



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 4: Hope in God

Suggested Week of Use: September 25, 2022

Core Passage: Amos 9:5-15

News Story Summary

Scientists from Australia and the United States are hoping to bring a species back from extinction. The thylacine, which is also known as the Tasmanian tiger, hasn't been seen in the wild since 1933. The last one housed in a zoo died in 1936. The scientists hope to bring back the species using gene-editing technology and stem cells. They will take stems cells from a living species with similar DNA. (Thylacines are most-closely related to carnivorous marsupials like Tasmanian devils, rather than tigers). From there, they would make embryos and artificial wombs to hold those embryos. The scientists believe the process will take about a decade and will result in a hybrid version of the species that looks and acts like the Tasmanian tiger.

For more about this story, search “scientists and the Tasmanian tiger.”

Focus Attention

To replace the opening activity under Focus Attention, hang a large sheet of paper on a focal wall. At the top of it, write “Hope is . . .” As adults arrive, give them markers and instruct them to write a definition of “hope” under the heading. To introduce the lesson, review the definitions and examples of hope. Share the story of the scientists who hope to bring back the thylacine (Tasmanian tiger) from extinction. (You can also find related video clips on the Internet if you want to show them.) Ask: *Do you think the scientists' hope is misplaced? Why?* Discuss responses. Say: *Today's Scripture passage examines the idea of hope, but from a very different perspective: What it means to put our hope in God.*

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the closing activity under Summarize and Challenge, recall the story of the scientists working to bring the thylacine back from extinction. Ask: *How is the hope of the scientists different from a believer's hope in Christ? Do you think the scientists tell others about what they hope to accomplish? Why? Why don't people talk more about their hope in Christ?* Discuss adults' responses. Point out the importance of not only placing one's hope in Christ, but also of sharing that hope with other people. Close in prayer.