



*'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'*  
(Romans 15: 13)

The world is dark. Children face pain, neglect and abuse. Hopelessness saturates families, communities, cities and entire nations.

Nevertheless, as followers of Christ, we should be filled with his hope.

- **A hope that brings strength.**
- **A hope in his wonders and miracles.**
- **A hope that will not be cut off.**
- **A hope that anchors us**
- **A hope in his name.**

As we join together for the 2019 World Weekend of Prayer, let us *'be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer'* (Romans 12: 12) – believing we will see a positive change for children where we live and around the globe.

And that many more people might be filled with hope too.

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### **In this prayer resource:**

- Bible verses
- Examples of answered prayer from Viva testimonies round the world
- Hope examples from stories of David in the Bible
- Activity ideas
- Prayer points

**H**old. Hold on to the promises of God. David in the Bible has more adventures recorded of his life, from shepherd boy to ageing king, than most Old Testament characters. Yet in all the trials and challenges, he holds on and never lets go of his hope in God's care and love, *"Sustain me, my God, according to your promise, and I shall live; do not let my hopes be dashed."* (Psalm 119: 116).

**O**pen. Open up God's word and read His assurance that He is working His purposes out in your life. David was repeatedly pursued by Saul. Saul wanted to kill David even though David was in his family as son-in-law. Yet David could sing: *"My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word."* (Psalm 119: 81)

**P**ray. Pray to Jesus as Lord and Master who loves you with more devotion and depth of concern than any other friend. Praise his perfect timing in response to your prayers. As a warrior David was blessed with many victories, but he never forgot to pray before the battles, *"We wait in hope for the Lord; In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name."* (Psalm 33: 20a, 21)

**E**xperience. Experience peace in your heart and let justice be in God's hands. On two occasions, we read that David could have easily taken revenge into his own hands and killed his enemy, Saul. Yet he resists the urging of his friends, saying to Saul, *"May the Lord be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it."* (1 Samuel 24: 15).

# Adventures of hope in God

Be inspired to build your own adventures of hope. Use the Viva examples as encouragement. Reflect on David's challenges. Energise prayer through activities. Pray and knock on the door of heaven. Persist.

## HOLD ON TO FRIENDSHIP

### Zimbabwe

Fourteen-year-old Chipo dropped out of school for two years because of lack of finances. Tragically, both of her parents passed away. She started attending a Viva Network Zimbabwe Learning Centre in her community. Psycho-social support, received from her teacher at the learning centre, changed her life and made her think positively about life. This encouraged her to work hard and become committed in her studies, enabling her to proceed to a formal school, and do well. *"I have a personal experience that Viva's Learning Centre is very effective in my community and is making a difference in children's lives,"* said Chipo.

### David and Jonathan

David became best friends with King Saul's son, Jonathan. Jonathan agreed to find out whether his father still harboured evil intentions towards David or whether it was safe for David to return. The next day Jonathan fired three arrows and told his servant to look beyond as a sign for David to flee. (1 Samuel 20)

### Application

Seek out a friend who loves Jesus who you can really trust in times of trouble.

### Activity

Make a circular target with different scores in the colours of different concentric circle bands. Use any three light objects that will not roll off the target when placed on the ground. The winner must get a precise total score (eg 51). To illustrate friendship, throwing must be in pairs with arms loosely tied, right of one person to the left of the other.

### Prayer focus

Pray that children may find a trustworthy and honourable friend who loves the Lord.

### Bible Psalm anchor

*'As for me, I shall always have hope; I will praise you more and more.'* (Psalm 71: 14)

## OPEN UP GOD'S WORD

### Costa Rica

José is the leader of a Bible study youth group in the church and he always seeks to spend time in the church, even when there is no activity – to find peace. Viva's 'preparation for adult life' programme helped José find his vocation. His father left home years ago and his mother is often absent for long periods with other men. José has often been the main provider for his four younger siblings, dropping out from school and working in construction. Now with the church feeding the family, José is going back to school. *"Even though I'm struggling with maths, I'm going to continue to be a professional and one day I will help my brother and sisters to study and get out of this situation,"* said José.

### David, King over Judah, Israel

After the death of king Saul, David asked God whether he should go up to Hebron. As God said yes, David moved his family to Hebron and there he was anointed king over Judah. Later, the tribes of Israel also came and asked him to be king over them as well. (2 Samuel 2: 1-7, 5:1-5)

### Application

When we face decisions, big or small, take time to ask God what is the best thing to do and to test everything against what the Bible says.

### Activity

Have an adult draw letters taken out of the anchor verse below on a sheet of paper/grid sheet and cut them up to make letter tiles that sort of look like the scrabble game. Then ask children to make names of children and commit to praying for them that day.

### Prayer focus

Lord God, David had to wait a long time before he was called to his role of king and he faced much opposition on the way. Help us to be patient in waiting on your timing, Father, until all is ready for our next move.

### Bible Psalm anchor

*'Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.'* (Psalm 31: 24)

## PRAY TO JESUS

### Tanzania

Christine, a young girl aged 12, who was under the care of a comprehensive rescue centre in Mwanza had this to say: *“For a long time I was at risk of a very cruel cultural practice in my village (Female Genital Mutilation) and... I was left with no option but to flee from home.”* She visited Viva’s team from a rescue centre and shared this during last year’s World Weekend of Prayer. Her prayer last year was that she would be reunited with her family with the risk removed. The team are happy to report that Christine went back to her family who have promised to protect her from all harm.

### David in Saul’s camp

King Saul went after David with his special 3,000 men. David found them at camp and went down amongst them with Abishai to discover that they were all asleep. They took Saul’s spear and water jug but David refuses to harm his enemy. Later, from the hilltop, David shouted and showed the spear. Saul realised his sin and went home. (1 Samuel 26: 5-25)

### Application

Sometimes our friends might encourage us to enact revenge against our enemies. Don’t listen! God loves our enemies.

### Activities

1) One team is blindfolded and lie on the ground fairly close to each other. In the middle, a jug of water is placed. The other team must silently choose two members to go in and take the jug. Once back out, the ‘sleeping’ team can turn over and has just one guess to get the correct two people who retrieved the jug.

2) Fill a tin with marbles or twigs to represent things that we are hopeful for and pray.

### Prayer focus

Help me not to retaliate, Jesus, even when the opportunity is available. Rather lead me to the foot of the Cross to pray.

### Bible Psalm anchor

*‘No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.’* (Psalm 25: 3)

## EXPERIENCE PEACE

### UK

Geoff has become a core member of a group run by Viva’s work amongst young people: including a series of ‘January Recharge’ wellbeing workshops. He had a family crisis this year which increased his depression. His mum rang the leader and a support plan was put together. Geoff is not out of the water yet, but he is not lost in the system. There is hope, and it started with a small stitch, a day of small beginnings (Zech 4: 10). We need to value the days of small beginnings; that we would have God’s divine wisdom to recognise them when we see them.

### Goliath

The Israelites lined up for battle against the Philistines. For 40 days a giant, Goliath, came out to challenge for a fight. David brought a food parcel for his three elder brothers. King Saul’s armour was too big for him. So, David took five stones and a sling. Proclaiming God’s name he killed Goliath with just one stone. (1 Samuel 17)

### Application

God can overcome all your difficulties. Be brave and have faith.

### Activities

1) Make prayer chains, prayer trees, prayer hands (children draw an outline of their hands and cut it out) and then write names of children on each finger they want to pray for.

2) Tell the story and get children to act out ‘David and Goliath’ in their own words.

### Prayer focus

Help children defeat the ‘giants’ in their lives.

### Bible Psalm anchor

*‘Hope in the Lord and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it.’* (Psalm 37: 34)

Go to [www.worldweekendofprayer.com](http://www.worldweekendofprayer.com) to read more stories of hope from different parts of the world, and to download other resources for WWP 2019.

Join our Facebook page at [facebook.com/WWPrayer](https://facebook.com/WWPrayer)

## Please pray for:

**Listening ears.** Everyone who works with children and young people need to exercise the ability to **listen better to the challenges and situations in which children find themselves.** Cindy in El Salvador was listened to when she explained that she sleeps on the floor in the same room as her mother and stepfather. Her prayer for a mattress was answered.

**Leadership.** With the example of God's choice of David, looking at his heart, we must encourage and **pray for young people to be identified and anointed as leaders;** to become ambassadors for the needs of children across their cities. Felix (17 years old, El Salvador) wants to be a pastor in the future and, despite his visual disability and epilepsy, he loves playing football.

**Loving relationships.** So many children in the suburbs where we work face violence, abuse, neglect and the impact of broken relationships. Pray that God brings **peace to the inside of dysfunctional and disrupted homes.** Enna (15 years old, Cambodia) has parents who have divorced. She has been praying for a loving relationship to be restored and now at least her parents are talking with one another again.

**Light of Christ.** There are some very dark places in the thoughts, actions and lives of children caught up by the sin of the world. **Pray for light:** *"I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."* (John 8: 12)

## Join us in this prayer

Lord Jesus, **come into my life and fill it with hope.** A hope that is everlasting; a hope that lifts me up; a hope anchored in the promises you have made. Jesus, thank you that you are my friend. Help me to embrace and **hold onto the friendship you offer.**

I pray, Jesus, for all the children and young people in the cities where Viva works: that they too might find you to be their friend. A friend who loves them so much, who wants the very best for them and who is trustworthy and true.

May more and more vulnerable children come to **open up your words in the Bible,** Jesus. May they learn to **pray in the power of the Spirit** and **experience new beginnings** in the peace you leave with us. Amen.

## What could you do next?

**Continue to pray** Commit all these things to prayer, not just for this event but throughout the year. Perhaps you could hold regular prayer events, every one, two, three or six months?

**Start a hope diary** Each day, list something you are hopeful for in your life, and pray. Each month take a look back and praise God for his promises and answered prayer.

**Take action** Look for opportunities to be a positive influence in your church and community. For example, could you mentor and encourage children, helping them to grow in their faith?

**Give generously** Reflect God's goodness to you by making a gift towards work with children where you live, or to the work of an international charity for children at risk, such as Viva.