

WAITING WITH HOPE

TRUSTING IN THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S RETURN



Waiting with Hope: Trusting in the Certainty of Christ's Return

Activity and Summary Sheet

By Alice Presswood





Introduction

Blog Summary

The blog post "Waiting with Hope: Trusting in the Certainty of Christ's Return" explores the importance of trusting God's timing, living with hope, and using the waiting period for Christ's return to share the gospel and grow in faith. It draws from 2 Peter 3:1-9, emphasizing God's patience and love, and encourages active waiting through prayer, study, and service. A practical example includes finding ways to bring joy to others while waiting, like helping a neighbor or writing encouraging notes to friends.

Key Verse

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV): *"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."*

Reflection Questions

1. Why is it important to trust God's timing?
2. How can we actively share the gospel while we wait for Christ's return?
3. What does living with hope look like in daily life?
4. How does waiting for Christ influence your daily priorities?



Section 1: Interactive Activities

1. Bible Study Challenge

Verse Exploration:

- Read and reflect on these verses:
 - 2 Peter 3:1-9 – God's patience and promise.
 - Matthew 28:19-20 – The Great Commission.
 - Romans 8:24-25 – Hope in what is unseen.

Activity: Create a Bible verse journal:

- Write down one verse each day related to hope or God's promises.
- Add a short reflection or prayer inspired by the verse.
- Decorate the journal with drawings, stickers, or printed images of symbols like doves, crosses, or sunrises to make it visually engaging.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is hope a central part of waiting for Christ?
- How does God's patience reflect His love for us?
- What specific promises of God encourage you most?



2. Creative Craft: Gospel Glow Jars

Materials Needed:

- A clean glass jar (one per participant).
- Glow-in-the-dark paint.
- Stickers and markers.
- Small slips of paper and a pen.

Instructions:

1. Decorate the jar with glow paint, stickers, and words like "Hope," "Patience," and "Love."
2. Write down names of people you want to share the gospel with on slips of paper.
3. Place the slips inside the jar and pray over them as a family.
4. Use the jar as a reminder to pray for others and shine God's light through your actions.
5. Reflect on how glowing in the dark symbolizes being a light for Christ in the world.

3. Role Play: Sharing the Gospel

Scenarios:

- A friend asks why you believe in Jesus.
- A neighbor seems lonely and in need of encouragement.
- A classmate is struggling and asks for hope.

Activity:

- Take turns acting out how to respond in each scenario.
- Use example scripts like: "I believe in Jesus because He gives me hope when I'm scared or worried."
- Discuss practical ways to bring Christ's love into these conversations.
- Reflect on what it means to shine God's light in your words and actions.



4. Reflection Time: "Seeds of Hope"

Activity:

1. Plant seeds in small pots as a symbol of sharing the gospel and growing faith.
2. As you water the seeds daily, reflect on how God's Word grows in your heart.
3. Write journal entries about ways you've shared hope or seen it grow in your life.
4. Take photos of your growing plants and write captions about their connection to your faith journey.



5. Group Devotional: "Active Waiting"

Outline:

- Start with a song like "*Great Is Thy Faithfulness.*"
- Read 2 Peter 3:1-9 aloud.
- Discuss:
 - What does it mean to wait actively?
 - How can we show patience and trust in God's promises?
 - Share a personal example of when God's timing proved perfect.
- Close with a family prayer for strength and hope as you wait for Christ.



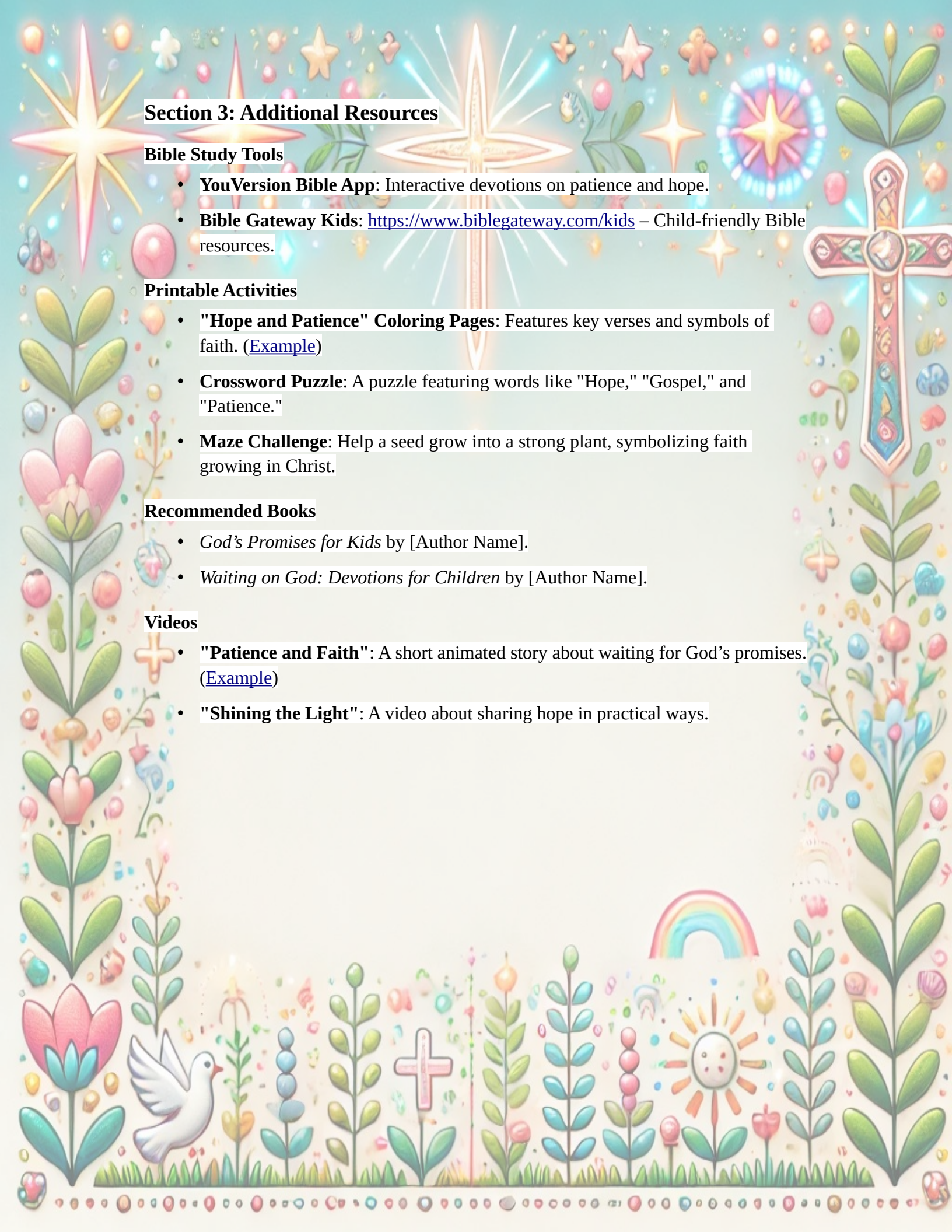
Section 2: Family Discussion and Prayer

Family Discussion Guide

1. **Opening Question:** What do you think it means to trust God's timing?
2. **Action Plan:** List three ways your family can share the gospel this week.
3. **Reflection:** Share a moment when waiting on God brought unexpected blessings.
4. **Challenge:** Commit to one act of kindness as a family to reflect hope and love.

Family Prayer Template

Dear Lord, thank You for Your patience and faithfulness. Help us to trust Your timing and to live each day with hope and purpose. Teach us to share Your love with others as we wait for Christ's return. May we shine Your light in all we do. Amen.



Section 3: Additional Resources

Bible Study Tools

- **YouVersion Bible App:** Interactive devotions on patience and hope.
- **Bible Gateway Kids:** <https://www.biblegateway.com/kids> – Child-friendly Bible resources.

Printable Activities

- **"Hope and Patience" Coloring Pages:** Features key verses and symbols of faith. ([Example](#))
- **Crossword Puzzle:** A puzzle featuring words like "Hope," "Gospel," and "Patience."
- **Maze Challenge:** Help a seed grow into a strong plant, symbolizing faith growing in Christ.

Recommended Books

- *God's Promises for Kids* by [Author Name].
- *Waiting on God: Devotions for Children* by [Author Name].

Videos

- **"Patience and Faith":** A short animated story about waiting for God's promises. ([Example](#))
- **"Shining the Light":** A video about sharing hope in practical ways.



Section 4: Reflective Wrap-Up

Family Pledge

Write your family's pledge: *We will trust God's timing, live with hope, and share the gospel as we wait for Christ's return.*

Visible Reminder

Place your Gospel Glow Jar in a central location as a daily reminder of your commitment.