

Lesson 37: Israel Suffers as Slaves

[Exodus 5:1–6:1](#)

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/2V0fzWTP-2A>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/jQquVLW4Svs>

Worship Theme: God is our hope.

Memory Verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. Jesus Is the Lord <https://youtu.be/I-PzUIJ0MVo>
2. I Enter His Gate <https://youtu.be/WvXL4DtBMdc>
3. I Trust You Lord <https://youtu.be/WCZlwlstAzc>

Prayer

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker:

Materials Needed: two cups, water, sugar, and salt.



Today's theme is about hope.

1. Show the children as you make one cup of sugar water and one cup of salt water.
2. Don't tell the children which is sugar water and salt water.
3. Have 2 children come to the teacher and 1 child choose the drink for their friend.
4. Ask the child who is choosing the drink what they hope for. Ask the child who is going to drink the water what they hope for.
5. Have the child drink. Was it sugar water? Salt water?
6. If the child chose sugar water, ask: How did it feel to get what you hoped for? God is powerful and can give us what we hope for!
7. If the child chose salt water, ask: How did it feel to not get what you hoped for?
8. Some of us might be thinking that we've been disappointed because we haven't received something we hoped for. Life is like that sometimes. Disappointments happen. But God will never disappoint us. That's why the Bible tells us to put our hope in God, not people. God is our only hope who will never disappoint us!

Introduction

To hope means to have the feeling that what you want will happen. Our God is a God who loves us and wants us to hope for good things. Sometimes God gives us the things we hope for right away. But sometimes God says no because he knows they wouldn't be good for us or because he has something better in mind. And sometimes God just says, "Wait—not now." God has perfect timing. Israel was slaves in Egypt for 400 years! They hoped to be free, but they had to wait. (Teacher: Briefly share about a time in your life when you hoped and prayed for something and God gave you what you asked for. Ask the children if they hoped and prayed for something and God gave them what they asked for.)

Bible Story: Back in the days of Moses, God's people, the Israelites, were slaves to a wicked leader called Pharaoh. Pharaoh is the king of Egypt. He was very, very mean to them. They had to make bricks out of mud and straw for his buildings. Each day Pharaoh got meaner and meaner to the Israelites. He made them do more and more work with fewer and fewer supplies. The people were afraid of Pharaoh. God heard the cries of his people and looked for someone who could lead the Israelites out of their

slavery. Of all the Israelites God could have chosen for this job, he picked Moses. Moses was not at all confident that he could lead his people, but he put his hope in God. Moses and the Israelites waited for God to show them the way out of Egypt, as he said he would. The people waited and waited, and God came through! He helped them escape from slavery and Pharaoh. That's how God is—he does what he says he'll do!

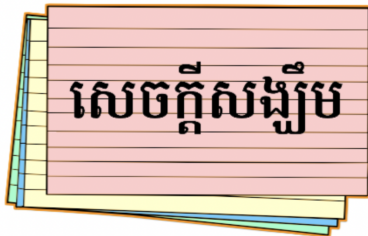
We all have burdens. Sometimes we feel like we're all alone, and we feel tired and sad, as the Israelites did. But sharing our hurts and burdens with someone makes us feel not so alone. It builds our faith and helps us hope in God to see us through difficult times. Having hope in God keeps us strong through those hard times.

Questions to discuss:

1. Who was being mean to the Israelites? (Pharaoh)
2. Who did God choose to rescue the Israelites? (Moses)
3. In whom did Moses hope when he didn't feel confident? (God)
4. Does God always do what he says he'll do? Explain (YES! God never breaks promises that he makes to us. Sometimes we have to wait, but God always does what he says he'll do.)
5. When you have problems and struggles, who do you look to for help?

Game: "Treasure Hunt"

Materials Needed: 10 paper with "Hope" written on it



1. Before the children come to class, write "HOPE" on 10 pieces of paper and hide them in various places in the classroom.
2. Have the students go around the room to find their "Hope."
3. Prepare a small prize for the winners.

Memory Verse:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Craft:

Israel in slavery coloring pages (see below)

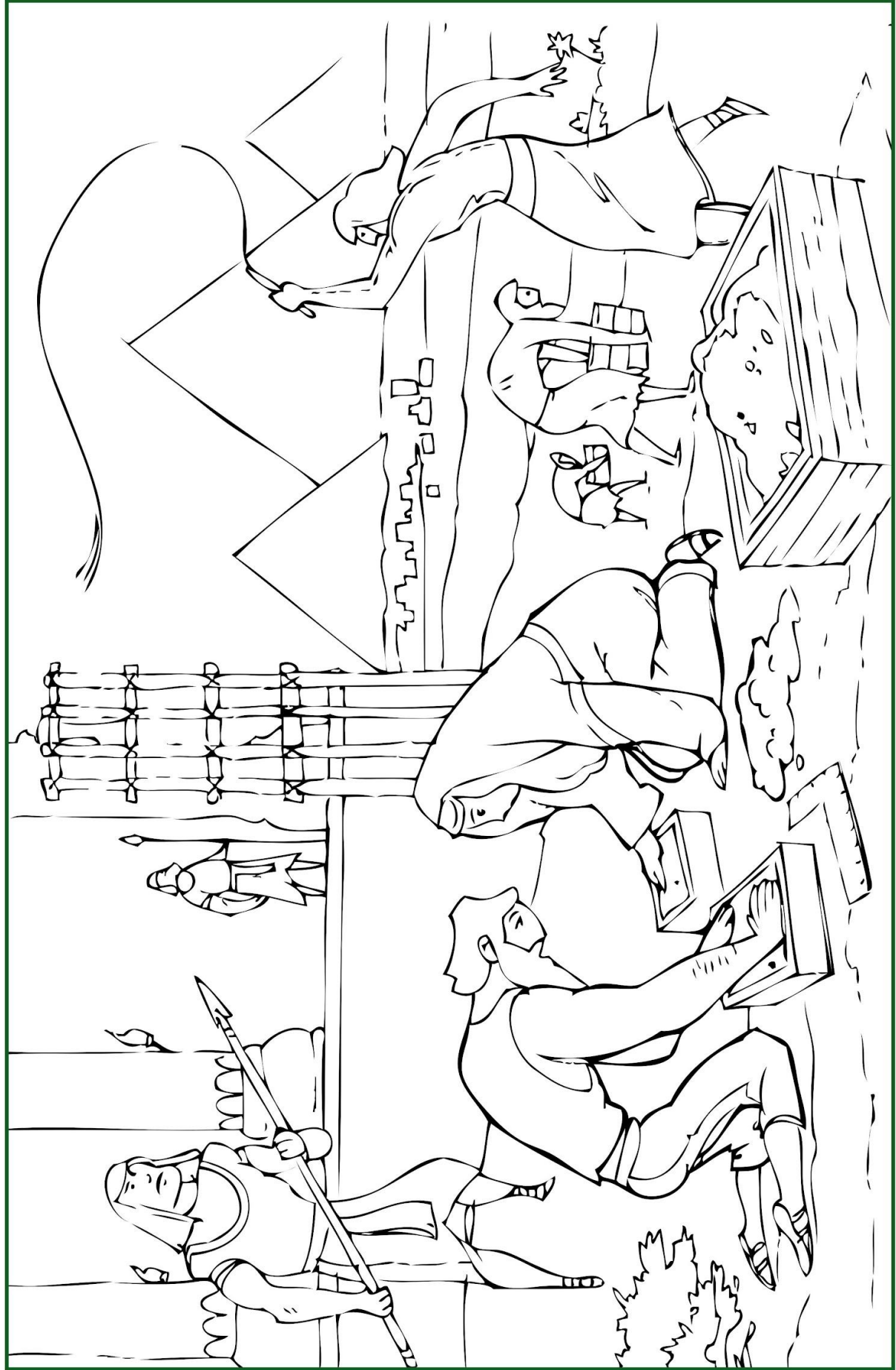
Song: Select songs from the list above.

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

God doesn't promise his followers a trouble-free life, but as followers of Jesus, we have hope—even in difficult circumstances. The Hebrews lost hope, and we can certainly understand why! Yet God never stopped planning for their future. What are you hoping for today? Remember that God is working out your future—even when it seems impossible. Thank Jesus for his constant involvement in the events of your life.

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