

Lesson 5 / October 5, 2025

The Key to Hope

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1**Lesson 5****Focus:**God can help us in
hopeless times.**Lesson 5****Bible Basis:**Exodus 13:17—
15:22**Lesson 5****Memory Verse:**Now faith is confidence in what we
hope for and assurance about what
we do not see.
—Hebrews 11:1

Students will watch a video about hopeless situations in the city of Oakland as they explore that regardless how bad things may seem there is always hope in God.

Materials:

- Internet access

Have you ever felt discouraged? Most of us have. Sometimes when we feel discouraged, we think of all the reasons that things are not going to work out. We fear the worst.

- **What kinds of experiences make you feel discouraged, perhaps to the point of losing hope?** (Answers will vary. Be prepared in this set of questions to share your own experiences in order to get your students talking.)
- **When have you been in a situation where no matter what you did you knew the outcome would still be unpleasant?** (Answers will vary.)
- **When have you felt that things were already bad enough and then something else bad happened?** (Answers will vary.)

A couple years ago, the city of Oakland fell victim to a cybercrime called ransomware. In these types of attacks, hackers revoke users' access to their systems—and require a ransom payment to restore the systems. In this instance, the entire city of Oakland was affected by this ransomware. Let's take a look.

Show the following video [3:16]:

Oakland ransomware attack: Here's a look at how other US cities solved their cyberattacks
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDMGgzk83xw>

In ransomware attacks like the one in our video, if people pay the ransoms to regain access to their data and systems, they risk the cybercrimes being repeated, making matters even worse. If people choose not to pay the ransom, they could lose the data and software that allow them to do their work. These types of attacks cripple business's services, freeze computers, and make it impossible to access documents.

➤ **Where does a city, or an individual, find hope in the middle of problems that seem endless?** (Accept all reasonable answers: Other cities or people; remembering how things worked out before; coming together; prayer; church; God, etc.)

➤ **How do you stay positive or encouraged when things around you seem hopeless?** (Answers will vary; parents, teachers, or grandparents help; prayer, etc.)

The Israelites found themselves in what seemed like a hopeless situation. The Egyptians were chasing after them, and they found themselves caught between the enemy and a sea of water. For sure they were doomed. Or were they? Let's find out about the key to their hope—and ours.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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STEP 4 **Lesson 5****Focus:**God can help us in
hopeless times.**Lesson 5****Bible Basis:**Exodus 13:17—
15:22**Lesson 5****Memory Verse:**Now faith is confidence in what we
hope for and assurance about what
we do not see.
—Hebrews 11:1**Materials:**

- Internet access
- Cardstock printouts of keys (3 keys per student; template found at the end of this document has 6 keys per page)
- Fine-tipped permanent markers
- Scissors
- Binder/key rings or large paper clips
- Single hole punch

Before class, print out three keys for each student on cardstock (template found at the end of this document has six keys per page). If your class is meeting online, email the template for families to print ahead of time. Invite students to bring printouts and other supplies with them to class.

Rising above the circumstances regardless of how hopeless they seem means letting go of fear and negative thoughts. It means remembering that we do not get our hope from ourselves or from our circumstances. It means that what we see is not the end and that the One we do not see has the situation under control.

➤ **With that in mind, what will you tell yourself the next time you feel discouraged or hopeless?** (Answers will vary: If God could make a way for the Israelites, He can make a way for me; God will help me; I need to have faith in what I cannot see, so what I do see does not take away my joy; God is bigger than the most hopeless situation, etc.)

The key to hope is faith in God. We can be confident that God has every situation under control no matter how difficult or discouraging the circumstances. As a reminder to keep our eyes, and our prayers, focused on the God of hope and not on the problems that appear hopeless, we are going to make keys of hope.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have items ready at home). Instruct your preteens to cut out three keys and punch holes in them. Have them thread them on a ring or key binder or large paper clip to serve as a key chain. **On one key, write "Hope." On another key, write "God." On the remaining key, write "Hebrews 11:1."**

When you get home, add these keys to your key chain or put them somewhere that you will see them this week. When you begin to feel discouraged or your circumstances seem hopeless, get out your keys and remind yourself that the key to hope is faith in God. We can have faith that God is in control even when the situation looks bad to us and even when it does not look like things are going to improve.

Optional: If you feel comfortable, you may want to play the following [4:18]:
Aaron Shust - My Hope Is In You (Official Video)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugD0i5Y3cw8>

Close in a prayer asking God to help us remember to hold firm to our hope in Him, knowing that God has everything under control even when it does not look that way to us.

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