



# HOPE

This term we will be thinking about the value **HOPE**.  
We hope you will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value with your child.

Having confidence that you will receive the blessings God has promised.

*"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness"*

Desmond Tutu

Hope can be lost and found. It can be as tiny as an atom and still pack a powerful punch in the eye of despair. Hope is the gentle tug within the heart of every Christian to comfort us when we are tossed 'to and fro' by challenges.

God has planted hope in the heart of every believer so that we can build a strong relationship of love and trust with Him. Let it grow and nourish in the word of God everyday.

*"And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in You." Psalm 39:7*

*"Yes, my soul, find rest in God: my hope comes from Him" Psalm 62:5*



People hope for peace in time of war; food in time of famine; justice in time of oppression. Where hope is lost there is despair and disintegration. Hope generates energy and sustains people through difficult times. For some people, hope is so strong that it inspires self-sacrifice to turn hope into reality.

Hope is a core Christian value. A Christian's hope is based on Jesus Christ's promises that He can redeem mankind and provide mankind eternal life. The Christian value of hope enables a Christian to be patient and persevere even though Jesus' promises of eternal life are unseen and unrealized in this present time. Romans 8:24 advises us to place our hope in God and not in material things.

The value **hope** is about much more than just wishing as hard as we can that things will be different.

It is about believing that the world can be better and being prepared to do something!

Hope is knowing in your heart that something good is going to happen, even if you can't see it. We put our hope in Jesus and something good... like going to Heaven... will come.

"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?" **Romans 8:24**

Christian hope is grounded in the character of God. 'My hope is in you'. It is a hope rooted in the love and faithfulness of God. Hope is not wishful thinking but a firm assurance that God can be relied upon.

Hope is coupled with faith and love as one of the three most enduring gifts of the Spirit. **Corinthians 13:13**



**Read Together....**

## GOD'S SPECIAL PROMISE

The world that God had made was a beautiful, colourful place – brimming with life and bursting with good things. It was his precious gift given with all his love.

God hoped that people would care for it and care for each other but now they were doing just the opposite! They were quarrelling, fighting, and spoiling everything. God saw that there was only one thing to do; to begin all over again.

But God also saw that not everyone on the earth was wicked. There was one man and his family trying to do their best to look after the world and to look after each other and to listen to him. The man's name was Noah.

God told Noah to build an ark – a huge, magnificent boat. Noah was mystified because he lived miles from the ocean and was not sure why he would ever need a boat.

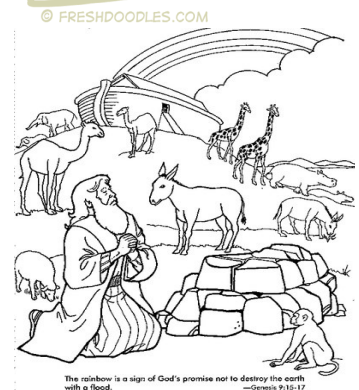
As word got around about the enormous boat Noah's neighbours made his life miserable with their taunts and jibes.

Sometimes Noah was tempted to lose hope, but he knew from experience that he could trust God for the future, so he and his family kept on building.

When the work was finally finished God told Noah to gather two of every kind of creature as well as all his family together and set up home in the ark. It took a long time but Noah had to just keep on trusting God.

And then the first raindrops began to fall, followed by showers, then torrents and finally floods. On and on it rained for forty days and forty nights.

When Noah was beginning to lose hope of ever seeing the sun again, the rain suddenly stopped.



Noah sent out a dove and when it did not return he knew that the bird had found dry land on which to build a nest.

They were safe at last! And then a wonderful thing happened. God sent a rainbow - a beautiful, colourful bow in the sky. It was a sign of hope and promise. The world had been washed clean, and was all ready for a new beginning.

**GENESIS 6:1-**



# Hope :

1. the feeling that what is wanted can be had
2. a person or thing in which expectations are centered
3. to believe, desire, or trust
4. to place trust; rely

**"However long the night, the dawn will break"** African Proverb

*"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow"* Albert Einstein

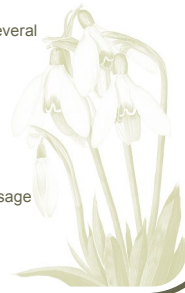
## JANUARY'S SNOWDROP: HOPE

The lovely snowdrop is one of the first flowers to appear in the spring as it works its way through the snow to bloom.

The snowdrop flower has several meanings depending on the context. The most common meanings are:

Purity  
Hope  
Rebirth

The snowdrop flower's message is typically positive, signifying hope, rebirth and a bright future.

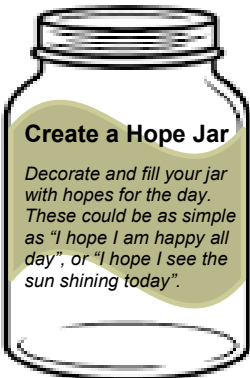


## QUIZ Word Search

Find the words from the story of Noah.  
12 creatures are also hidden in the word search. They were on the boat!

NOAH	CREATURE	FORTY
ARK	DAYS	HOPE
BOAT	DOVE	NEST
BUILD	FLOODS	PROMISE
	GOD	RAINBOW
		WORLD

P	R	O	M	I	S	E	T
A	A	C	G	K	D	U	P
R	I	B	F	R	O	G	J
R	N	J	H	G	O	D	D
L	Q	R	O	B	O	A	T
G	O	A	T	O	U	A	M
D	L	R	O	W	Z	I	H
P	M	K	C	A	M	E	L
O	L	I	O	N	E	V	O
E	R	U	T	A	E	R	C
V	X	A	Y	G	I	R	A



### Create a Hope Jar

Decorate and fill your jar with hopes for the day. These could be as simple as "I hope I am happy all day", or "I hope I see the sun shining today".

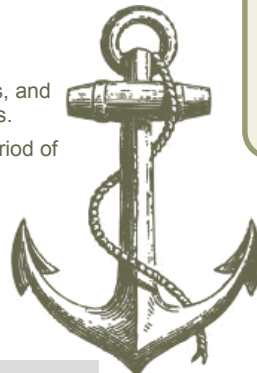
### Hope or anticipation may be the anchor of your soul ...

The Anchor is the Victorian symbol for Hope.

Early Christians used the anchor as a disguised cross, and as a marker to guide the way to secret meeting places.

The anchor was a key Christian symbol during the period of Roman persecution. It represents safety.

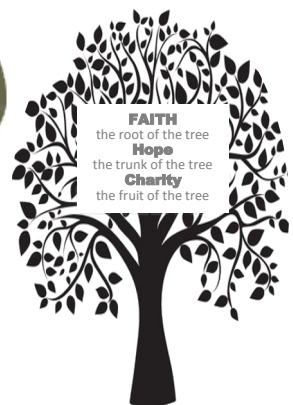
*"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul"*  
Hebrews 6:19



### The Tree of Hope

Can you plant a tree in your garden or make a 'junk' model tree to symbolise the 'Tree of Hope'?

If you are making your tree, can you make your leaves with hopeful messages on them?



*Hope and fear cannot occupy the same space at the same time.  
Invite one to stay.*

Maya Angelou

**"Don't ever make decisions based on fear. Make decisions based on hope and possibility. Make decisions based on what should happen, not what shouldn't."**

Michelle Obama

### Make a 'hopes and dreams' catcher

Dream catchers are traditionally made from a looped willow branch onto which a net or web is woven. The net is then decorated with feathers, beads and other decorations. According to American Indian folklore, as we sleep, dreams are caught in the net and with the first rays of sunlight any bad dreams are burned away. Find a long twig that can be bent and tied to make a hoop or frame. Use natural string or thread stretched across the frame to make the net and then decorate it creatively to catch all the hopes and dreams you can!



**Dear God,**  
if today I lose my hope,  
please remind  
me that your  
plans are better  
than my dreams.