

HOPE

LIVING WITH CONFIDENT EXPECTATION

FAMILY CONNECTION GUIDE

WEEK 2



READ

REVELATION 22:1-5, CEB

"Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, shining like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb through the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life, which produces twelve crops of fruit, bearing its fruit each month. The tree's leaves are for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more. They won't need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine on them, and they will rule forever and always."



REFLECT

As adults, we have seen our way through many situations that seemed hopeless. For example:

- Maybe high school was super hard, but you did it!
- Maybe you had a job that you hated, but that was necessary to get to the next stage of life.
- Maybe someone close to you died, and life seemed fragile and meaningless for a time.

When you reflect on experiences in your life that may have been hard, it is likely those times difficult times and circumstances are what have brought strength, courage, and wisdom.

Many students haven't gained the life experiences to know that God makes beauty from ashes and yields hope from what appears to us to be hopeless situations. In a time where students are battling with anxiety and depression, perhaps more than ever, what stories could you share with them from your life that reflect God's grace, forgiveness, and love, and hope?



REMEMBER

God's promises in scripture can bring us hope and comfort even when we are discouraged, or when we can't see past our hopeless situations.

ROMANS 15:4, CEB

"Whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction so that we could have hope through endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures."

♥ RESPOND

- Scripture becomes a source of hope and encouragement for us when read and reflected upon daily. **Our challenge for your students (and you!) this week is to begin reading the Bible daily. Start out with just reading five to ten verses a day.** Check out a daily reading plan through the free YouVersion Bible App. Just download the app, go to "Find Plans," and then you can search for daily reading plans by topics such as "hope" or "anxiety."
- If you are already reading the Bible daily, great job! **Take the challenge to the next level and pick a passage of Scripture to memorize.** Let it be a source of hope and encouragement to you, even when you don't have the Bible right in front of you. One passage to start with is Psalm 23. You can even personalize it by adding your name in to the places where it says "my." Ex: "The Lord is Jessica's Shepherd. She lacks nothing."