



# Expressions of Hope

Activities for Teachers, Catechists, or Families

## BACKGROUND

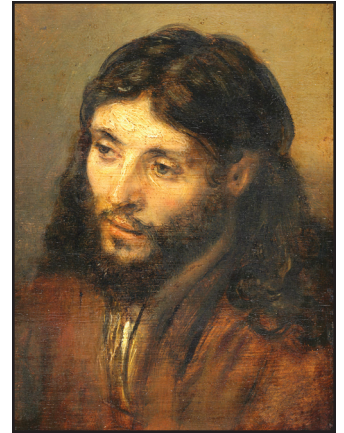
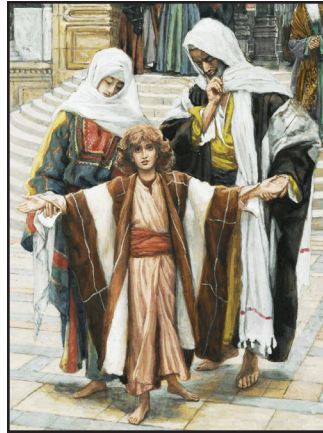
For over two thousand years, people from different cultures have artistically expressed their faith in Christ. Some artists have depicted an important event in the life of Jesus, such as James Tissot's *Jesus Found in the Temple*. Other artists have used live models to portray Christ, as did Rembrandt in his famous *Head of Christ*. The beauty of Christ can also be reflected through cultural expressions, such as the statue *Cristo Negro* in Portobelo, Panama. In each of these examples, we see a different expression of Jesus' face. Yet every face of Jesus is one of hope because our hope is in his Resurrection.

Artists throughout the years have used a variety of methods and media to depict biblical events. Such works of art strive to represent more than the literal event. They can help us celebrate God's promise of Salvation in Jesus Christ. The Church relies on artists to help share the Gospel, which is a message of hope in eternal life with God.

## OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

During the Jubilee month of February, the Church celebrates our hope in Christ through the gift of artists. Spend time reflecting on how artistic depictions of Jesus bring you hope.

Two activities are provided to help children explore artistic expressions of hope. The first activity, **Image of Hope**, can help children discover how some artists have expressed hope in Jesus and the Gospel. The second activity, **Portrait of Hope**, invites children to reflect on their hope in Christ and to share that hope with others.



Top left: James Tissot's *Jesus Found in the Temple*; Top right: Rembrandt's *Head of Christ*; Bottom left: *Cristo Negro* at Iglesia de San Felipe. Public Domain.

# Image of Hope

## ACTIVITY STEPS

### Step 1. Select a work of art.

Choose one work of art by James Tissot, Rembrandt, or another artist of your choice that depicts Jesus with a sense or expression of hope for you.

### Step 2. Examine the work of art.

Use the Activity Notes on this page to help you examine your selected work of art. Spend a few minutes examining the image. Reflect on how the image expresses or evokes a sense of hope. Consider the design or colors used, the scenery or person(s) depicted, or the overall composition or structure. What about this work of art gives you a sense of hope?

### Step 3. Record your reflection.

Using the provided handout, write a short description of how this image is an expression of hope.

### Step 4. Share with others.

When possible, share your chosen image of hope with a classmate, friend, or family member. Using your recorded reflection, tell that person why this image expresses hope for you. Invite that person to share what he or she thinks of this image and how it expresses hope.

## ACTIVITY NOTES

What basic information about this work of art did you learn? Title? Artist? Medium? Date made? Website source?

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What do you first notice when looking at an image of this work of art?

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What part of this work of art keeps your attention the most?

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What about the scenery or persons depicted express a sense of hope?

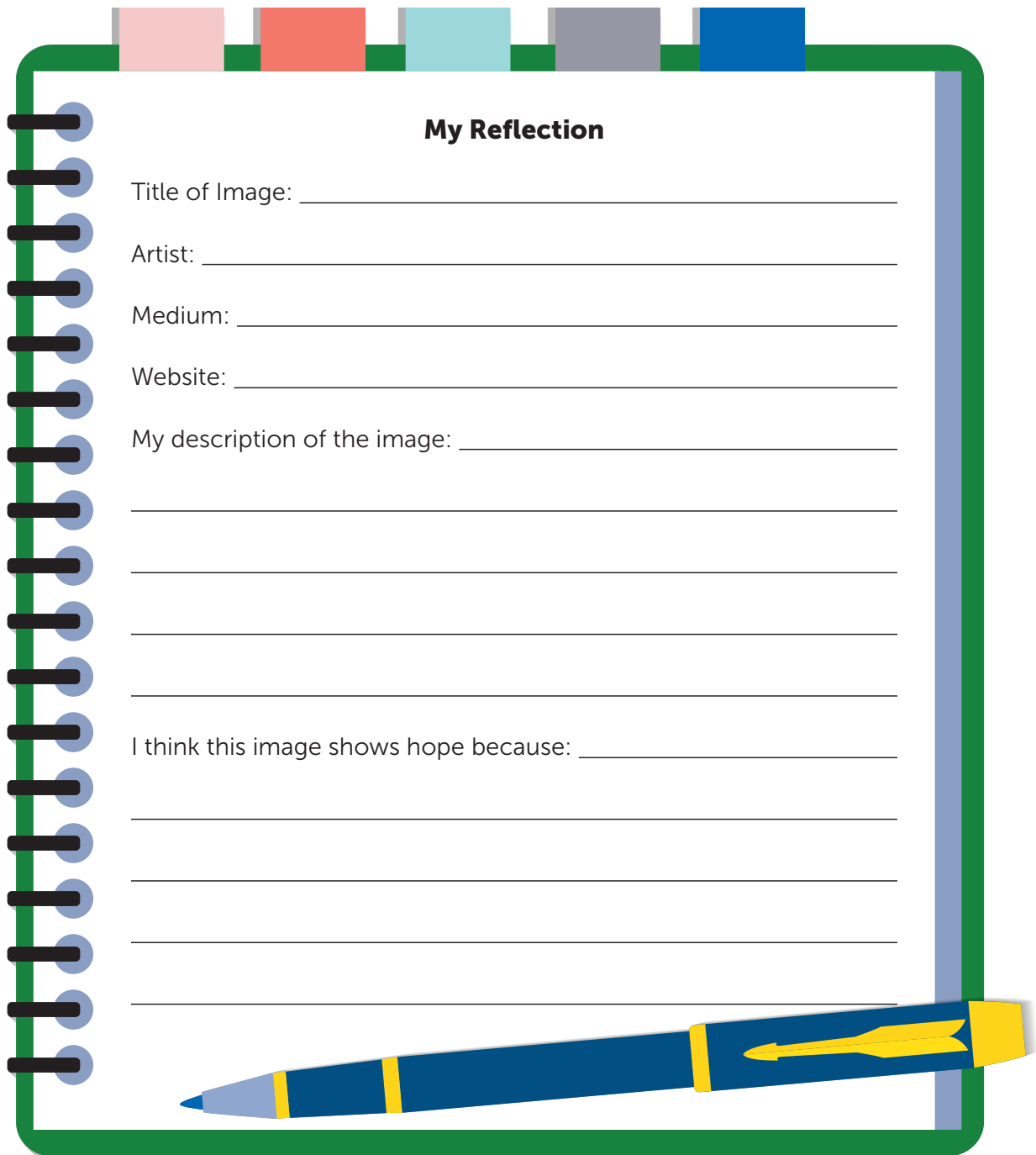
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# Image of Hope

**DIRECTIONS:** Complete this form to describe how your selected image is an expression of hope.



**My Reflection**

Title of Image: \_\_\_\_\_

Artist: \_\_\_\_\_

Medium: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

My description of the image: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I think this image shows hope because: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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# Portrait of Hope

## ACTIVITY STEPS

Use this resource to inspire others with your expression of hope. Complete these steps as a family, group, or class.

### Step 1.

Color a portrait of Christ in one of the artistic styles offered. Reflect on how that face of Jesus brings you hope using the first two questions in the Activity Notes on this page. Why did you choose to color this particular portrait of Jesus? What about his facial expression brings you a sense of hope?

### Step 2.

Now draw or create a self-portrait with your own face of hope. Consider how your facial expression might reflect Christ's facial expression. Create your self-portrait imitating your portrait of Christ. Use the remaining questions in the Activity Notes to help guide your making of this self-portrait.

### Step 3.

Display both your portrait of Christ and your self-portrait in a gallery. Invite others to view this gallery of artwork. May your artistic expressions of hope inspire others to have hope in Christ.

## ACTIVITY NOTES

Why did you choose to color this particular portrait of Jesus?

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What about Jesus' facial expression in this artistic style brings you a sense of hope?

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What colors can you use to express that hope?

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How does your self-portrait express hope?

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In what ways does your facial expression in your self-portrait reflect Christ's facial expression?

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# Portrait of Hope

## A Friendly Jesus

**DIRECTIONS:** Color this simple-style portrait of Jesus to express your hope in Christ. Then complete the sentence below.



This portrait of Jesus inspires hope in me because

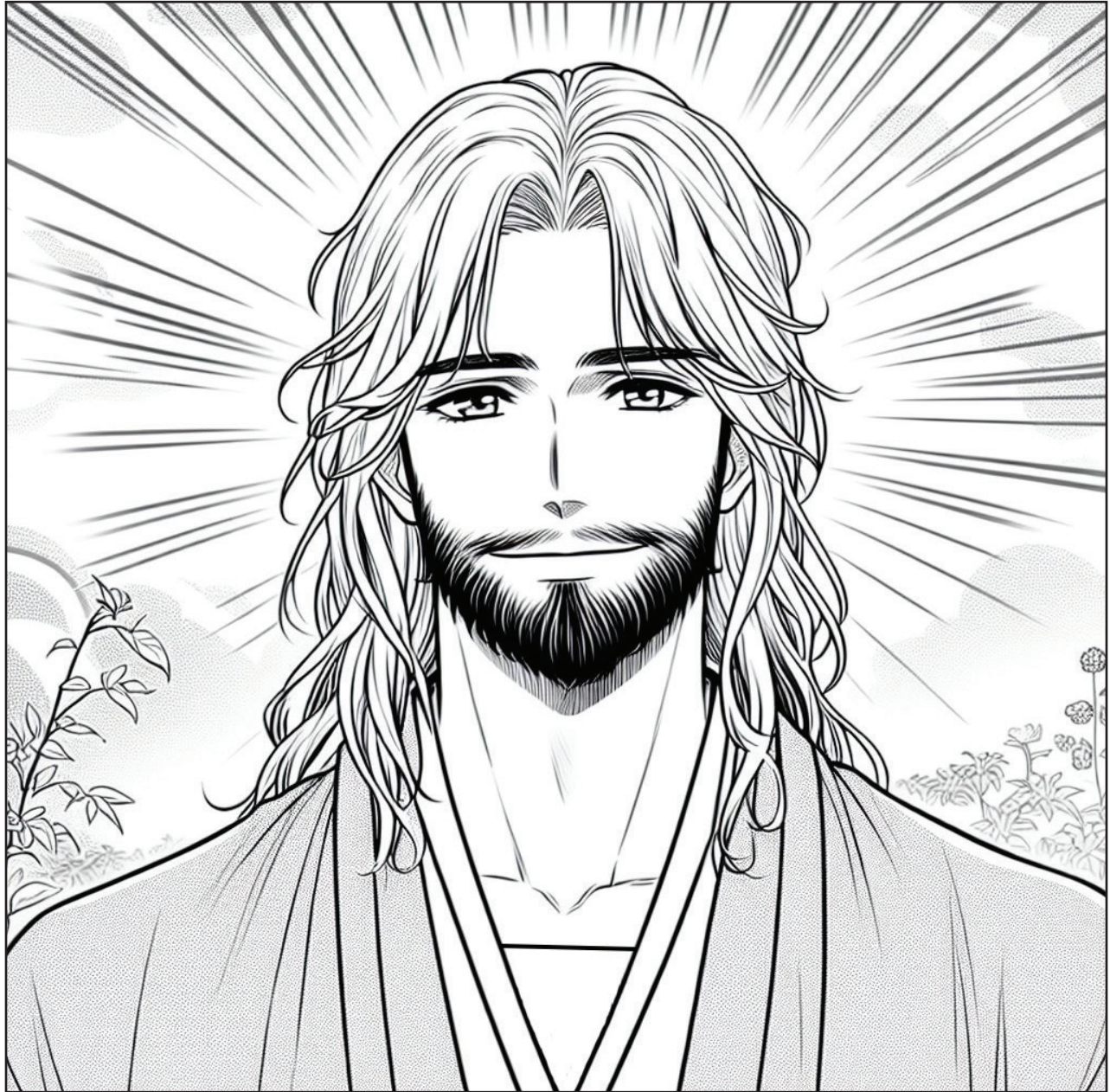
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# Portrait of Hope

## A Cultural Jesus

**DIRECTIONS:** Color this manga-style portrait of Jesus to express your hope in Christ. Then complete the sentence below.



This portrait of Jesus inspires hope in me because

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# Portrait of Hope

## A Serene Jesus

**DIRECTIONS:** Color this modern-style portrait of Jesus to express your hope in Christ. Then complete the sentence below.



This portrait of Jesus inspires hope in me because

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# Portrait of Hope

## An Epic Jesus

**DIRECTIONS:** Color this detailed-style portrait of Jesus to express your hope in Christ. Then complete the sentence below.



This portrait of Jesus inspires hope in me because

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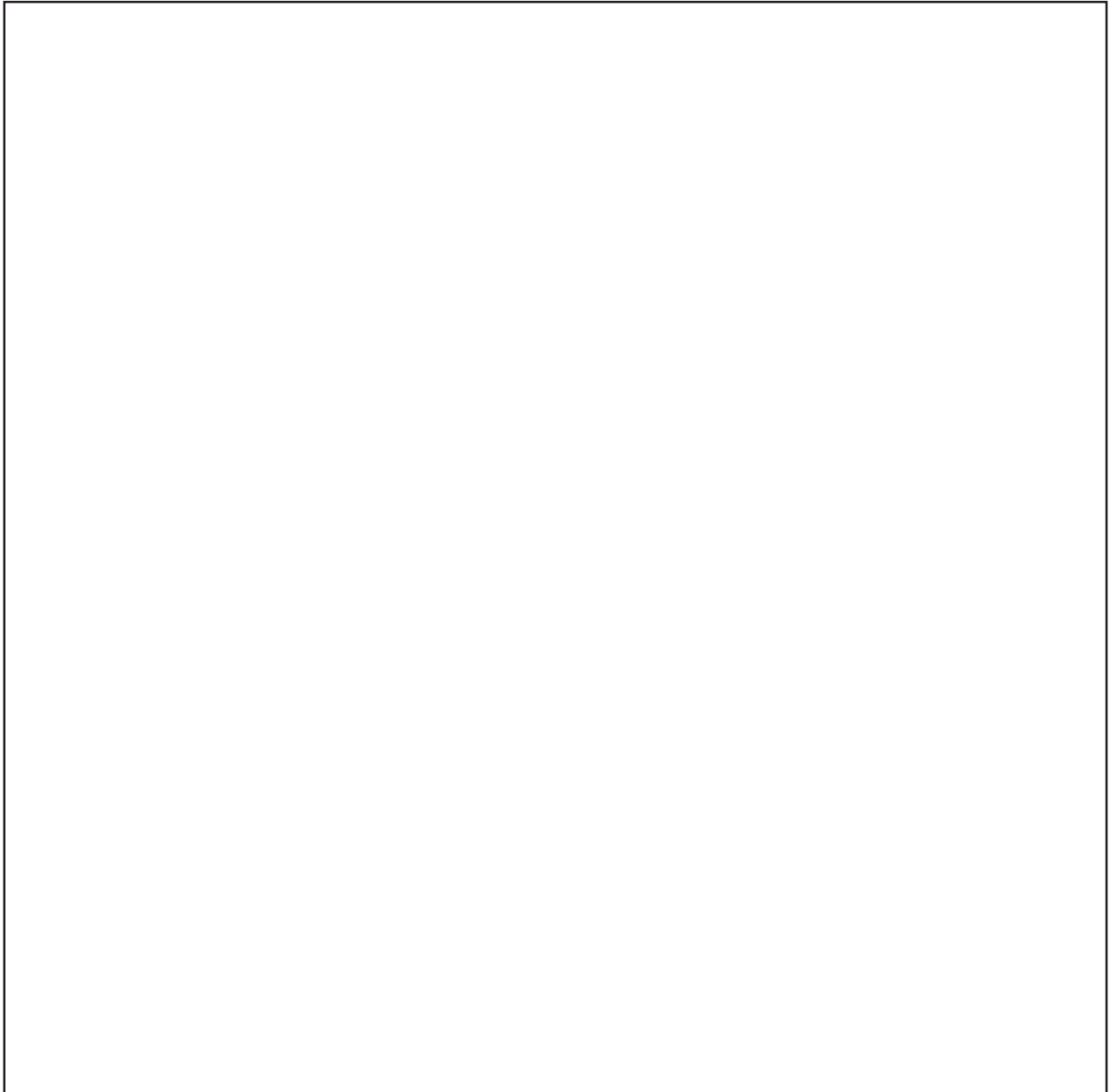
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# Portrait of Hope

## Your Self-Portrait

**DIRECTIONS:** Draw or create a self-portrait with your own face of hope. Then complete the sentence below.



I can inspire hope in others by

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