

Teaching About Hope

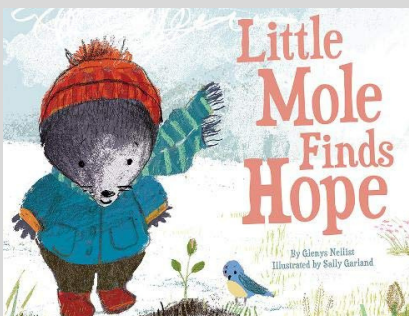
**"For you have been my
hope, sovereign Lord, my confidence since
my youth" Psalm 71:5 NIV**

By: Lee Ann Mancini

How to teach a child about hope?

Hope is something that is unseen, for we do not hope for what is seen (see Hebrews 1:11). Teaching a child about something they cannot see can be difficult.

I love the picture book, "Little Mole Finds Hope" by Glenys Nellist. It is an adorable story about a little mole that looks up, during the winter time, to see a tree that is bare and brown. He tells his mother that the tree is dead. His mother explains to him that the tree is not dead and asks him to close his eyes and see the green leaves in his mind. He tells his mother excitedly that he sees the green leaves. His mother tells him that is hope! There are other examples in this adorable book, that help children to understand the meaning of hope.



Explaining Hope in the Bible

The following bible verses and questions will "hopefully" allow your child to better grasp the concept of hope.

1 Peter 1:3-5

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

Explain New Birth and Resurrection- How does that give you hope?

Romans 5:5

"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

What is shame? Why is hope a good thing?

Romans 15:4

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

What is endurance and encouragement? How does knowing God's word give you hope?

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

What do you hope for in the future?



Isaiah 40:30-31

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

What will happen when you "hope in the Lord?"

Psalms 33:20-22

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

Why do we need hope for the Lord? What will you do if I truly hope in the Lord?

The Result of Hope

Psalm 147:10-11

"His pleasure is not in the strength of the house, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love."

What does the Lord delight in? How does the Lord react to hope?

1 Peter 3:15-16

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."

How should you tell others about my hope? What should you tell others about hope?

Romans 15:13

"May the God fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

What must you do to "overflow" in hope? How can you trust the Lord?

Corinthians 13:4-7

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

How do you think hope and love work together?

Eternal Hope in the Bible

Titus 3:4-7

"But when the kindness and love of God our savior appeared, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

What is eternal life and how do you know you have hope of eternal life?

1 Timothy 4:10

"That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe."

How is your earthly service affected by hope?
