



Scripture Union

In Search of Hope

Time: Ideally, over the course of a week.

Where: In predetermined local areas, parks, high streets etc.

Age Range: Families with children 5 to 8 years old.

You will need:

- colour printer
- pen or permanent marker
- laminator and laminating pouches (desirable, not essential)
- string, cable ties, sticky tack or something to secure the poster and QR code sheets (included in this document) in place

Introduction

This is a treasure hunt for children and families, using a series of videos to create conversation and help crack a code. Videos are accessed by scanning QR codes, as the groups explore the local area. This resource is fun, interactive and engages children in exploring, walking, and talking about their experiences and what they are looking forward to.

How does it work?

There are different four videos (accessed by scanning different QR codes) that take the children on a journey to find the four letters

that spell the word HOPE. In each video, children are given a quick challenge, one of the letters, and something to discuss as they walk and search for the next QR code. Once children have all four letters, they use that word (HOPE) as a password to gain access to the final video, in which they hear how important hope is, and how lots of people have found hope in Jesus.

QR codes are very easy to scan and most modern phones can scan them just by taking a photo. There are also apps available to scan QR codes. Each code will lead to a different video and a short blurb explaining the video and the trail. Give it a go by scanning one for yourself!

These codes could be placed at random locations within a park or a local area with a small radius to encourage families to walk and search. When people contact you for more information, don't forget to inform them of the boundaries in which to search for clues.

Families will not need to find or scan the clues in any particular order for the trail to work.

To go to the final video, families will need to scan their final clue code, watch the video and then click on the 'crack the code' button. After clicking on this button, they will be prompted to enter the code (hope) to access the final video.



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Preparation

You must always gain permission from local authorities, businesses or landowners before putting up posters and QR code sheets on their property. (Sample permission letter included in this document.)

They could be put up at a local park, in shop-front windows, churches or on community boards etc. Set dates that the posters and QR codes will be displayed from and taken down by, and let the relevant owners know when this will be. We recommend keeping the codes up for one week before removing them.

- 1 Download the poster and either add your church's details – name, logo, website/social channels – to it before printing it off, or write them on by hand afterwards. Print as many as you need for good publicity, and laminate them, if possible.
- 2 Download and print the QR code sheets. Laminate them, if possible, and find suitable locations within the local area (with permission) to display them.
- 3 Publicise well. Let your church know about the trail. Ask parents to circulate the details amongst friends and family. Publicise on social media channels and local group pages.
- 4 Pray for good connections, for families to engage and have fun, for children to hear about HOPE and how important

it is to have it. Pray for families to get in touch with your church, so you can continue journeying with them.

- 5 When you are ready, take the posters and QR code sheets to the park or area you have chosen and gained permission for. Attach the QR code sheets in place. Attach the posters to the entrances of the park to give info and context.

If in a park, be aware of memorial benches and other things that have meaning to the community, and avoid sticking the posters there. Try to disperse the QR codes or even hide one or two of them, if possible, to create a sense of exploration for families. If in a local area, attach posters and QR codes in the designated areas (community boards, shop windows etc). Make sure they are easily identifiable and not too well hidden, as families will be searching for them.

Please note that the QR code on the poster included in this pack leads to a separate introductory video that explains how the 'In Search of Hope' activity works.

Safety Considerations

Scripture Union have produced a document entitled ['Key considerations for engaging with children and young people outside while physically distancing in England'](#) (Welsh version also available). We strongly advise that you read this document as you plan your session.

In addition, you should ensure all activities are run in accordance with current government policy.



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This trail uses QR Codes, so responsibility is with parents to oversee children when scanning the codes and engaging with the material. The content behind the SU branded QR codes is child friendly and appropriate for all ages to engage with.

The event

During the event, visit the park or walk the area regularly to check that posters and codes are still in place. Keep your eyes open to see whether families are engaging with the trail.

To finish

Take down the posters and QR codes on the agreed date, and correspond with local authorities, businesses and landowners to thank them for the opportunity to have had these displayed in the local area.

Keep praying for the children and families who engaged. Respond quickly to any responses received, such as emails and new followers on your social media channels etc.



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**Scan the code
and let the
adventure begin!**



Contact your local church for more details:

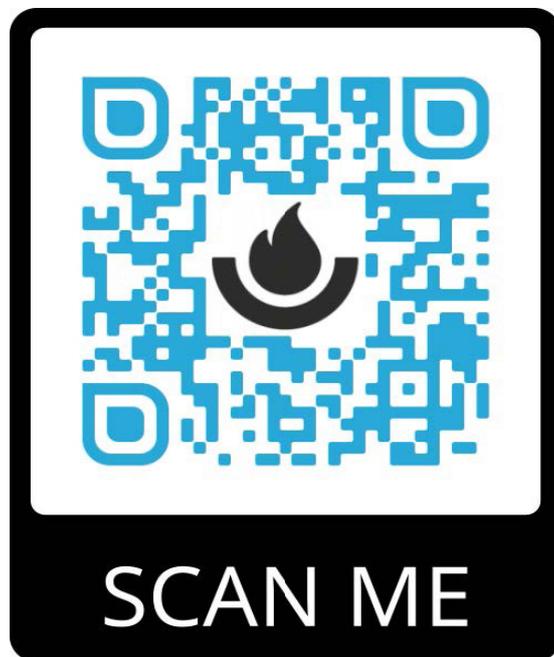


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Well done!

You have found your
first clue!



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Well done!

You have found your
second clue!

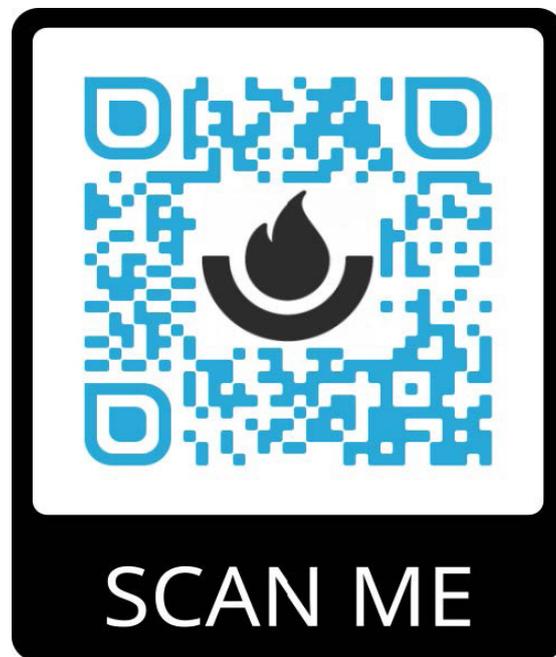


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Well done!

You have found your
third clue!



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Well done!

You have found your
fourth clue!



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Sample permission letter

Copy and adapt this template for your own situation.

Subject: **[Your church name]** *In Search of Hope*

To whom it may concern,

[church name] have access to an exciting new opportunity to engage children in the local area. *In Search of Hope* is a walking trail that encourages families with young children to explore the local area to find clues – posters with QR codes on – in order to help crack a code, unlocking a virtual space where they hear about hope. The QR codes take families to videos that contain clues and fun challenges to do while they explore and search. *In Search of Hope* is a great opportunity for families to do something different, engaging and fun while out and about.

For the trail to work, posters with information and QR Codes would need to be put up around the area to act as the signposts towards the online clues. **[church name]** would like permission to put these posters up in/at **[name of park/estate/local area/business]**. To allow enough time for families to engage, we would like the posters to be up for **[duration – eg 1 week]**. Members of the church will put posters up on **[date]** and then remove them on **[date]**.

I hope you are as excited about this project as we are. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to hearing from you,

[sign-off from church]



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