

Welcome to Sunday School at St. Tim's  
March 9, 2008

Thank you for coming !

We are glad you joined us for our Gathering Service today.

During our Gathering Service,  
you will learn about God, Jesus, and our church.  
You will learn about why grown-ups do the things they do  
each week during worship, and you will learn about  
being a part of the congregation.  
You will learn how you can share your gifts and talents,  
and what your responsibilities are as a  
full member of the St Tims church family.

Each week, we will try to follow this format:

**Sing-along with Linda  
Welcome**

**Opening Song "This is Where Children Belong"**

**Opening Prayer**

**Scripture reading: Psalm 130**

**Message—"Putting our hope in God..."**

**Offering (Song is Linda's choice)**

**Offering Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Blessing prayer**

**Closing Song "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"**

You might be asked to choose the songs, help collect the offering, read the Scriptures, lead a prayer, or light candles. We want you to feel like an important part of our Service!

Please share this bulletin with your family so everyone can find out what you learned about today!

The message for today is:  
"Putting our hope in God..."

Our scripture reading today is from the book of Psalms (that means "songs"! ) There are lots of kinds of psalms—happy, sad, full of praise, or full of complaining. This one is a psalm of hope—hope that is placed in God.

The psalmist says "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!" It sounds like he or she is having a terrible time, and that it feels like she or he is at the bottom of a deep, dark pit. If you were in a deep, dark pit, would you be afraid? Would you call out for help? Would you call out for God?

What about if you were having a really, really, really bad day? Would you remember to put your hope in God? And what does that mean anyway?

I think putting your hope in God means that when we are in the middle of a really bad situation, we need to think of all the wonderful gifts God has given us, and all the times that God has helped us. We need to take some deep breaths and relax, trusting that things will be OK. God loves us, like God loves everyone on earth, and because God loves us, we will be OK!

I also think that putting our hope in God means "all the time", not "just when things are really bad!" We need to trust in God and in God's love every day. We need to listen for God, and feel God all around us every day—not just when we are sad or scared or lonely. Trusting and having hope is a long-term thing, not just something you pull out when things are tough.

Talk to God through prayer. Let God know how much you appreciate all your blessings. Do it everyday—that shows hope and trust.