



*Living*  
with HOPE

# Big Group

## LEADER'S HANDBOOK

*Everything you need to use the **Living With Hope**  
Evangelistic curriculum in a big group setting.*



- EPIC Worship Helps
- Volunteer Job Descriptions
- Description of Tasks
- Presenter Suggestions



NAD CHURCH RESOURCE CENTER

# Living with HOPE

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**Updates:** Check [www.livingwithhopeseminar.com](http://www.livingwithhopeseminar.com) frequently to make sure that you have the latest update for all of the **Living With Hope** documents. If you see mistakes that need fixing please send your suggested corrections to [dave@acn.info](mailto:dave@acn.info).

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# BigGroup

LEADER'S HANDBOOK

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## Big Group Overview

The *Living With Hope* Bible marking series is designed to systematically take a community through the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in sixteen presentations. Ideally this will be broken up into eight Big Group presentations and eight Small Group presentations. However there will be Big Group helps and Small Group helps available for every lesson. This allows you to mix and match and customize for your setting.

What is the definition of Big Group? Big Group can be any group with more than fifteen people in attendance. This could be a worship service, a prayer meeting, or a traditional five night a week evangelistic campaign.

Big Group provides attendees the opportunity to be involved in something bigger than themselves. There is great affirmation that comes in Bible study when it is done with a large group of people.

### Worship Service as Big Group

The worship service is an ideal place to host the *Living With Hope* Bible marking series. This leverages the existing volunteer structure for the purpose of public evangelism. It also cements new attendees into the habit of church attendance.

## Leverage the Power of Existing Volunteers

Here are the tasks that need to be done in Big Group and some suggested officers to do the task:

Presentation: Pastor or Elder

Computer Operator: AV volunteer

Decision Card Collection: Deacons

Materials Distribution: Greeters or Deacons

Visual Metaphor: Church Decorations Committee

Choruses and Hymns: Worship musicians

Interest Coordinator: Interest Coordinator

Evangelistic Visitation Team: Sabbath School or Small Group leaders

Church Bulletin Secretary: Printing of Participant Handouts

### Presenter's suggestions

Although you can have a printed manuscript with thumbnail photos in your hand, the presentation will be stronger if instead of reading the text that you become so familiar with it that you can say it in your own words.

To free you up to preach you may wish to select someone else to run the computer. They can follow along with you on the manuscript and change the slides when called for in the manuscript.

The included suggested manuscripts are generic and should work well in a variety of settings. You can strengthen them by changing out the included illustrations with your own personal stories. Feel free to edit and change the manuscripts but remember you will need to change the editable slides and editable participant handouts as well. If you play the slides off the DVD they will not be editable.

The order of the presentations given are sequential and will make sense in most settings but you can feel free to change them around if you see that it could work better with another order. You may wish to improve on the series for your settings by omitting some of the presentations and supplementing them with your own. When you use the included editable slides and participant handout templates your presentation will have the look and feel of the ***Living With Hope*** branding.

To create a stronger presentation you may wish to have some help in the presentation. Select a strong reader to read the texts off the screen when called for. Or you may wish to try team preaching. The manuscript it makes it very easy for a couple of presenters to take turns within the presentation. This is a great way for a more experienced presenter to mentor a beginner.

### **Computer Operator Suggestions**

Make sure that you have a printout of the manuscript well in advance of the presentation. You will find a small picture of the slide on the right side and the suggested text in the left side. If the slides are to be played from the DVD you should practice in advance to be confident that all the equipment and connections are working properly. Become familiar with the DVD menu and remote control so that you can easily find the correct presentation.

If the presenter is going to modify the presentation it must be shown on a computer with presentation software such as PowerPoint. Spend some time with the DVD to make sure that you can find the PowerPoint presentation. Copy the file from the DVD onto your host computer. Go over the presentation with the presenter in advance to see if there are any changes to the manuscript.

### **Decision Card Collection**

Many of the presentations will require the use of a decision card. It is helpful to get the card into the hands of the attendees well in advance of the time they will be asked to fill it out. The best way is to have the Materials Distribution team hand it out with the lesson. Also make sure that the attendees have access to a pen or pencil to write with. When the time comes for the presenter to call attention to the decision card stand in the front and pass cards out to those who somehow haven't yet received a card. After

the presenter has made the call, quickly collect the cards and give them to the Interest Coordinator who will distribute them to the small group leaders.

### **Materials Distribution**

Have a group of volunteers stuff gift bags in advance so that the following materials can be handed out the first day:

- Bible (NIV The Story of God)
- Participant Handout #1 *Soul Food* (Bible)
- Participant Handout #2 *Are You My Mother* (God)
- Participant Handout #3 *Is There Hope for Me?* (Salvation)
- Abbreviations of Bible Books Handout
- Bible Marking Instructions Handout
- Gold Felt Tip Pen
- Cornflower Blue Felt Tip Pen
- Crimson Felt Tip Pen
- Decision Card #1

After the First day here are the materials that should be distributed:

- Stuffed Gift Bag (For brand new attendees)
- Next Participant Handout
- Previous Participant Handouts (For those who may have missed a meeting)
- Next Felt Tip Pens
- Today's Decision Card

### **Visual Metaphor**

Most of the Big Group presentations have a suggested visual metaphor. This metaphor will provide a theme for the worship service. Not only will it help the attendees connect with the presentation but it will also help them remember the presentation after they leave. The visual metaphor is usually some kind of a prop to be placed on the stage or in the entrance of the building. A description of each visual metaphor is given in the EPIC worship helps below.

### **Interest Coordinator**

Your job is to take the cards from the deacons after they have been collected in the Big Group and distribute them to the Small Group leader. There is a place on the card for the attendee to write the name of his/her small group. If there is no name on the card, give the cards to the Small Group Coordinator.

### **Choruses and Hymns**

If your team has some expertise in music, use that skill to help enhance the Big Group Experience. Feel free to use the musical style and genre that your church does best and most authentically. In the EPIC worship helps below you will find some suggested hymns

and choruses that will fit the theme of the day. To assist you in finding the music all the contemporary choruses are given a CCLI number. All hymns give the hymn number from the Seventh-day Adventist Church Hymnal. Furthermore it is helpful to have a theme song for the **Living With Hope** Series. This will give a sense of predictability and security for attendees.

Suggested Choruses for a theme song:

*Song of Hope* (Heaven Come Down) CCLI 5111477

*When You Come* CCLI 5118786 (Pastor's DVD Volume 14 *AdventPraise*)

*High Priest of Heaven* CCLI 5118748 (Pastor's DVD Volume 14 *AdventPraise*)

Suggested Hymns for a theme song:

*We have this Hope*#214

### **Evangelistic Visitation Team**

The Sabbath School and Small Group leaders are a natural fit for the evangelistic team. You will need to get the decision cards for your Small Group attendees who attended the Big Group from the Interest Coordinator after each Big Group meeting. From those decision cards you will be able to find out if your people have been attending Big Group and you will also find out what decisions they are making and stand by to assist them in their spiritual journey. This will give you a excuse to talk individually with your attendees about any questions that they might have, or road blocks that are coming up in their quest for Jesus.

### **Church Bulletin Secretary**

Your duties include printing out the participant handouts and decision cards. These files are included as pdf or editable word files on the **Living With Hope** DVD. The participant handouts are designed to be printed out on your local copier on professionally designed color stock. This way you will only have to print up what you need. You can order the professionally designed color paper stock from [www.livingwithhopeseminar.com](http://www.livingwithhopeseminar.com). These come shrink wrapped in packs of 800. To calculate how many you need to order, consider that you need 16 for each attendee. For example, a pack of 800 will provide stock for 50 attendees. You may wish to order an extra supply for anything else you may wish to print up using the **Living With Hope** paper stock. Next you will need to take the digital file entitled *Participant Handouts* and print on the paper stock. The participant handouts are designed to be printed two up and printed on both sides of the paper. After you run it through your printer you'll need to cut it in half to 8 ½ x 5 ½. Keep a few lessons printed in advance and give them to the Materials Distribution team.

### **EPIC Worship Helps**

The **Living With Hope** Big Group follows the recommendations of Leonard Sweet in his acronym of E.P.I.C. This series is far more than simply a proclamation of the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is an invitation for members of the community to unite their personal spiritual journeys with the collective journey of your congregation.

In addition to the systematic theology in the presentations each lesson will have suggestions for EPIC worship elements in the Big Group. Although they are listed in the order of E.P.I.C. please do not be limited to that order in the service. Plan the service as a narrative arch and plug the EPIC elements in where they naturally fit.

**E—Experiential.** For attendees to assimilate truth not only to they need left brain information but they need a right brained experience. Most of the lessons have a tactile worship experience that fits with the theme of the day. Most of these are easy to pull off but they do take advance planning. Read all of the worship experiences in advance so you can make sure that you have all of the materials ready to go for the service.

**P—Participatory.** The strongest element of the *Living With Hope* series is the participatory element. Attendees are encouraged to mark their Bibles up with colored felt tip pens. In addition attendees will learn to praise God in verse and chorus.

**I--Image Driven—** Most of the Big Group presentations have a suggested visual metaphor. This metaphor will provide a theme for the worship service. Not only will it help the attendees connect with the presentation but it will also help them remember the presentation after they leave. The visual metaphor is usually some kind of a prop to be placed on the stage or in the entrance of the building.

**C--Connective—***Living With Hope* relies heavily on the connections that occur in the Small Group meetings. However there are some small connective worship elements built into each Big Group meetings.



## #1Soul Food (The Bible)

The **objectives** of this lesson are to hold the Bible up as a reliable source of divine truth. The decision card invites attendees to commit to continue their attendance for the whole *Living With Hope* series.

### Experience—Big Bread

*Concept:* God is much bigger than our individual viewpoints

*Preparation:*

1. Find a high res digital picture of a loaf of bread and divide the picture into enough squares for each person in attendance to receive one, and print them out. Ideally, these would be around postcard sized. Also, multiple images may be used in order to accommodate more attendees.
2. On the back side of each photo card print:  
“In the space below, describe what you believe God is like and/or a situation in your life that you believe God had a hand in:”

*Execution:*

Each attendee may receive one of these cards as they enter the meeting. Do not share with them what is pictured on the card. Simply ask them to fill out the back side of the card as they take their seats. After they have had time to fill them out collect them in an offering plate. Then, during the sermon, have someone assemble them all on stage so that people can see the ‘bread of life’ revealed.

### Participation

During this first lesson extra time is needed for the presentation to take care of introducing the *Living With Hope* curriculum and orienting to the Small Groups. There may only be time for one or two songs. Here are some suggestions:

Contemporary Theme Song:

*Song of Hope* (Heaven Come Down) CCLI 5111477

*When You Comes* CCLI 5118786 ,

*High Priest of Heaven* CCLI 5118748. You can find them in the media folder for Big Group Bible. Because these songs will most likely be unknown to the attendees do them as special music for the first time.

Traditional Theme Song

*We have This Hope* #214,

*Hail Him the King of Glory* #202.

### Image Metaphor-Fresh Baked Bread

There is a freshly baked, partially sliced loaf of bread arranged nicely on the platform. To enhance the visual image a fragrant image is produced by setting up several bread makers near the return ducts of the heating/air conditioning system. The bread makers are set to bake during the service so the smell of fresh bread can permeate the auditorium.

### **Connecting-Small Group Registration**

Have each of the small Groups have a booth or sign up table in the auditorium or lobby. The group should have a card prepared that gives the name of the group, the time of week it meets, an address where it meets, and contact information for the group leader. These can be printed up on the Participant Handout shells to stay with the ***Living With Hope*** branding.

### **Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. Participants will be invited to shop around each of the small groups and then fill out their card and turn it in to one of the booths.

I am going to spend at least an hour in personal Bible study in preparation for each ***Living With Hope*** lesson.

## #2 Are You My Mother? (God)

The **objective** of this lesson are to invite participants to consider putting their hope in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

### Experience

**Concept:** This activity provides the opportunity to discuss the amazing fact that we are made in God's image. While the pipe cleaners do not look like us physically, they represent things about our lives and our character. Human beings have the same incredible opportunity to reflect what God is like to the world. God is truly our father, mother, and Creator.

**Preparation:** Obtain packages of colorful pipe cleaners so that each attendee can have a minimum of 3 pipe cleaners given to them as they come to the meeting.

**Execution:** You must instruct each attendee to craft the pipe cleaners into a form that represents them in some way. They can craft a stick person doing an activity, or blend pipe cleaners together to make an entire mosaic of shapes that represent various things about themselves. You can give them these instructions on a card along with the pipe cleaners and/or place the instructions on the screen up front.

At a chosen point during the meeting, ask each person to share with each other how their pipe cleaners represent themselves.

### Participation

Continue to do the theme song that was introduced last time.

Since the subject of the presentation is the Trinity it would be appropriate to choose hymns and choruses with a Trinitarian emphasis. Here are some suggestions:

Contemporary Choruses:

*God of Wonders* CCLI 3118757,  
*How Great is Our God* CCLI 4348399,  
*Indescribable* CCLI 4403076,  
*Famous One* CCLI 3599431  
*Beautiful* (AdventPraise)  
*He Is God* (AdventPraise)  
*In Awe of You* (AdventPraise)  
*Someone Like Me* (AdventPraise)  
*You Lord* (AdventPraise)

Traditional:

*Come Thou Almighty King* #71,  
*Holy Holy Holy* #73,  
*Praise ye the Father* #70

### **Image Metaphor-Identity**

Use the graphics feature entitled “Who Are You”. It comes with a short video setting up the theme. There are also PowerPoint slides for worship backgrounds entitled thumbprint. You can find the video and graphics in the DVD data section for Big Group Leader.

### **Connecting-Who Are You?**

Have everyone find a partner. Take turns asking your partner the question: “Who are You?”

### **Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. Participants will be invited to shop around each of the small groups and then fill out their card and turn it in to one of the booths. A copy of all the decision cards is printed four up as an appendix to this Big Group Leader’s Handbook.

- I want to passionately pursue God!
- I would like to be baptized.

### #3 Is There Hope for Me? (Salvation)

The **objective** of this lesson is to let participants discover their need for God and to turn them loose on their journey of reconciliation with heaven.

#### **Experience—Broken Record**

*Concept:* The Bible teaches us that God wants to make us a new creation. When we decide to allow God to transform our lives, we find that once again we can play a beautiful song in our lives.

*Preparation:*

This requires the use of a musical record (not a valued one) as well as a record player. Music CD's are an option as well but slightly less effective. This will likely have the greatest impact if you use classical music that might be interpreted as beautiful or triumphant.

*Execution:*

This most likely would be done at the end of the service as an appeal after the message. Each of us might be seen as playing a song that is our life. As we go through life we bring out melodies that are beautiful. Yet at times we bring out sounds that are simply unbearable to our own ears.

1. Ask for a volunteer and have them play the record for the attendees.
2. Next, have them place large scratches in the record. Use sand paper or a car key, anything that will confuse the grooves of the record.

Sometimes our lives, like this record, begin to play something we were never intended to play. We have deep scars and cannot become the people we were created to be. This is what sin does in our lives.

The record, however, cannot fix itself. No matter how many times it plays, it will continue to mess up, sometimes repeating the same mistake over and over again. Unlike the broken record, we can be made new through Jesus Christ.

#### **Experience—Picture Frames**

*Concept:* There are many pictures of salvation. Most religions base salvation on ethical behavior. Only Christianity bases salvation on a person—Jesus Christ.

*Preparation:*

Find several large empty picture frames of different styles and sizes. One of them should have a closely cropped picture of Jesus.

*Execution:*

This should be done either before the sermon or as suggested in the manuscript, the presenter can do it within the first part of the sermon. If you can't find the picture

frames there are slides included in the presentation that have the illustration. However it is far more effective if you can delete the slides and use real picture frames.

### **Participation**

Continue with the theme song. The big group should be catching on to it by now and some will be singing along. Since the subject of the presentation is Salvation it would be appropriate to choose hymns and choruses with a Salvation emphasis. Here are some suggestions:

#### Contemporary Choruses:

*Mighty to Save* CCLI 4591782  
*Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)* CCLI 4768151  
*In Christ Alone* CCLI 3350395  
*Simply Amazing (AdventPraise 14)*  
*Free (AdventPraise 14)*

#### Traditional Songs:

*Come Thou Fount* #334,  
*Amazing Grace*, #108

### **Image Metaphor-Test Time**

Use the graphics feature entitled "Test Time". It comes with a short video setting up the theme of testing. There are also PowerPoint slides for worship backgrounds entitled thumbprint. You can find the video and graphics in the DVD data section for Big Group Leader.

### **Connecting-Tough Question**

Have everyone find a partner. Take turns as you and your partner ask each other touch questions. You don't have to answer.

### **Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled "Is There Hope for Me? The card invites attendees to enter into a personal relationship with the God of the Universe. They should be collected at the end of the sermon and given to the interest coordinator. A copy of all the decision cards is printed four up as an appendix to this Big Group Leader's Handbook.

- I realize that I'm not good enough to enter heaven.
- I accept God's free gift of grace and assurance of eternal life.
- I desire to enter into a personal relationship with God.
- I would like to be baptized.

## #4 Just Desserts (Great Controversy)

The **objective** of this lesson is to show that Satan is responsible for the introduction of sin in the universe and that God has a wise plan to eventually eradicate it while still protecting personal freedom.

### **Experience—Stomping out the enemy**

*Concept:* the enemy's been defeated and the grace of God will crush him under our feet.

#### *Preparation:*

Optimally, you will need to pass out one black permanent marker for each person in attendance. Or if there is a large attendance give one pen per row and people can take turns writing and then pass the pen down the row.

#### *Execution:*

"While at times our life may seem dark, the Bible continues to offer us hope. In Romans 16:20 a teacher named Paul writes this to a church in need of hope. "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you." (NIV) Right now it may seem like Satan and his lies are triumphant in your life. But God wishes to crush those lies under YOUR feet.

So take this moment to take off one of your shoes. Turn your shoe over, and, with your marker, write down some of the evils that Satan has brought into your life. Maybe it's a relationship that has spoiled, or a mistake that you have made that you can't seem to move on from. Maybe you are struggling with an addiction, or maybe you have bought into a lie about how much you are valued. Whatever it is, write it down. Use your other shoe if need be.

As we walk out of this place today, walk out in hope. These hurts, fears, and lies will all be crushed someday soon. The process might take awhile, but make no mistake. Satan has lost the war and the grace of God will overcome."

### **Participation**

Continue with the theme song. The big group should be catching on to it by now and some will be singing along. Since the subject of the presentation is the Great Controversy it would be appropriate to choose hymns and choruses with a triumphal emphasis. Here are some suggestions:

#### Contemporary Chorus:

*Shout Unto God* CCLI 4455206

*Trading My Sorrows* CCLI 2574653

*I Am Free* CCLI 4220974

*We Are Free* (AdventPraise 14)

Traditional Song:

*Jesus Shall Reign #227,  
Crown Him With Many Crowns #223,  
All Hail the Power of Jesus Name #229  
A Mighty Fortress ##506*

**Image Metaphor-To Tell the Truth**

Display a cutout of the crossed fingers as used in the icon of the TV show “To Tell the Truth.”

**Connecting-What’s on the bottom of your shoe?**

Have everyone find a partner. See if your partner is willing to share what they wrote on the bottom of their shoe.

**Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled *Just Deserts*.

- I realize now that God is empathetic, loving and fair.
- I trust that He will win in the end.
- My hope in God will support me through current injustices.
- I would like to be baptized.



## #5 Blessed Hope (Second Coming)

The **objective** of this lesson is to show that Jesus is returning soon. No one knows exactly how soon. We can be ready for His return if we open the doors to our heart to Him.

### Experience—Invitation

*Concept:* The second coming of Jesus will be the world's biggest party. How will you respond to the invitation?

*Preparation:*

a. An invite card to a party. The script can be like any invite card. Fancy "You are cordially invited" Casual "Hey, there's a huge party going on and you're invited." This is something they take away as a reminder. ...or....

b. A 3x5 or 4x6 card with big, block letters, RSVP on it (almost the length of the card). Have the verse in John 14:1-3 (or something similar) on it. The explanation can be that people just don't take RSVPs seriously anymore. The choice is ours. But this is one RSVP that God takes very seriously and has eternal impact. ...or....

c. Appointment card like the ones they give out at the MD office to remind you of an appointment. We can leave blank the space for their name. The time, date, location, we can fill with what the Bible says. Also you can have scripture on it. It would be neat to have in small letters (like on any appointment card), "if you are unable to keep this appointment. . . or...

d. Or give out something that looks like an event ticket (ball game, theater, movie) but that event would be 'front row seats to the greatest event on earth. . .'

### Participation

Continue with the theme song. The big group should be catching on to it by now and some will be singing along. Since the subject of the presentation is the Blessed Hope of the Second Coming it would be appropriate to choose hymns and choruses with an emphasize on the return of Christ. Here are some suggestions:

Contemporary Chorus:

*When You Come* CCLI 5118786

*Days of Elijah* CCLI 1537904

*I Believe (You're Coming Back Again)* CCLI 4517302

*People Get Ready Jesus Is Comin'* CCLI 2036249

*When Christ Comes* CCLI 2914660

Traditional Song:

*Hail Him the King of Glory #202;*

*The Advent of our God #117;*

*There'll Be No Dark Valley #208;*

*We Have This hope #214*

*When the Roll is Called Up Yonder #216*

**Image Metaphor-Birthday Party**

Play video entitled “Bill’s Birthday” which is located in the DVD data section for this lesson. Feel free to decorate the meeting hall with birthday party images. You could display a big birthday cake or children’s birthday hats.

**Connecting-RSVP**

Choose a partner. Ask them if when they get an invitation on Facebook do they usually check “will attend” “maybe” or “not attending”.

**Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled “The Blessed Hope. Here are the boxes to select on the card:

- I can't wait till Jesus returns!
- I've got some things I need to work out first.
- I would like to open the door to Jesus right now.
  - I would like to be baptized.

## #6 There's Hope for Your Driving (Ten Commandments)

The **objective** of this lesson is to show that the Ten Commandments are still applicable today. They don't change behavior, they only show us that behavior needs changing through the power of God.

### Experience—Road Signs

*Concept:* There are many signs that we follow as we drive through life. With that being understood, it is important that we all recognize what those signs are and learn to avoid those things that pull us off the road.

#### *Preparation:*

You are going to create blank signs for each attendee. This can be done simply by cutting poster board into squares, turning them on their corner, as a diamond shape, and drawing a line around the edge to make it look like a sign. You may make this any size you wish, but the attendee must be able to write on the sign. Also, you may choose to attach any sort of stick or paper to one corner to enhance the look of the sign. Additionally, each attendee will need a pen or marker to draw on their sign.

#### *Execution:*

Towards the end of the meeting or the message, have each person write on their sign some signs that they have ignored in life and found themselves off the road, in a place they did not want to be. They may write words, sentences, or even draw pictorial representations of the signs that they missed or ignored. If the signs are big you can invite them to affix them to inside wall of the meeting place. If they are small they can take them home to their private prayer stations.

### Participation

Continue with the theme song. Since the subject of the presentation is the ten commandments it would be appropriate to choose hymns and choruses with an emphasize on submission to God the one who is in control of the universe. Here are some suggestions:

#### Contemporary Chorus:

*Indescribable* CCLI 5118786  
*How Great Thou Art* CCLI 14181  
*Lord Reign In Me* CCLI 2490706  
*From The Inside Out* CCLI 4705176  
*Give Me Jesus* CCLI 4874344  
*Breathe On Me* (AdventPraise 14)

#### Traditional Song:

*How Great Thou Art* #86  
*Be thou My Vision* 547  
*Give Me Jesus* #305

*Wholly Thine #308*  
*I surrender All #309*

**Image Metaphor-Traffic Signs**

Find some road signs and place them around the auditorium, stage, and lobby. Stop. Speed limit 65 mph. Curve 35 mph. School Zone etc.

**Connecting-Traffic Ticket**

Choose a partner. Ask them when the last time they deserved to get a traffic ticket.

**Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled "There's Hope for Your Driving." Here are the boxes to select on the card:

- I realize that God's law is meant for my good.
- I will look to Jesus for my salvation not the law keeping
- I will look to the Holy Spirit to help me keep the law.
- I would like to be baptized.

## #7 Racing With Hope (Baptism)

The **objective** of this lesson is to show that baptism by immersion is the natural starting point to a commitment of discipleship. We want to invite those who haven't been baptized or would like to be re-baptized to choose a date for their upcoming baptism. only

### Experience—Baptism

Work with your Pastor or Director several weeks in advance so that you can plan on having a Baptism today. There is no stronger metaphor for uniting your life with God than the act of Baptism.

### Participation

Continue with the theme song. Since the subject of the presentation is baptism it would be appropriate to choose hymns and choruses with an emphasize on this public commitment to God. Here are some suggestions:

Contemporary Chorus:

*Free* (AdventPraise)

*Psalm 51* (AdventPraise 14)

Traditional Song:

*Whiter Than Snow* #318

*The Cleansing Wave* #332

### Image Metaphor-Starting a Race

Try to find foot race banner that has the words "start" on it. String it completely across the stage. Have another one in the lobby that people have to walk under when they come in.

### Connecting-Foot Race

Choose a partner. Ask them what's the longest footrace they have ever completed. Now find out who in the room has completed the longest race. If it is a tie, find out what the fastest time was. Applaud the winner. Interview them briefly about what it feels like to start the race, run the race, and cross the finish line.

### Decision Card

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled "Racing With Hope." Here are the boxes to select on the card:

- I would like to be baptized by immersion
- I would like to be re-baptized
- I have been baptized and I would like to join this church

## #8 Body of Hope (Spiritual Gifts)

The **objective** of this lesson is to show that everyone has a unique set of gifts, skills, knowledge and experience to bring to the church family. Participants are encouraged to discover their gifts and use them for the glory of God.

### Experience—Puzzles

*Concept:*

We each are made in the image of God, and reflect part of God's character. God has entrusted us with this amazing responsibility. Only working together can we best show the world its loving Creator.

*Preparation:*

For this interaction experience, you must obtain enough 10 piece puzzles (maybe with pictures of a body to continue the theme of the meeting) for each attendee to receive one piece on their way into the meeting area. You will also need to set up small tables with a picture of each puzzle wherever is convenient inside the meeting area.

*Execution:*

As attendees enter, give them a piece of one of the puzzles. Just as each person has a different piece of the puzzle, each of us has different character traits, passions, and talents that make us unique. We are called to come together and use our unique abilities to show others what God is like.

Towards the end of the meeting, have each attendee take time and find out which puzzle their piece goes with, and work with the others to put their puzzle together. This reveals the image of the puzzle.

*Optional:*

As an optional addition to this experience you may choose to purchase a larger puzzle and give one piece to each attendee as a memento of the meeting.

### Participation

Continue with the theme song. Since the subject of the presentation is Spiritual Gifts it would be appropriate to choose hymns and choruses with an emphasize on using our gifts and talents together for the glory of God.

Contemporary Chorus:

From the Inside Out CCLI 4705176

*Psalm 51* (AdventPraise 14)

Empower Us Lord (AdventPraise 14)

Traditional Song:

*Lord Whose Love in Humble Service #363*  
*O Zion Haste #365*

### **Image Metaphor-Manikin**

Display a manikin on the stage. It can either be a full size manikin from a department store or an art supplies wooden manikin.

### **Connecting-Foot Race**

Choose a partner. Ask them if they were a body part, what part would they be?

### **Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled "Body of Hope." Here are the boxes to select on the card:

- I realized that I am an adopted member of the family of God.
- I desire to take the steps to grow spiritually through inward, outward, and corporate spiritual disciplines.
  - I would like to be baptized.

## #9 Rechargeable (Sabbath)

The **objective** of this lesson is to show that the Friday night to Saturday night Sabbath is still relevant today. Attendees are encouraged to enjoy the spiritual recharging of the Sabbath.

### Experience—Cell phones Go Berserk

*Concept:*

Our world is so busy that we have trouble stopping and hearing the sound of God's voice.

*Preparation:*

Have everyone pull out their cell phones.

*Execution:*

Instruct everyone in the room to make their cell phone go off at the same time. Listen to the chaotic noise as it builds and permeates the atmosphere with busyness. Then after it has crescendoed for about thirty seconds invite everyone to turn their cell phones off. Listen to the silence for about thirty seconds.

Our lives are full of the noise of urgent demands. Sometimes we are so busy that we can't even hear our own thoughts, let alone God's voice. We need to turn off the noise once a week and rest and get recharged by the Spirit of God. Did you enjoy the silence when we turned off the phones? That's a symbol of the rest and recharging that comes by celebrating the Sabbath.

### Participation

Sabbath is the subject of the Bible study and to reinforce that theme it would be appropriate to choose hymns and choruses with an emphasize on spiritual rest and recharging. Here are some suggestions:

Contemporary Chorus:

*Sabbath Rest* (AdventPraise Volume)

*Heaven is Calling* (AdventPraise)

Traditional Song:

*Holy Time* (AdventPraise)

*O Day of Rest and Gladness* #383

### Image Metaphor-Rechargeable

Give everyone a battery to hold during the service. You can find big packs of batteries at a dollar store. If you have time put on a label that says "Spiritual Recharging". Set up a giant batter on the stage with these light bulbs that blink on/off - looking like they are being recharged. Check with a novelty store to see if they are already available before you put your crew to work inventing the creation.



### **Connecting-Foot Race**

Choose a partner. Ask them if they were a battery how charged would they be. Full? Half Full? Almost flat?

### **Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled "Rechargeable." Here are the boxes to select on the card:

- I realize that the Sabbath is from Friday night to Saturday night.
- I would like to enjoy the blessings of the Sabbath
- I would like to join this church
- I would like to be baptized.

## #10 Window of Hope (Sanctuary)

The **objective** of this lesson is to help participants understand the metaphor of the sanctuary as a model of the sacrifice at Calvary and to encourage them to seek reconciliation with God.

### Experience—Incense Bowls

*Concept:*

Revelation 5:6-10 gives us an “open window” into heaven. It describes large golden bowls full of incense, and tells us that this incense is composed of the prayers of the saints. Apparently God cherishes your prayers to such a degree that he has them kept in large golden bowls and they are an incense to him. To put it plainly, God cares about our prayers, and what is on our hearts.

*Preparation:*

You will need a large golden bowl (or a plastic one spray painted gold), some incense with matches and a burner, and a way to create fog or steam. The steam can be created by either a fogger (available at many arts and crafts stores) or with dry ice and water in the bowl. If using dry ice, please be responsible.

You will also need blank half sheets of paper as well as some pens to write with.

Before beginning this worship experience, light the incense off to the side of the meeting area so that the smell is added to the coming effect. If you are using a fogger, you can start it even before the meeting begins and let it run throughout. If using dry ice, however, you will have to discover a time to place the ice into the water in the bowl. You should probably practice with the props ahead of time so you know the exact quantities that will work for you to give the effect but not irritate the attendees.

*Execution:*

Give time for the attendees to write their own messages and confessions to God (maybe use background music to calm the atmosphere). When they are ready, instruct them that those who wish may come forward and place their messages in the bowl of “incense.” Let this be an important moment of giving up worries, sins, and fears to God.

### Participation

Continue with the theme song. Since the subject of the presentation is Jesus our High Priest it would be appropriate to choose hymns and choruses with an emphasis on this theme. Here are some suggestions:

Contemporary Chorus:

*High Priest of Heaven* (AdventPraise)

*Lamb of God* (AdventPraise Volume)

*Standing at the Cross* (AdventPraise)

Traditional Song:

*Lord In the Morning #39*

*At the Cross #163*

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded #156*

*Wondrous Love #162*

### **Image Metaphor-Open Window**

Display an open window on the stage.

### **Connecting-Foot Race**

Choose a partner. Ask them if they have ever made up after a fight? How did it feel?

### **Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled "The Open Window." Here are the boxes to select on the card:

- I am beginning to see how much God sacrificed for me.
- I accept His love and forgiveness  
and would like to be reconciled to Him.
- I would like to join this church

## #11 Growing With Hope (Spiritual Disciplines)

The **objective** of this lesson is to help participants realize that they are loved just as they are, but they growth in the family God is hard work but normal.

### Experience—Growing Plants

#### *Concept:*

Our new lives in Christ are like seeds that have just been planted. Just as we need inward, outward, and corporate disciplines, a seed needs good soil, water, and sunlight to grow. Take any of these away, or try and focus on just one of them, and the plant will begin to wither and die. When we neglect an area of our own growth, our relationship with God begins to wither also.

#### *Preparation:*

For this experience you will need to acquire 4 different items. The first items you will need are enough small plastic/paper drinking cups for each of those attending to each receive one. Next, you will need a bag of potting soil appropriately sized for your meeting. Thirdly, you will need a bag of large seeds. Any plant will work, but you will want enough seeds for every attendee to receive one. Additionally, it might be fun to have a variety of plants for attendees to choose from. Finally, you will need enough small clay pots for every attendee to receive one.

You will be creating 4 different items to place at four different stations, located in your meeting area as you wish. Station one will have clay pots. Station two will have soil (divided into cups if you prefer). Station three will have seeds (divided into cups if you prefer). Station four will have a small amount of water in cups.

#### *Execution:*

Have the attendees take some time to plant their seeds that they may take home as reminders of the message today. They can follow the stations around by picking up a clay pot, placing soil in the pot, planting the seed, and watering it. This is likely best done towards the end of the meeting time.

### Participation

Since the subject of the presentation is spiritual disciplines it would be appropriate to choose hymns and choruses with an emphasis on drawing closer to God. Here are some suggestions:

#### Contemporary Chorus:

*Breathe On Me (AdventPraise)*  
*Have Your Way (AdventPraise)*  
*He Is There (AdventPraise)*  
*I Will Praise You (AdventPraise)*

#### Traditional Song:

*Be Thou My Vision #547*  
*Draw Me Nearer # 306*  
*Give Me Jesus #305*  
*Have Thine Own Way Lord #567*  
*Live Out Thine Live Within Me #316*  
*Open My Eyes That I May See #326*

### **Image Metaphor-Seedling**

Use the images and videos entitled “Seedling” to set up the metaphor of growth. You will find it in the DVD data section.

### **Connecting-Define Discipline**

Choose a partner. Ask them to define the word discipline.

### **Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled “Growing With Hope.” Here are the boxes to select on the card:

- I realized that I am an adopted member of the family of God.
- I desire to take the steps to grow spiritually through inward, outward, and corporate spiritual disciplines.
- I would like to be baptized.

## #12 Driving Hope (Healthy Behavior)

The **objective** of this lesson is to help participants realize that they belong to God and that they need to take care of their bodies and minds on behalf of their owner.

### Experience—Commitment Reminder

*Concept:*

Changing major components of lifestyle can often be a long and difficult process. Adapting to a different diet, life without an addiction, or any other changes must always begin with a decision. This is the moment that each person can make that decision.

*Preparation:*

The experience for this meeting will be one of making a commitment. You will need to gather envelopes, stamps, sheets of paper for attendees to write on, and pens for each person. You may choose to print graphic reminders of the message on the sheets of paper ahead of time. Additionally, you will want to pre-stamp the envelopes and place your church's return address on them.

*Execution:*

Have each person write down at least three health commitments that they wish to make to change the way that they take care of the body that God has given them. Then, have them seal it in the supplied envelope, and address it to themselves. They will be the only ones to see the contents of their envelope.

Let them know that in one month the church will be mailing those out to each attendee to be a help and a reminder to them in their journey. Then, in one month, make sure you follow through and do so.

Your church may want to consider combining this experience with a health fair and invite various health professionals to set up booths around the meeting area to connect people with stop smoking programs, AA groups, diet consultants, gyms, diabetes testing, and whatever else you can think of. Then, when you send out the one month reminders that each person wrote to themselves, you can follow that up a week later with a flyer offering help again from those professionals who had booths at the meeting.

### Participation

Since the subject of the presentation is health and behavior it will be difficult to find songs that fit closely with the theme. Here are some suggestions that speak to dedicating everything we have to God:

Contemporary Chorus:

I Give you My Heart CCLI 1866132  
Sanctuary CCLI 24140

Traditional Song:  
*Trust and Obey #590*

### **Image Metaphor-Luxury Car Owner's Manual**

Park a brand new luxury car in the entrance. Display the owner's manual for that car in a prominent place on stage.

### **Connecting-Define Discipline**

Choose a partner. Ask them if they were to buy a new car, what would it be?

### **Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled "Growing With Hope." Here are the boxes to select on the card:

- I realize that my body and mind belong to God
- I desire to take good care of His equipment.
- I wish to join this church family.
- I would like to be baptized.

## #13 Heaven (Hope Mortuary)

The **objective** of this lesson is to help participants to understand that death is a sleep, those who die in Christ will be resurrected for an eternity in heaven, and those who die rebellious will be destined to eternal death.

### Experience—True North

*Concept:*

Hope is vital in our lives. It keeps us centered and looking forward. Our trust in God rests on the fact that we have hope. You might say that hope is our compass. It keeps us pointing towards true north. Yet sometimes we can have misunderstandings about our hope. Additionally, at times we may place our hope in people, places, or things that we shouldn't and they distract us from understanding God in the way we ought to. These are like bringing magnets close to a compass.

*Preparation:*

You will need to obtain a compass for at least 1/3 of those in attendance. If possible, you may prefer to give one to everyone who comes. You will also need to gather enough small magnets for each attendee without a compass to hold one. In situations where you have chosen to give each attendee a compass, then each attendee will also need one or two magnets.

You will want to give each of these items out to the attendees as they enter, but please instruct them that it is best to keep the magnets away from any electronics or cards with magnetic strips that they might have.

*Execution:*

Have each person bring their magnet near to the compass that they or someone around them is holding. The arrow will cease to point north, and will instead point towards or away from the magnet.

If we hold onto our hope, and encourage one another “with these words” as Paul wrote, then our compass will always point north. We will then be in the best situation to trust God and move forward in our lives, no matter what situations may come our way.

### Participation

Since the subject of the presentation is heaven and eternal life, here are some suggestions that speak of life beyond the grave:

Contemporary Chorus:

Heaven Is Calling (AdventPraise)

When You Come (AdventPraise)

All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises CCLI 4037057



Traditional Song:

*For All the Saints #421*

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken #423*

*Sweet By and By #428*

*Shall We Gather at the River #432*

### **Image Metaphor-True North**

Use the video and image media entitled "Compass." You can find it in the DVD data section for "heaven".

### **Connecting-Define Discipline**

Choose a partner. Ask them what it's like to 'sleep in'?

### **Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled "Hope Mortuary." Here are the boxes to select on the card:

- I find comfort knowing that death is a deep sleep.
- I'm relieved to know that God doesn't burn people forever and ever.
  - I look forward to serving Him for all eternity.
  - I would like to be baptized.

## #14 Stewardship (Hope on a Rope)

The **objective** of this lesson is to help participants to understand that in these times of economic uncertainty God stands by to support us in every way. A great way to experience that support is to trust God with tithes and offerings.

### Experience—Give or Take

#### *Concept:*

Being faithful with what we have been given can be difficult, but in the end it is this kind of trust with our material possessions that truly brings joy into our lives. In these moments of generosity, we begin to realize that in the end we don't need to rely on anything but our relationship with God.

#### *Preparation:*

For this experience you will only need to gather large amounts of coins of various denominations. There must be enough change here for each attendee to be given a small handful of coins as they enter the meeting area.

#### *Execution:*

Toward the beginning of the meeting, have each attendee take the coins out that they were given on the way in and hold them in their hands. Instruct them that this exercise will be done in two parts.

Part 1: First, try and talk to those around you and convince them to give you some of their coins. If someone asks you for a coin, you must give them one. Let's see who can obtain the most coins. Ready...go!

Part 2: Now let's see who can give away the most coins. You may only offer one coin at a time to someone, and if you are offered a coin you must keep it. Let's see who can end up with the fewest coins. Ready...go!

It is important to ask ourselves which kind of person we are going to be in life: the kind of person who tries to gather as much as possible from those around me, or the kind that is constantly looking for ways to give to others. Which one lives the happier life? Which one changes the most lives for the better? Which one is living the way Jesus taught us how to live?

### Participation

Since the subject of the presentation is stewardship it is a little more difficult to find a perfect fit for music but here are some suggestions:

Contemporary Chorus:

*Your Grace Is Enough* CCLI 4477026

*Blessed Be Your Name* CCLI 3798438

Traditional Song:

*Great is Thy Faithfulness* #100

*Come, All Christian, be Committed* #634

*We Give thee But Thine Own* #670

### **Image Metaphor-Rappelling**

Arrange to have a climbing wall on the stage. Or shoot a home video of the presenter in a local climbing gym. Or interview a climber in the church about what it's like to rappel.

### **Connecting-Define Discipline**

Choose a partner. Ask them if they have ever gone rappelling. What was it like? (Or if they haven't what do they imagine it to be like?)

### **Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled "Hope Mortuary." Here are the boxes to select on the card:

- I will return my tithes and offerings for the next three months knowing that if God does not bless that I can feel free to ask for my money back.
  - I would like to be baptized.

## #15 Mission of Hope (the Church)

The **objective** of this lesson is to share that the mission of the church is to share hope for this world and the world to come and to invite participants to join the mission.

### Experience—Sharing our Creations

#### *Concept:*

It is amazing how excited we can get over sharing our creations. When we go through the experience of creating, we enjoy sharing it with others. It's the same thing when we get a new car, or we have a child. Each of these things brings joy into our lives, and joy can't be bottled up. What if those at NASA kept the Apollo mission a secret and never shared their accomplishments? Our world wouldn't be the same would it? We wouldn't have satellite, cell phones, and maybe even some of the foods we now enjoy. Joy can't be bottled up, because when our lives have been changed for the better, we should want to share that with others. The mission of the church isn't one of bringing grief or pounding the truth down someone's throat. It is about sharing the joy that we have experienced.

We love because God first loved us according to 1 John 4. Now, we forgive because we have been forgiven. We give because we have been given to. We teach because we have been taught. We create because we have been created. This is our mission, and the closer our relationship to God becomes, the more natural that mission will leap out from within us and touch the lives of those around us.

#### *Preparation:*

The preparation for this experience must be done during the prior meeting. The idea of this experience is to allow people be excited about sharing the results of their lives and their creativity with each other.

1. Invite attendees during the previous meeting (Hope Mortuary) to bring a personal creation to this meeting. It can be a recent piece of art, something that they create in 5 minutes, or something from when they were a child. All that matters is that it is something they created and wish to share.
2. Plan to set up an "Art Fair" that will kick off this meeting. This can be a time where you might have an "open mic night" for people to share poems or songs, as well as places for people to display their creations (and keep them safe during the meeting).
3. For a couple of the booths, have stations where attendees can be creative. Using Lego's, a giant empty canvas for painting, or clay are just a few ideas that can be used at these stations.

#### *Execution:*

Remember, this is a time for attendees to share and interact with one another. Relationships built during this are often as important as the information that they will

gain from these meetings. Having refreshments and music playing while people bring their works to display can also create a nice atmosphere. This fair can go on for around 20 minutes, depending on the size of your group. Then invite people to come sit down to begin the meeting.

### **Participation**

The subject is mission:

Contemporary Chorus:

*Your Grace Is Enough* CCLI 4477026

*Empower Us Lord* (AdventPraise)

Traditional Song:

*O Zion Haste* #365

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* #363

*Christ for the World* #370

*Work, for the Night Is Coming* #375

### **Image Metaphor-Made for A Mission**

Play the video and use the still images entitled “Made For A Mission.” You can find them in the DVD data section entitled “church”.

### **Connecting-Define Discipline**

Choose a partner. Ask them if they have a personal mission statement, and if they do to share it.

### **Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled “Mission of Hope.”

- I want to become an active member of this church!
- I would like to be baptized.

## #16 Living Bread; Forgiving Wine (Communion)

The **objective** of this lesson is to experience Christ's metaphor of the Lord's Supper. This is a recommitment to Christ and to the Body of Christ.

### **Experience—Foot Washing and the Lord's Supper**

#### *Concept:*

Jesus gives us lots of left brained teachings but he wants to cement those down with right brained experiences. The ultimate metaphor is the Foot Washing service where experience serving and the Lord's supper where we experience His ultimate service on or behalf.

#### *Preparation:*

Pull all of your experienced team together in preparation for the ordinance of humility and the communion service. Make sure that you have basins, towels, and space set up for the foot washing service. Traditionally this is taken care of by the deacons. For the communion service make sure that you have the unleavened bread and unfermented grape juice prepared. Traditionally this is taken care of by the deaconess. If you have a formal church you may wish to rehearse the distribution of the elements in advance so it can go quickly and smoothly.

#### *Execution:*

Try to follow the Bible model of foot washing and have it at the beginning of the service. Alternately you may have rooms set aside for foot washing that people can go to first before they enter the worship area.

The Pastor or an ordained Elder can lead out in the communion part of the service. Since there is a full blown message given today the bread and wine distribution should not take a long time and is included at the end of the sermon.

### **Participation**

The subject is communion:

#### Contemporary Chorus:

*Above All* CCLI 2672885  
*The Wonderful Cross* 3148435  
*Standing at the Cross* (AdventPraise)  
*Lamb of God* (AdventPraise)

#### Traditional Song:

*I Come With Joy* #400  
*Let Us Break Bread Together* #403  
*O Sacred Head Now Wounded* #156

*When I survey the wondrous Cross #154 or 155*

**Image Metaphor-Bread and Wine**

Display the bread and wine in a prominent place. You may also wish to display a cross in on the platform.

**Connecting-Define Discipline**

Choose a partner. Ask them if they are right brained or left brained.

**Decision Card**

Make sure that Decision cards are printed out and given to each member and guest attendee. The decision card is entitled "Mission of Hope."

- I wish to serve God with all my heart.
- I can't wait to get more involved with this church
  - I would like to be baptized.

# Living with HOPE

Suggested Schedule for  
Big Group/Small Group Combination

Week #	Group Size	Subject	Title	Pen Color
1	Big	(1) Bible	Soul Food	Gold
	Small	(2) Trinity	Are You My Mother?	Cornflower Blue
2	Big	(3) Salvation	Is There Hope for Me?	Crimson
	Small	(4) Great Controversy	Just Desserts	Gray
3	Big	(5) Second Coming	The Blessed Hope	Orange
	Small	(6) Commandments	Hope for Your Driving	Brown
4	Big	(7) Baptism)	Racing With Hope	Powder Blue
	Small	(8) Spiritual Gifts	Body of Hope	Lime
5	Big	(9) Sabbath	Rechargeable Hope	Orchid
	Small	(10) Sanctuary	Window of Hope	Navy
6	Big	(11) Spiritual Disciplines	Growing With Hope	Olive
	Small	(12) Healthy Behavior	Driving Hope	Black
7	Big	(13) Heaven	Hope Mortuary	Hot Pink
	Small	(14) Stewardship	Hope on a Rope	Sea Green
8	Big	(15) Church	Mission of Hope	Teal
	Small	(16) Communion	Living Bread; Forgiving Wine	Purple