



WEEK TWO

JOHN 12:9-16
Palm Sunday

SAY
THIS

Whatever happens,
remember God keeps
His promises.



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DO
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MEAL TIME

Q&A for Kids: Fill in the blanks. I
hope_____ (something personal).
I hope_____ (something for a friend).
I hope_____ (something for the world).

Q&A for Parents: When was a time when hope carried you
through something difficult?

Monthly Theme Memory Verse: "In this world you will have
trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."
John 16:33b, NlrV

Week Two Memory Verse: "God has made a great many
promises. They are all "Yes" because of what Christ has done.
So through Christ we say "Amen." We want God to receive glory."
2 Corinthians 1:20, NlrV

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HOPE ON A NAPKIN

By Sherry Surratt

Her voice was a whisper, "What are you doing?" I whispered back, "Not much, what are you doing?" In a guilty voice, she explained she was calling from the garage because she was hiding from her five-year-old twin boys, who had just removed the bedroom door from its hinges while having a 'quiet time.' They had actually removed the screws using parts of their Junior Explorer Tool Set. "I think my kids might be wild Indians, and I decided to eat Oreos in the garage. It's me that needs the quiet time." I reassured her that I had had similar thoughts before.

Parenting is like this sometimes. It's a conundrum of the happiest moments of your life mixed with ones that would have you losing your mind. If you've ever wanted to hide in your car, in the pantry, or even in your bathroom, you're definitely not alone. And if you've ever felt like a failure as a parent, we've all been there.

I think back to a moment I had one night tucking my son into bed. In a tangle of blankets, he was engulfed in a serious conversation with GI Joe and Stretch Armstrong. But what caught my attention was a wrinkled piece of paper sticking out from beneath his pillow. I had played with the idea of

writing little notes on the paper napkin that I tucked into his school lunch box, sometimes an "I love you" or a joke I thought was funny. I hadn't kept it up for long because I wondered if they embarrassed him, or if he had maybe not even noticed because he had never mentioned them. When I now pointed to the note that read, "I'll love you forever," he said, "Oh yeah, I kept that one because it was my favorite." And then he smiled.

I think back to that moment often. There were so many times as a mom I felt like a complete failure, like what I did didn't matter, like no one noticed. For me, that crumpled napkin was a sign of hope. Maybe I was making a difference even when it didn't feel like it.

It reminded me that what I do today matters, and that tomorrow will not always look like today. It reminds me the idea of hiding in the garage might be a good idea sometimes, and if we hold on tight, there's hope.

And I also highly recommend an occasional bag of Oreos.

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