

What do you think it means to **hope** for something?

*Which of these synonyms for hope do you think best fit your understanding of the word **hope**?*

HOPE

SYNONYMS FOR hope

achievement

faith

ambition

goal

anticipation

optimism

aspiration

promise

belief

prospect

concern

wish

confidence

assumption

desire

buoyancy

expectation

daydream

WHAT ARE YOU HOPING FOR?

My immediate hopes for this week/month ...

My job hopes ...



MY HOPES

My family hopes ...

Think about the things you are hoping for in your life.

- *What are they?*
- *How realistic do you think your hopes for your life are?*
- *Can you definitely achieve them, or are they reliant on what other people do and say and the impact that their actions or words have on your life?*

Currently life might feel full of disappointed hopes, with cancelled holidays, postponed events, birthdays 'celebrated' in lockdown.

What hopes for life have you had that have been lost?

How have you dealt with the disappointments you have faced?

**HOPE
DISAPPOINTED**

A STATEMENT FROM GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL

MARCH 18, 2020

We are so sorry to announce this, but Glastonbury 2020 will have to be cancelled, and this will be an enforced fallow year for the Festival.

We are very sorry that your stay with booking number 811611199 can not take place. Your health and the health of all our employees is of primary importance. You will receive this leisure voucher so you will be able to enjoy your holiday at another time in a safe and carefree way.

Since lockdown started **60** King's students and **9** members of King's staff have celebrated lockdown birthdays.
This includes 6 year 11s who have turned 16 and not been able to celebrate with friends.

How many children are having lockdown birthdays?

Figures for England and Wales

32,000

birthdays per day of one to 18-year-olds

323,000

since the UK went into lockdown

980,000 have a birthday in April

47,000 will turn 18

Source: ONS, figures are for live births of children in England and Wales since 2002 and rounded to the nearest 1,000



Getty Images

A lack of hope is a dreadful thing. It can really limit our enjoyment of life and makes hours seem like days. If we feel that they will never be good enough at school, never overcome people who are against us, or never please our parents, we can struggle to know how to hope. Things we place our hope in can often let us down, whether it is a failed relationship, a friend who has let us down and that can leave us with a sense of loneliness and loss.

The problem with hope is that it is not **tangible**. We can neither see it nor feel it. But to live without it is a terrible thing and to put it in the wrong place is a futile waste of energy. If we sense a lack of something special in our lives we may not be able to verbalise it, but we will often be lacking a sense of hope.



If you had to place all your hope in a person, who would it be and why?

- *Has that person shown that they can be trusted or have they let people down?*
- *Are they trustworthy?*
- *Is there a record of them changing things for other people who have placed their hope in them?*

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HOPE?

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. *Matthew 11:1-5*

If you would like to explore more about what the Bible means by ‘hope’ you could watch this Bible Project video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WYNBjjSYvE>

There was about 500 years between the last words written in the Old Testament, promising God’s promised saviour, to the birth of Jesus.

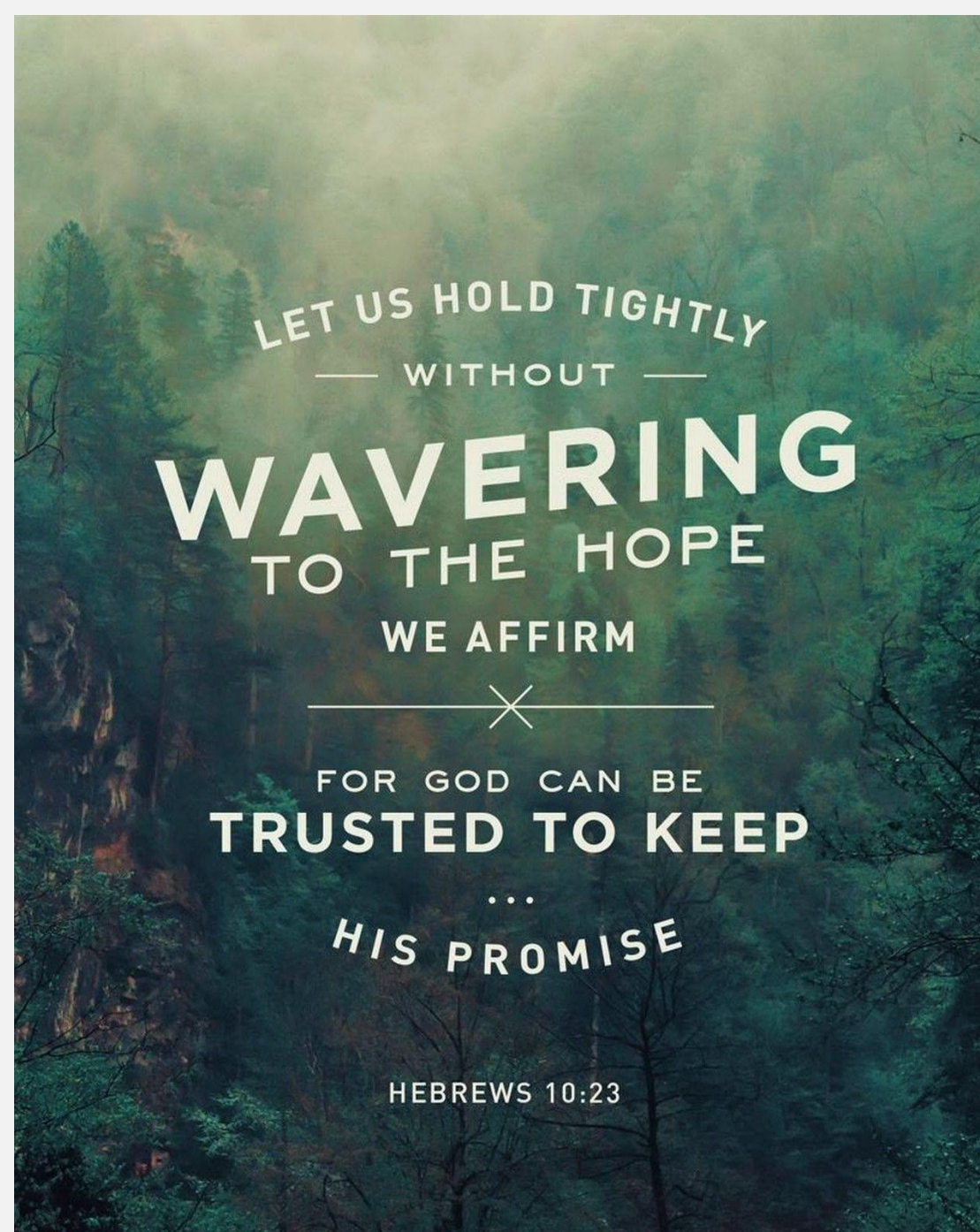
The people who trusted God were hoping for this saviour to come. When John the Baptist heard about Jesus he sent his followers to ask Jesus if he was the one who they had been hoping for.

What reasons does Jesus give to suggest he is the one that people have been waiting for?

WHY DO CHRISTIANS HOPE IN JESUS?

The writer of the book of Hebrews reminds Christians that Jesus has dealt with the problem of sin and death and that those who trust in him will have eternal life.

How can they be sure of this hope? Because God is trustworthy and keeps his promises.





LET US HOLD TIGHTLY
— WITHOUT —
WAVERING
TO THE HOPE

WE AFFIRM



FOR GOD CAN BE
TRUSTED TO KEEP

...
HIS PROMISE

HEBREWS 10:23

If you are a Christian:

How does it change the way you deal with disappointed hopes in this life – knowing that God is faithful to keep his promises?

What do you know about Jesus that reminds you that he is trustworthy and worth placing your hopes in?

If you are not a Christian:

If God came to earth, what would you hope he would do to help people?

Who do you know that you can hope in and trust?

What helps you to be hopeful about the future?

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

Hebrews 10:23

Lord God

In spite of disappointed hopes in our lives, you have not left us. When we are lost and lonely, you still love us and care for us.

Thank you Jesus that your life shows us how to really live in the world today. Thank you that your death and resurrection make a way for our sins to be forgiven, so that we can live life God’s way – with the strength that you gives us by His Spirit. Thank you that you offer us a hope of forgiveness and eternal life that we can trust.

Amen