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Lesson 13 / November 29, 2026

Keeping Hope Alive

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as STEP 1

Lesson 13
Focus:
God gives us hope.

Lesson 13
Bible Basis:
Malachi 1:1, 5, 11; 2:8; 3:1-4

Lesson 13
Memory Verse:
Who is like you, LORD God Almighty? You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you. —Psalm 89:8

As they consider the hope that God gives us, students will look at the true story of an animal who brings hope to a teenager with disabilities.

Materials:

- Internet access

As your students enter class, invite them to answer to this question: "What does hope mean to you?" Examples might include: "A wish I have," or "Faith that God is in control," or "That my brother will heal after his car accident." There are no right or wrong answers and students may go about this task in different ways. Embrace students' differences as they tackle this topic.

Many feelings, emotions, and wants feel similar to hope, but hope is a unique attribute in that it is an inner longing. The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines hope this way: to desire with expectation of obtainment or fulfillment; to expect with confidence.

We're going to watch a video clip about a young man whose life changed dramatically after getting a dog—let's find out why.

Play the following video [3:09]:
Specially trained service dog brings support and comfort to Pennsylvania teen
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ga_V9n_Ghiw

➢ **How did Griffin's life change after getting a service dog?** (Answers will vary but may include: he was able to gain independence, he got emotional support from the dog, he always had someone looking out for her health and safety.)

➢ **Why might having a service dog bring hope to Griffin?** (He could live with greater independence; his health and safety were always monitored.)

➢ **Having a service dog gives Griffin hope to enjoy situations he's facing now, but also hope for a safer future. How does this experience fit in with the definition of hope?** (Answers might include that Griffin has a normal desire to be safe while also growing in independence.)

Today we're going to talk about finding hope in our own lives and learning about the Source of the hope that is within us. Let's learn more.

Resources:

Merriam-Webster Dictionary/hope
https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hope

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

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Lesson 13 / November 29, 2026

Keeping Hope Alive

for use as STEP 4

Lesson 13
Focus:
God gives us hope.

Lesson 13
Bible Basis:
Malachi 1:1, 5, 11; 2:8; 3:1-4

Lesson 13
Memory Verse:
Who is like you, LORD God Almighty? You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you. —Psalm 89:8

Materials:
- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring supplies with them to class.

Have students remember the definitions of hope they shared in Step 1. Next, invite students to add to their definitions of hope based on today's lesson. For example, "God will reign again," or "Peace will one day prevail."

Then, explain to students that no matter their hopes and dreams, they know the One who can meet them where they are and fulfill the desires of their heart. First Chronicles 29:18 says, "Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you." Encourage students to make this their prayer this week in regard to the hopes that they shared.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have supplies ready at home). Have students write today's memory verse on the front side of their cards: "O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you" (Psalm 89:8).

On the other side of their cards, encourage students to write down one struggle they're facing and one reason they have hope as they face this struggle. Invite students to use these cards as prayer reminders by placing them in their Bibles or on a dresser mirror where they will see them. Most importantly, encourage each student to pray for God's help in facing this particular struggle this week.

Affirm each student in the knowledge that God is their hope. Remind your preteens that God is the source of all our hopes and dreams. **Oftentimes our circumstances overwhelm us, but if we know Whom it is that we serve, we can always have hope in the future because God is our hope.**

Have students regroup and close the session in prayer. Ask specifically for help for students who may feel they have lost all hope in life or in the situation they face.

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