



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

December 18-19, 2021

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Hope – Week 3

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Hope is for the insider and the outsider.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Luke 1:46-55

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Dope or Nope: Christmas Gifts Edition"

Super simple game! Students will be shown pictures of gifts found online. They choose whether they think the gift is dope (good idea) or nope (bad idea). You can have students choose a side of the room to answer or stick a thumb up or down. Play it how you want. If it's possible in your environment, see who's the pickiest and easiest to please based on their answers! If time permits and students are game, make up some of your own!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

What are you most excited about heading into the Christmas season?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

Hope – Week 3

December 18-19, 2021

Christmas is quickly approaching! You still have one more week of binge-watching Christmas movies, listening to your favorite Spotify playlist of Christmas songs, and the calories from Christmas cookies don't count! Ok, just kidding about the last part...

Today, we are doing the last week of our 3-week series called "Hope." We are looking at the account of Jesus's birth through some different perspectives. Today, I want to direct our attention once again to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the prayer that she says after finding out she is pregnant with the Son of God. Here is how she responds in Luke 1:46-55 in the New Testament:

And Mary said, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is His name. His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and His descendants forever, just as He promised our ancestors."

While Mary is praying this individually to God, the things she is saying represented what many people were feeling. The significance of Jesus is coming was that He came for all people – those who were already in the "in crowd." He also came for those society had forgotten about or pushed to the side. You can say that He came for both the insider and the outsider. This is a great way to set up our THP or Take Home Point...

Hope is for the insider and the outsider.

I don't know about you, but at different times in my life, I have felt like an insider AND an outsider.

(Teacher's Note: Share an experience where you felt like an insider and then share a second one where you felt like an outsider.)

THE MESSAGE

There might be times where we are given special treatment or approval or rewards because we were “in.” However, there are other times when we are left out, overlooked, pushed to the side and the “good kids” or the “popular crowd” are favored.

But when Jesus comes on the scene – literally the hope of God in the form of a human – He comes for both groups: the insider AND the outsider. Here’s why...**God knows the insiders and outsiders equally NEED Him.** We see examples of both in the story of Jesus’s birth. Let’s look at a few of them...

For instance, the angel appears to Mary and Joseph – a young couple living in poverty. Even though Joseph was part of the line of King David, they would have been considered “outsiders.” Then, a whole MULTITUDE of angels visit shepherds watching over flocks of sheep. In this time period, shepherds were the lowest class of people. Shepherding wasn’t exactly a high-profile job – in fact it was oftentimes done by children. Therefore, if you were a shepherd as an adult, it was seen as a major failure. Outsiders. The Magi (or the wise men) were outsiders because they didn’t worship the one true God – they were astrologers, people who believed the stars had influence over everyday life. Yet, God showed up to all of them...even though they were outsiders!

What about the insiders? That would be someone like Herod, who was the ruler of the Roman Empire at that time. At first glance, he would be an outsider, at least spiritually. Here is someone who has everything – money, fame, power – yet he gets so bothered by someone else bearing the name of “king.” You look at someone named Simeon, who we read about in Luke 2, who had been awaiting the arrival of the Messiah his entire life. In fact, God tells him that he will not die before meeting the Messiah. It just so happens that Mary and Joseph come into the temple to have Jesus dedicated, and Simeon is the one who does it. Then, you see a woman named Anna who prays and worships in the temple day and night, and she finds out Jesus is here, and she immediately starts telling everyone about him. Devout followers of God (insiders) like Simeon and Anna recognize this little baby as the One they have been waiting for.

Why do I share all of these details? Here’s why – Jesus came for all people...whether you were in the “in-crowd” or on the outside looking in. He came for the person who loves and worships God, and for the one who hates Him. He came for the rich and for the poor. He came for the believer and for the doubter. That means no matter where we find ourselves in life, we need Jesus and He wants to be with us.

THE MESSAGE

I tried to think of something that could help drive this illustration of a person coming to bring joy to everyone, no matter their status in life, and I thought this scene was perfect...

(Teacher's Note: Message Clip – Polar Express Santa)

If you've seen the movie, you'll know the small boy with the blond hair didn't grow up with as nice of a house, didn't have as much money. You'll know the girl was seen as the inspiring and encouraging character. You'll know the kid who was a know-it-all. You'll know the main character who doubted if Santa was real. But here's the thing – Santa came for all of them. He talked with all of them...interacted with them. He still cared for them and their well-being.

The Christmas season gets lost in Santa Clause, Christmas music, Christmas trees, lights, what's on our list for presents – but don't miss the true reason of Christmas. It is the hope of Jesus. As our Take Home Point says, **"Hope is for the insider and the outsider."** Which one are you? Did you know that you still need Jesus? Did you know that you can find hope in Him and Him alone? What kind of hope can you bring to the "insiders" and "outsiders" in your life? I pray this Christmas season reminds you of the hope of Jesus. Let's pray.

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

What was the THP today and why was that important during the message?

Has there been a time where you have been an "outsider" or an "insider"?

Do you most identify with being an "insider" or an "outsider" right now? Why do you feel that way?

Why do insiders and outsiders equally need the hope of Jesus?

Is there someone in your life who is an insider or an outsider? How can you bring the hope of Jesus to them?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

Remind students that whether they feel like an insider or outsider, we are ALL in need of Jesus and His hope for our lives. Let's make a commitment at Northview Students to reach out to both kinds of people and to make sure they know they are loved and welcomed by God (and us!).

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close your group in prayer! Merry Christmas!

*****Reminder: we do not meet on Dec. 25-26. We will be back the weekend of Jan. 1-2. See you then!**

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Game slides
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister

