

Having simple faith helps us discover the fulfillment of Christmas.

John 3:16, Hebrews 11:1, 8-10, Romans 5:3-4, Romans 8, James 1:12

Materials: 25-piece puzzle

THEME: HOPE

Have you ever heard someone say, “when the going gets tough the tough get going?”

This phrase means that if something is really tough for you, you can persevere if you have hope that it will all work out. Right now some of you may be persevering to learn to tie your shoe, ride a bike, or make a ball team. Some of you may have troubles at home or school. HOPING you can do it will help you work through the difficulty you are facing.

Let’s think about how this works by trying something together.

(Pass out pieces and work together. As the kids put the puzzle together, brag on the perseverance and hope of the children as they eagerly work on the puzzle.)

Look at this puzzle picture. Let’s work together to put the puzzle together. We have to make sure every piece fits just right.

(When the kids are finished with the puzzle say...)

Today we created a beautiful picture using a lot of puzzle pieces. What would have happened if we had given up after just 10 pieces? Would we see a beautiful picture? Would we have anything to be proud of?

It can be easy to give up. People often give up in life because they do not have hope to help them stick it out to the end. It’s very much like they only see the dark days of winter but never feel the joy and hope of Christmas. But you won’t give up when things get tough, will you?

To help remind you, boys and girls, I want you to take a piece of this puzzle home with you. I hope it will remind you that you too can persevere and be hopeful when you face a big challenge.