

# GIFTING CHRIST'S HOPE

TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUTH MONTH -  
SUSTAINING HOPE  
AND HEALING!

## CONTENT:

**Weekly:** Sunday sermon Bible readings, worship song, reflection, small group questions and family time

**Daily:** Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

## Gifting Christ's Hope to Children and Young People

### *Sustaining Hope and Healing*

September is Children and Youth Month in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. Winter has withered the plants and trees and life seemed to be dull. September is the beginning of a new season: Spring. Nature starts to bloom with new life and as a result the church sets the month of September aside to this blooming generation to inspire the church not only for the future but to focus on youth today so that we can revive the energy of the church through various activities.

Spring is a time for renewal, new hope, and new life as we witness flowers grow and bloom, the world around us becoming greener and brighter! At this time of year, we begin to feel less sluggish, and become more open to inviting change – both big and small – into our lives.” Spring is often met with optimism. Sunlight, movement, and warmth increase our overall satisfaction. The church looks forward to the energy that is brought forth by the young, the breath of fresh air the young people bring and the everlasting hope that the church will exist in future through the youth of today.

The children and young people of our country (like the adults) are facing various challenges, i.e.: crime and violence, unemployment, financial/political corruption, poverty and social inequality, and education. This series is then designed to look at our challenges afresh with youthful eyes, and thus align with the Presiding Bishop's theme to offer Christ's Hope especially to Children and Young People. May we all re-generate our hope in God and re-imagine our healing to sustain us through the other seasons.

### **Week 1: Choose life**

Life is all about the choices we make. The decisions we take every single day, whether small or big, impact our life in one way or another and determine how our coming years would unfold. God wants us to choose life in every season.

### **Week 2: Everyone is included**

Children and Young People are often overlooked in society because they seem young and inexperienced. Creating an intergenerational church comes with children and young being loved, respected, and embraced. Everyone is included in God's healing plan.

### Week 3: Everyone is influential and responsible

Society we live in has become a dangerous place for children and young people. Children and young people are experiencing harm and abuse at home, in schools, in shopping centres, in the church and literally everywhere. But God is shouting amid this evil happening against his precious young people. We will all be held accountable for those that are vulnerable in our society and in our sphere of influence. We need to re-imagine and be the change we want to see.

### Week 4: Grateful in faith

Challenges are part of life, sometimes they even make us question our faith. Some days are harder than others. Amid all challenges, we are called to hold on to the faith we have in Jesus Christ, for the faith we have doesn't disappoint. Being grateful for what we have generates hope.

## Week 4: Sunday – 25 September 2022

### Grateful in faith

#### Week 4: Grateful in faith.

Challenges are part of life, sometimes they even make us question our faith. Some days are harder than others. Amid all challenges, we are called to hold on to the faith we have in Jesus Christ, for the faith we have doesn't disappoint. Being grateful for what we have generates hope.

#### BIBLE READINGS

Revelations 3:1-13  
John 6: 60-71



#### WORSHIP SONG:



Charles Wesley, O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing:  
[https://youtu.be/4O9kw3cILpg?list=PL9MobCMJBbT\\_1cq6uZVopmUZz7LuAOAh6](https://youtu.be/4O9kw3cILpg?list=PL9MobCMJBbT_1cq6uZVopmUZz7LuAOAh6)  
Cape of Good Hope District Wesley Guild, Nzulu Yemfihlakalo:  
<https://youtu.be/libEgPxblq8w>

#### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION WRITTEN BY:

Sabelo Ntanjana - YOUTH @ BMC

When we read John 6:60-71, we realise that Jesus had more than 12 disciples at some point in his journey. John does not give us the exact number of the disciples that Jesus had, he just makes a point that they were many disciples. The difference between the 12 that remained to the end and the many that left was the acceptance of the teaching that Jesus is the Bread of Life. It seemed difficult to comprehend for the many and they decided to tap out, and to the 12 that remained, Peter becomes their spokesperson in verse 68, and makes a declaration that only Jesus has words that give eternal life.

It was this final divine instruction that brought his interlocutors to the point of saying, "This is more than we can stomach! Why listen to such talk?" (JOHN 6:60 NEB) Here is what is startling: those rejecting what Jesus was saying are identified as disciples. These were individuals who had previously made an open commitment to follow Him. At least superficially, they were followers of the Christ. Now, as the realisation that commitment to Him demands that He reign over life was more than they could handle. They were willing to identify with Him, but they were unwilling for Him to be in control over their lives!

Jesus' words illustrate a serious dichotomy that must be recognised. Is our faith in an action or in a Person? Is it what Jesus did that brings us to faith or is it what He said? The Samaritan woman whom Jesus met at the well believed the words that Jesus spoke. We read, "The woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" (JOHN 4:28, 29) Her testimony of what Jesus had revealed about her, compelled the townsfolk to hurry out to the well to hear for themselves what this individual would say. Listen to their testimony after hearing the Master. "Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So, when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world'" (JOHN 4:39-42). Scope in on that final affirmation from the people of the town: "We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

Being grateful in faith begins with acknowledging Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, opening our hearts to him, listening to his word, believing his words, and pressing on daily to be Christ-like. It means choosing to follow Christ when many are walking away from Him because his teachings are too difficult to comprehend.

## Life Application.

In our Methodist language, being grateful in faith also means **"attending upon all ordinances of God** (The public worship of God; The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded; The supper of the Lord; Family and private prayer; Searching the scriptures and fasting or abstinence. Following Jesus is a personal choice and not a group assignment. Following him means a commitment to be like him every day. When you have committed to follow Jesus, you do not just listen to his words, you do what they command.

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- Jesus words have always challenged hearers and followers. Have you ever been challenged? Which word or verse has really challenged you?
- Why would you choose to follow Jesus when all your friends are choosing to desert him?
- What does Holy Communion mean to you as a believer?
- Can a person be a disciple of Jesus and not be a church member?



## DAILY MEMORY VERSE AND PRAYER

DAY	VERSE	PRAYER
<b>MONDAY</b>	<u>Psalm 9:18</u> "But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish."	Almighty loving God, you have never deserted your people and you will not start now. Thank you for being a caring and loving Father. <b>Amen</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<u>Romans 12:12</u> "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."	Dear God, please strengthen me to find joy in hope, to be patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer at all times. <b>Amen</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<u>Mark 2:5</u> "When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'"	Almighty God, giver, and sustainer of life, thank you for blessing us with your Son Jesus, who came to take our sins. <b>Amen</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<u>1 John 1:9</u> "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."	Our heavenly Father, help us to confess our sins and not hide them from you. Remind us that you gave us your Son as a token of forgiveness. In Jesus name, <b>Amen</b> .
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<u>1 John 5:4</u> "for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."	Gracious loving God, remind us that we have overcome the world and help live our lives like conquerors. <b>Amen</b> .
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<u>Psalm 25:3</u> "No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause."	Dear Lord God, help us through the power of your Holy Spirit to put all our hope in you because in you, there's no shame. In Jesus' name, <b>Amen</b> .



BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR  
jennyb@bmc.org.za

**Week 4:** written by Magogodi Nkuna, Children's church Volunteer.

### **I Samuel 17:33-48 - David and Goliath**

**Game:** As a family, arm wrestle each other.

Two people at a time, young against old.

- Who wins the arm-wrestling challenge?
- What made them win?

### **Theme: Courage**

As a family, talk about a time you had to face a giant (big problem) and how you overcame it.

### **Passage Summary**

David is not taken seriously because of his youth. David shows us the courage he has by fighting a giant. He does not shy away from a challenge because of his age but instead trusts God to give him the right tools to fight. David is a young, man who knew and trusted the Lord. He trusted God's track record. God had delivered him from the paw of lion and bear and based on that, he had faith that God would win this fight for him. God does not look at age or physical ability. He looks at obedience and faith and uses that to bring victory.

### **Questions to ponder:**

- Have you been dismissed/disregarded/ not taken seriously/because of you age/position? Share as a family.
- What tools do you have at your disposal to overcome difficult times? (e.g., faith, confidence in God, prayer)

### **Pray**

Ask a young person to close in prayer.