

Hope



SAY Jesus called himself the Light of the World, and at Advent, we light candles to remind ourselves of the light of hope he brought into a world filled with the darkness of sin.

ASK What is hope?

EXPLAIN Hope is looking forward to something wonderful. It's expecting something good to happen. It's light in the darkness.

SAY This candle represents hope. When Jesus came, he brought hope for people lost in sin.

READ & DISCUSS Isaiah 9:2 and Matthew 1:18-25

PRAY O Lord, our God, thank you for not leaving us in darkness but for sending your light into the world instead. Help us to shine your light in the dark and dreary corners of the world. May your light and love radiate from us and give hope where it seems that all hope is lost. Help us to be yours as we wait for you to come again. We love you. Amen.

FURTHER DISCUSSION What are some thing you hope for? What are some ways our family can give hope to others? What's so hopeful about Jesus coming into the world?

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Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son and she named him Jesus.