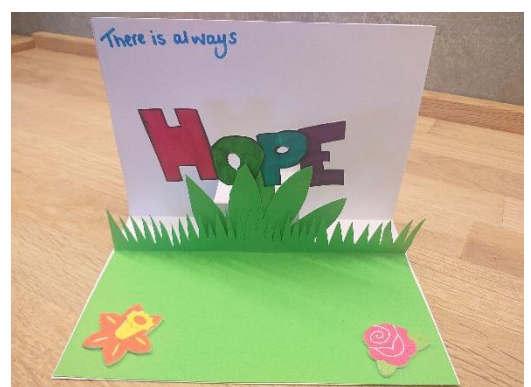
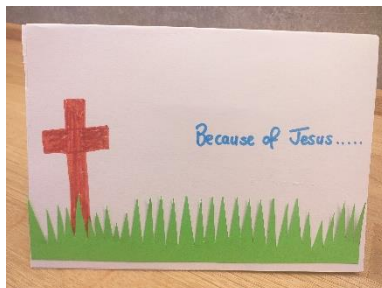
Pop up hope cards

In **1 Thessalonians 4:18**, Paul says we should 'encourage one another with these words...' These words are the hope we have because of what Jesus did and because of his promised return.

Make a pop up hope card to remind you of this or make one to give to someone who is sad or going through a difficult time at the moment.

You will need:

- An A4 sheet of paper or card
- Some scraps of paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pens/pencils



- Fold your A4 paper/card in half and cut down the middle so that you have two A5 sized pieces of paper.
- Fold both in half – one will form the outside and the other, the inside of your card
- Roughly in the middle of one – cut two equal lines in from the folded edge (see photographs) and fold inward. This will form the pop up part of your card.
- Glue the cut out piece of paper inside (as shown in the photographs) making sure to keep your 'pop up' folded inwards and not to stick it down!
- Now you can decorate it however you wish. In church this morning, the children and parents made the 'Because of Jesus' cards as a reminder of what we have learned. If you have family or friends who are in need of encouragement, you could try the 'Behind every cloud...' design or make up your own and add a personal message of hope.



SING TOGETHER

HOPE – AllstarsGO: https://youtu.be/r_t5xitQjlc

Every move I make – (Hillsong Kids) CJ and Friends:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPvnZILn6EY&list=RDMPvnZILn6EY&start_radio=1

Yet not I – CityAlight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLMLYoeB6I>

One day – Matt Redman: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgDjtpWV4Ro>

We dance – Steffany Gretzinger (Bethel Music): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFfw6OSbUwE>

God's great dancefloor – Chris Tomlin / choreography by Dance United:

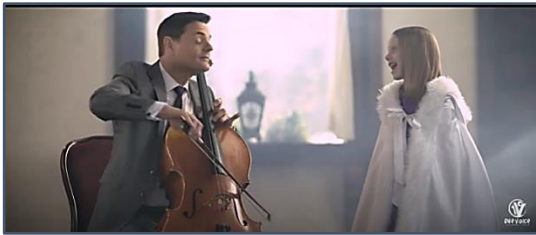
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-HzEVk4pg4>

REFLECT TOGETHER

Are you dancing?

John spoke of God's dance which has been going on with a persistent beat since before time began, inviting us to join in. Are you joining in with this divine creative dance, surrounding us, supporting us and leading us on in hope to a future celebration?

Listen to this song as you reflect on this question: are you dancing?



Only hope – *One Voice Children's Choir:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRPQpdUSVCg>

*"Sing to me the song of the stars
Of your galaxy dancing and laughing and laughing again
When it feels like my dreams are so far
Sing to me of the plans that you have for me over again"*

Dying, Waking (Taken from 'Thoughts to make your heart sing' by Sally Lloyd-Jones)

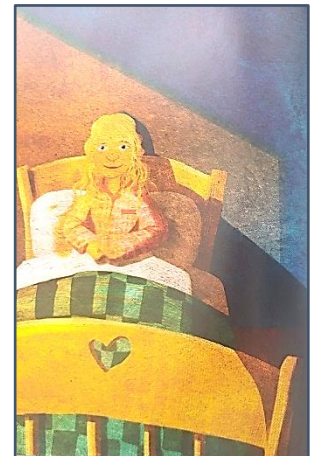
"God meant us to live forever. But sin has broken everything and now we – all of us – die.

Jesus came to destroy death. He died on the cross and was buried – but death couldn't keep him dead. On the third day he burst out of the tomb!

And now death can't keep us dead either.

The preacher Charles Spurgeon said that Jesus has turned the tomb into a bed – and dying into just waking up.

We will still die. But after we died, we will wake – as if from a refreshing night's sleep – and Jesus will lead us by the hand into Life that won't ever end."



If you're reading this with children, make sure they understand that it doesn't mean that people we love who have died will wake up for us to see them again now, but they will wake up in a new place, with Jesus, waiting to see us again there one day.

PRAY TOGETHER

Lord Jesus,

thank you that you died and rose again
to open the path to eternal life.

We praise you for your powerful love,
which is stronger than death.

We thank you for the hope we have because of you.

Amen.

God of all comfort, hear our prayers

for all those grieving:

Lord, bring comfort and hope.

For all those facing illness:

Lord, bring comfort and hope.

For all those living with hidden pressures:

Lord, bring comfort and hope.

For all those who find themselves alone:

Lord, bring comfort and hope.

Hold us all within the circle of your love.

Amen.

DO TOGETHER

Comfort and encourage

As you go through this week, at times you and others around you will experience difficulties and maybe sadness. You may even spend time with someone who has lost a loved one. Remember this Bible passage and in particular, this verse:

1 Thessalonians 5: 11 - So comfort each other and give each other strength, just as you are doing now.

- If you made a **Hope Card** in the **Make Together** section, send or give it to someone who is going through a difficult time.

Dance of Hope!

In his sermon, John asked if we were dancing?....

If you are struggling with a difficult situation or feeling sad this week. Remember this is not the end, your hope is in the Lord! Why not put on some worship music, dance and thank God for the hope you have!

We heard this song in our service today – it's a joyful place to start!



My hope is in the Lord - <https://youtu.be/tJePCzTaQo4>

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Action Reminder, Prayer and Play Together taken or adapted from

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