

Family Devotional

From September 11, 2016

Create: Gather basic art supplies and whatever your family likes to use to create.

Have you ever seen a sign that says, "Faith, Hope and Love" with a cross by the word "faith", an anchor by the word "hope", and a heart by the word "love"? The cross and heart seem to make sense for faith and love, but do you know why Christians use an anchor as a symbol for hope?

It comes from a verse found in Hebrews 6: 19-20. It says, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf."

What is the purpose of an anchor on a ship?

Just like an anchor helps hold a ship securely in place even as the waves try to toss it too and fro, our hope in Jesus hold us steady even when the storms of life come our way.

Either together as a family or individually, create a piece of art with an anchor in it somewhere. When you're finished find a place to hang it, or to set it, where it can remind you to put your hope in Jesus no matter what is going on in your life.

Sometimes we all need to be reminded of God's faithfulness. Let's read this passage and hear from the Prophet Isaiah. God sent Isaiah to remind His people during a really hard time in their history. They were captives in another land and being forced to do hard work. God wanted them to know He had not forgotten them and was at work to make everything right again.

Read: Isaiah 9:1-7

Reflect: Who do you think the prophet Isaiah was talking about in verse 6 and 7?

How do you think the people felt when they first heard this message?

Go around the group and share a hard time in your life when God was with you and helped you.

Sometimes we are still living in the middle of the story and we haven't reach the happily ever after part yet. That is why placing our hope in Jesus is so important. He promises to walk alongside us and be present in all of life's situations.

Remember: As a family work on memorizing/mediating on Psalm 42:5

"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for sending Jesus to make a way for us to be with you forever. Help us remember to place our hope in you and your faithfulnessAmen!"