



Helping Kids Hold onto Hope God's Way

When Heaven Feels Far Away

Raising Christ-Centered Kids | Faith | Hope

By Nancy Fujii, Founder & Teacher, L.I.G.H.T. Kingdom Kids®

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
(Hebrews 11:1, *ESV*)

Key Takeaway

Our hope is being made perfect when we live with God forever.

The Biblical Meaning of Hope

Hope in the Bible isn't like wishing on a star or crossing our fingers for good luck. It's not about hoping for a new toy, better grades, or even that things will go our way. True hope is deep confidence—an anchor for our hearts—that God will keep His promises. Because He is faithful, we can trust Him with our future even when we don't see how things will work out.

This can feel hard for kids. Life has moments that are unfair, scary, or disappointing. But biblical hope reminds us: Jesus has already won the greatest victory. He conquered sin and death so that our forever future with Him is secure. Hope means holding onto God's promise that no matter how today feels, tomorrow with Him is bright and certain. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! ... He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3, *ESV*)



Understanding Hope: When Heaven Feels Far Away

It's natural for kids to put their hope in things they can see—being chosen first, winning a game, or getting the answer they prayed for. But those hopes can change quickly. If their hope rests only on circumstances, it will collapse when life feels unfair or painful.

That's why parents can help kids build hope that lasts. Lasting hope shifts from “what I want” to “what God promises.” It looks beyond the moment and anchors itself in God's forever kingdom. When children learn that their story doesn't end in disappointment but continues into eternal life with God, they can face today with courage, patience, and joy.

Practical Steps: Helping Kids Hold onto Hope God's Way

1. **Talk About Forever** — Remind kids often that God's story is bigger than today. Point them toward Heaven as our forever home.
2. **Affirm Temporary Hopes** — When kids share hopes about sports, friends, or school, affirm their excitement but gently remind them those things don't last forever.
3. **Anchor in God's Promises** — Share verses that speak of God's faithfulness. Help kids memorize one so they can hold onto it when they feel discouraged.
4. **Celebrate God's Wins** — Thank God for ways He has already shown His goodness (answered prayers, acts of kindness, Jesus' resurrection).
5. **Practice Waiting** — Create small ways to “wait with hope” (like waiting for a family treat or outing) and connect it to waiting on God's promises.

Scripture for Parents and Kids

- “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.” (1 John 3:2, *ESV*)
- “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.” (Philippians 3:20–21, *ESV*)
- “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” (Romans 15:13, *ESV*)

Encouragement for Parents

Raising hopeful kids begins with living in hope yourself. Children notice if your hope rises and falls with circumstances—or if it stays steady because it rests in God. Hope isn't pretending that hard times don't exist. It's trusting a faithful God who walks with us through them. As you hold onto hope, you show your kids how to see beyond disappointments and live with confidence in God's promises.

CTMP Corner: Kingdom Kids in Action

- **Connect:** Ask your child what they are hoping for this week.
- **Teach:** Share how hope in God is different from wishing.
- **Model:** Talk about a time you trusted God when things didn't make sense.
- **Pray:** Thank God together for the living hope we have in Jesus.