week 1:
HOPE

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Explore the Bible: Kids

"Look, the days are coming"—this is the Lord's declaration—"when I will fulfill the good promise that I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah."—Jeremiah 33:14

HOPE IN GOD'S PROMISE

Hope is believing and longing for something while trusting that God will keep His promise. The people of Israel had waited and hoped for hundreds of years. But God's plan began long before Israel even knew to hope for it. Before the world began, God had a plan for our redemption. He knew we would need a Savior. When Adam and Eve sinned, God spoke the first recorded promise about Jesus. God made another promise about Jesus to Abraham, then another to David. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised His people that He would send a Messiah—their Savior. God's timing is perfect and God always keeps His promises. But it is hard for humans to wait. Israel waited and waited with hope for the day that God's promises of a Messiah would come true. It had been 400 years since God had last spoken to the people. They waited and hoped.

MITTEN UNWRAPPING

Place a present your family will enjoy inside a box and wrap it. Gather a pair of mittens and a timer. If you have preteens use cooking mittens to increase the challenge.

Explain that each family member will have 10 seconds to attempt to unwrap the package while wearing the mittens. At the end of time, the next family member gets a chance. The game continues until the package is completely unwrapped. After the game, talk about what it was like to wait and hope you would be the one to open the present.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What is something that you are hoping God will do (now or in the future)?

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2. How can our family share about Jesus and His birth with our neighbors and family this year?

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DAILY READINGS FOR THE FAMILY

December 4—Isaiah 7:14

December 5—Matthew 2:10

December 6—Luke 2:12

December 7—Matthew 1:21

December 8—Acts 5:31

December 9—Luke 1:26-27