

A Thrill of Hope: Devotions for Christmastime

Week 1: Hope of the Avenger

Focal Passage: Genesis 3:1-15 (14-15 for younger kids)

Supporting Passage: 1 John 3:8b

Focal Point: We have hope because Jesus came to defeat Satan and all His works.

Song for the Week: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Verse to Meditate on for the Week: Genesis 3:15

Devotional Thought:

Have you blown it today? Last week? The past year or years? We've all had times it seems that we have messed up so bad that there is no hope for things to get better and that the results are permanent. It can be hard to have hope that things will get better. Adam and Eve really blew it. They had one rule to follow, and they rebelled and broke it. They, however, were not alone. There was one who encouraged them to disobey God by getting them to doubt His Word. He told them God surely wasn't telling them the truth. So, with the encouragement of a serpent (the devil) and their own desire to take what God told them not to take, they disobeyed God and nothing has been the same since. We now experience pain, sickness, and even death. There is turmoil and conflict all around and it seems we too have trouble doing what we were created to do. We tend to blow it!

Not long after Adam and Eve sinned and everything got so crazy, God showed up and spoke to them. There are definitely consequences to sin, but God had a plan to avenge what had taken place. The Serpent had lied and helped usher in all the brokenness and chaos, but God was going to take care of him: The woman's seed would crush his head. This seed has been revealed to us, and His name is Jesus. He was born for this reason – to glorify God through paying the penalty for our sins and to defeat the Serpent who desires to destroy us! So, rejoice — Jesus has come! The Serpent doesn't win! There is hope amid all the brokenness of sin!

Discussion Questions:

- *Where do you see brokenness due to sin in the world? In yourself?*
- *What difference has Jesus made in brokenness in the world? In your life?*
- *Why are you thankful Jesus came?*

Activities:

- *Who is your favorite Superhero and why? What has Jesus done that your favorite Superhero couldn't?*
- *Make a Christmas Card that declares the victory Jesus has come to give us over sin and Satan*
- *Sing "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*
- *Make a list of ways that Jesus has avenged us from the Serpent and the brokenness of sin.*