

Hope

Biblical Material: Proverbs 13.12, 23.18.

‘When you are disappointed and your hopes are dashed, the heart is crushed, but when a hope for the future comes true it fills you with joy.’

‘There is surely a future hope for you which will not fail.’

You will need:

- A heart drawn on a paper bag with a smiling face drawn on the heart.
- A coin.
- A freezer tie.
- Paper and a thick felt-tipped pen.

Introduction

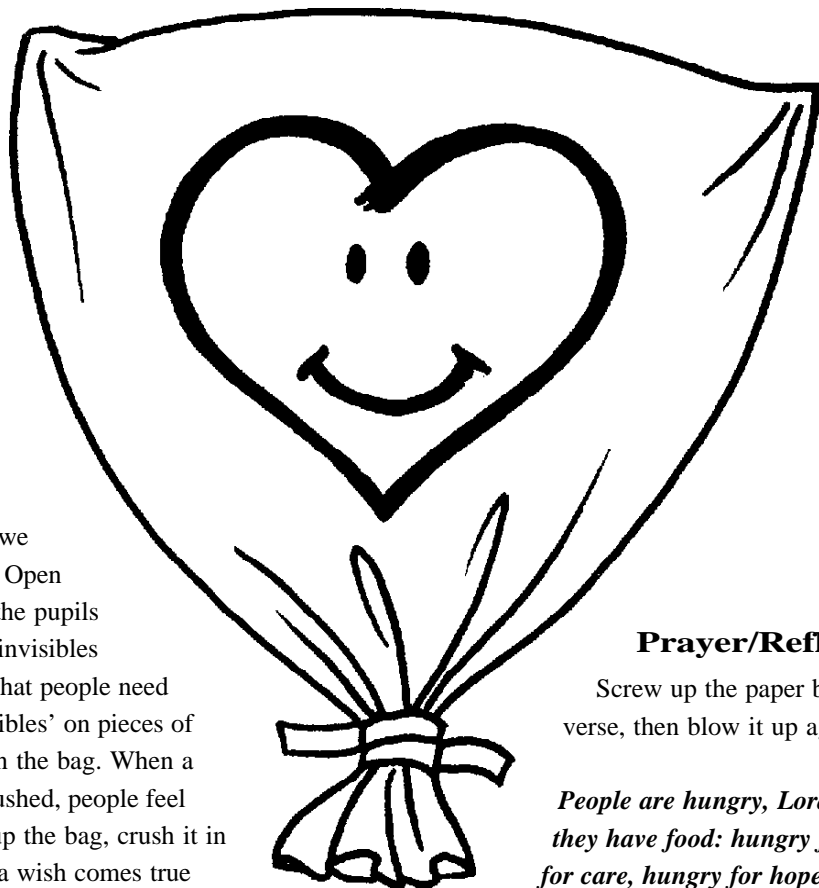
Ask the pupils to imagine they have been shipwrecked on a desert island. What would they need to live? List some of their suggestions.

Needs

Food
House
Drink
Clothes

Core Material

People survive if they have food and water and some shelter, but it is only survival. To really live we need some ‘invisibles’. Open the paper bag and ask the pupils to suggest some of the invisibles such as love and hope that people need to live. Write the ‘invisibles’ on pieces of paper and place them in the bag. When a hope is destroyed or crushed, people feel crushed inside (screw up the bag, crush it in your hands): but when a wish comes true people feel filled with joy. Blow up the bag and tie the bag with a freezer tie. Hope, like love, is not an optional extra, it is an essential of life - like water. Without hope and things to look forward to, life is bleak indeed.



One of the Biblical words for hope (used in Proverbs 23.18) originally meant ‘backside’ - not the thing we sit upon, more like the backside of the moon or the other side of a coin. It came to stand for the things we could not see: the future. When you look at a coin in your hand, you know the other side exists, even though you can’t see it. Ask pupils to demonstrate this (allow them to see the coin first). Flip the coin and ask pupils to tell you what is on the side they cannot see. Hope is belief in what is certain yet unseen. For Christians it is the belief that good will triumph because it depends on

God who does not fail.

Prayer/Reflection

Screw up the paper bag and read the verse, then blow it up again.

People are hungry, Lord, even though they have food: hungry for love, hungry for care, hungry for hope. It is not enough to survive: you have made us for more than that. We need love for today and hope for tomorrow.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.