



SMBC
SYDNEY MISSIONARY & BIBLE COLLEGE

2019 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE



SATURDAY 4 MAY

recording

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welcome

Welcome to the SMBC 2019 Children's Ministry Conference!

Our world is broken and messy. We see kids struggling with fracture and loss and uncertainty. Our culture feeds their fears and teases them with false hope.

But we have a certain hope in Jesus to build on. A promise of saving, eternal love as our foundation.

Today we'll consider **HOPE: Certain hope for kids living in an uncertain world.**



program

Talk: Teaching Hope to Kids – *Fiona Millar*

Bible Talk: 1 Peter 1:3–12 – *Geoff Harper*

Presentation – *Quiz Worx*

talk

TEACHING HOPE TO KIDS - Fiona Millar

Introduction

WHY?

CONSIDER

WHY you are in the room right now? WHY you have put your hope in Christ?

WHY TEACH HOPE?

EXPLORE

Psalm 78

- Knowledge of God
- Hope in God
- Obedience

HOPE CONNECTS TRUE THOUGHTS TO LIVES LIVED IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD

PAUSE

Think through the truth of this in your own experience as a follower of Jesus.

Think through the implications of this in teaching children.

"You always bring your life into sync with what you hope in" (John Piper)

UNPACKING BIBLICAL HOPE

WHAT?

CONSIDER

Hope defined

- Confident expectation (*Hebrews 11:1*)
- Certain future, guaranteed outcome (*1 Peter 1:3-9*)

talk

Hope unpacked

a) Dazzled by hope

b) Hope is...

Good - *2 Thessalonians 2:16*

Blessed - *Titus 2:13*

Living - *1 Peter 1:3*

Glorious - *Colossians 1:27*

Sure - *Hebrews 6:19*

Steadfast - *Hebrews 6:19*

c) Hope leads to...

Joy - *Romans 12:12*

Boldness - *2 Corinthians 3:12*

Faith and Love - *Colossians 1:4-5*

Obedience - *Psalms 78:7*

Submission - *1 Peter 3:5*

d) We who have this hope...

Purify ourselves - *1 John 3:3*

Rejoice in our hope - *Romans 12:12*

Stand firm - *Ephesians 6:10-18*

Wait - *Galatians 5:5*

e) What children think about our hope...

FAMILY FEUD TOP 8 answers: What do children say biblical hope is?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

talk

PAUSE

What are the gaps in our thinking about/children's understanding of HOPE?

How can we address these?

EXPLORE

Joining the dots: look back, look to the cross, look around, look up, look forward.

Hope promised by God from all eternity - *Titus 1:1-2*

The hope of salvation - *1 Thessalonians 5:8*

Stored up for you in heaven - *Colossians 1: 25*

Hope of resurrection from the dead - *Acts 23:6*

The hope of the gospel - *Colossians 1:23*

Those who waited hopefully for God - *Psalms 39:7*

Hope in the steadfast love of God - *Psalms 33:18*

Hope in the laws of God - *Psalms 119:43*

Hope in God's word - *Psalms 119:81*

Hope in his everlasting kingdom - *Daniel 2:44*

Hope of the destruction of death forever - *Isaiah 25:7*

Hope in God himself - *Psalms 62:5/1 Timothy 4:10*

Hope in Christ - *1 Timothy 1:1*

Hope of future glory - we have a down payment now - *Romans 5:2*

The hope of the glorious appearing of our Lord - *Titus 2:13*

Hope that does not grieve as those who have not hope - *1 Thessalonians 4:13*

Hope that we shall be like Jesus when he appears - *1 John 3:2-3*

Hope of bodies that will never wear out - *1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 51-52*)

PAUSE

So what?

ACT

a) Holding out hope to children

- Living hope/lived hope

- Hope and futility in a fallen world

talk

b) Stories of hope from the one big story

- Bible stories
- My stories
- Stories from the lives of the children we teach
- Forever family stories

WHAT ROBS KIDS OF HOPE?

WHAT?

CONSIDER

What are the key cultural messages about hope that our children are receiving today?

IDENTIFY

What is the source of hope in each of these images?

EXPLORE

I am the hope I offer myself

“Hope in kids links to self-perception of competence” (Barbara Fredrickson; Psychology of Hope)

How I think and feel about what I’m good at

-
-
-
-
-

talk

How God's word describes the problem...

1. Repeated sin

- Lying
- Stealing
- Cheating
- Anger leading to verbal or physical outbursts

These are all sins that develop in children and that fill them with a deep sense of shame and failure.

Issues that contribute:

- A 'behavioural' understanding of sin that doesn't get to the root and leads to trying harder - parents often just want their kids to do the right thing rather than leading them back to Jesus.
- Lack of understanding of the fact that while Jesus defeated sin on the cross he didn't destroy it and that means we all battle with sin our lives every day.
- Lack of modelling of confession of sin, repentance of sin, struggling with sin in adults in kids' lives.
- A Christian culture: home and/or church and/or school, that does not speak of Christians as forgiven sinners or dearly loved children but as lovely people

2. Response to circumstance

- Failure
- Illness
- Disappointment
- Death/loss
- Abuse/bullying
- Relationship breakdown
- Financial hardship
- Mental Health issues

Responses include feelings of powerlessness, loneliness, helplessness, failure, despair.

Issues that contribute:

talk

3. Hope in the wrong things

- Relationships other than God
- Personal achievement
- Wealth
- Status
- Popularity
- Stuff
- The sun will come out tomorrow

Responses may include boredom, indifference, a hardness of heart, arrogance.

Issues that contribute:

PAUSE

Prayerfully consider how each of the above relates to your story of hope and to the lives of the children that you teach.

ACT

Give thanks that we hold fast to the anchor of hope because we are held fast by our gracious Heavenly Father.

Think through and pray for each child you bring Jesus to in your kids' ministry. Ask God to show you where their hope might be in danger, or what might be preventing them from putting their trust in the living hope we are offered in Christ. Pray *2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*.

Plan to share a story of gospel shaped hope from your own life with the children you teach. Encourage them that our hope is a shared hope and so create an environment where struggles, failure and fear can be articulated.

JOIN THE DOTS

How then are we to bring gospel hope to children's stories?

"To joyfully turn people away from the mound of human ideas and to the man Jesus Christ is the essence of personal ministry" (Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands; Paul Tripp)

talk

Jenna couldn't let go of the wall. She looked horrified that the seats had been laid out differently this morning. Slumping in a heap on the floor she wondered if maybe all the chairs were used then she could just stay here until it was time to go into her group. Looking up at the wall she saw the huge collage anchor she had helped to make a few weeks before. She felt like there was an anchor in the pit of her stomach a heavy weight dragging her down.

Trey bounced into Kids Club throwing his feet out in front of him, desperate to show off his new Converse. He was sure Fred would want to sit next to him when he saw what Trey was wearing.

Alenya was feeling good. She'd practised her memory verse and knew it off by heart. Choosing a seat in the front row, she sat patiently waiting to let everyone see how smart and how godly she was.

Megbe was really worried, she loved coming to kids' church, she loved the songs, the stories, praying to Jesus and the attention she got from her group leader Lily who was so kind and so pretty. But she knew she smelt bad this morning, she wasn't allowed to have a shower until tomorrow – ready for the school week and her little brother had slept in her bed, scared by all the shouting and banging in the house last night, and we had wet the bed. She knew she couldn't tell anyone about how lonely she felt, not even Lily. Megbe had tried praying but nothing changed, she was trapped and she thought she maybe even hated her Dad – no one God didn't hear her prayer.

Joel was really angry – all this God stuff was such a waste of time. His Dad didn't care if he did RI – why hadn't he got him to sign the form instead of Mum? He was missing out on a chance to do his homework now in class time because his Mum insisted it was her Christian duty to teach him about God. But Joel had a better plan for his life and it involved kicking a ball and making lots of money, not singing stupid songs about some Super Saviour – God is for losers he thought as he kicked the chair in front of him.

talk

REAL HOPE FOR EVERY CHILD

HOW?

CONSIDER

Don't wait for the crisis.

EXPLORE

Teaching and living strong theology

- What do they expect?
- Is their God big enough?
- Do they understand their sinfulness?
- Are they blown away by God's forgiveness?
- Have they learned the rhythm of repentance and faith?

Loving children who have lost their hope in God

They need:

- Someone **to see** them when they are suffering.
- Someone **to defend** them when they are under attack or abandoned.
- Someone **to pray** when their prayers run dry.
- A friend **to hope** for them when they no longer have hope.

"We dare to hope NOT in spite of the world's tragic demise but because of its certain glory. Jesus will do with our suffering what he did with his own – he will TRANSFORM it" (Glen Scrivener)

PAUSE

WARNING: Proverbs 25:20

"Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on a wound, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart"

talk

ACT

Build a lived knowledge of eternal hope into our teaching programmes

- Past, present and future tense of biblical hope.
- Rejoice in the hope of the glory of God together.
- Maranatha longing in our teaching and modelling.
- Waiting patiently as personal application (*"We don't wait and wonder if it will turn out well. We can wait and know that God is our eternal portion"* - John Piper)
- Highlighting the 'not yet' in our biblical theology.
- Sharing our hope stories.
- Listen for children's expressions of fear, loneliness, despair, helplessness, failure.
- Teach the children to preach hope to themselves (*"The soul preaches to itself- why are you so downcast – put your hope in God"* - Richard Sibbes).
- Teach the internal reality of Christ in us the hope of glory.
- Model prayers that include our glorious future.
- You can't be good NOT you must be good (grace shape of hope).
- The way up is down (our hope is a humble hope).
- No assumptions (fragile creatures and forgiven sinners).
- Nothing matters more (without hope people face God's wrath).
- Prepare children for eternity (aliens and strangers/light and momentary troubles).
- Equip children for the battle.
- Tilt children's chins to the man that is Christ Jesus.
- Sing songs and learn teach memory verses that remind us of our gospel hope.

talk

PAUSE

Go through the list and mark each on a scale of 0-10; 0 being not at all; 10 being every week explicitly the extent to which our eternal hope is part of your teaching programme.

ACT

Think and **pray** about which of the above are missing in your thinking, talking and programme and **plan** to **speak** and **model** the radical Christ alone, gospel hope to which we are called as Jesus' followers as you teach and love kids for His sake.

Grow in personal hope -fulness

- God's Word feeds our hope.
- Pray that God will incline our hearts to hope in Him.
- Consider how much Christ suffered for my hope.
- Remember Christians whose hope is in Christ.
- Exhort one another every day to lay hold of hope.

ACT

Re-work out and **write down** what your answer to the 1 Peter 3:14 hope question would be

1) To the children you share Jesus with

2) To their parents if church ministry/teachers if school

And share your answer with anyone who asks.

I'd love to hear from you: email - fimillar@icloud.com

Bible talk

1 PETER 1:3–12 - *Geoff Harper*

1. Sports fields and smartphones

2. Certain hope for the future (vv. 3–5)

Bible talk

3. Joyful endurance in the present (vv. 6–9)

Bible talk

4. Realised expectations from the past (vv. 10–12)

Bible talk

5. The importance of good vision

presentation

Quiz Worx

notes

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