## Bonus Activities

### All Ages

**Enjoy Popular Fruits:** Provide mango, pineapple, or bananas, napkins, plates and forks. Encourage children to try some of the fruit. Talk about how mango trees are common in Togo, pineapples are always in season, and bananas/plantains are very popular as well. Plantains are often eaten as a side dish.

### All Ages

**Tell Your Story:** Ask children to think about a time when they were scared and someone made them feel better. Encourage them to share their stories. As time allows, share a story from your own life as well. Talk about how others can help us feel better. They can comfort us because they have experienced times when they were scared and someone helped them.

### Older Children

**Participate in Prayer Stations:** Gather adhesive bandages, a stuffed animal, pictures of a stethoscope, a house and food and a map of the world. Place the items throughout the room, with one item per station. Create signs for each station, directing the prayers: adhesive bandages—pray for those who are hurting; stuffed animal—pray for those who need comfort; stethoscope—pray for people in the hospital; house—pray for people who don't have a place to live; food—pray for people who don't have enough to eat; map of the world—pray for people who live in unsafe places. Talk with children about praying that God would offer each of these people comfort, as it says in our Bible verse.


Pathlight

*www.cbf.net/pathlight*

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

cbf

### Design Team

**Carol Brown,** Content Editor
**Jeff Langford,** Editor and Designer
**Amy C. Cook,** Designer
**Aaron Weaver,** Communications Director

### Writer

**Jessica Asbell Oravec,** Roswell, Georgia


# Pathlight

**Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk.** **Psalm 119:105 (CEV)**

## Theme Overview

Karen Alford, CBF field personnel in Vogan, Togo, West Africa, provides health care and training for health care workers in Vogan. She had a patient who fought cancer named Pauline. Pauline was able to pay forward the kindness and support she received by comforting another patient of Karen's who was also going through cancer treatment. This session focuses on the theme of offering hope.

## Bible Verse

### 2 Corinthians 1:3–4

Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share this same comfort with others in trouble.

## Session Outline

### Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

### Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "Who comforts you when you are scared?"

### Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

### Share

- Tell the Story, "Offering Hope through Experience."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

### Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

# Offering Hope through Experience

"Good morning, Karen," Pauline said as she walked into Karen's office. "Good morning, Pauline," said Karen Alford, CBF field personnel in Vogan, Togo. "Is everything okay?" Karen asked. "Oh yes," said Pauline. "My treatment is going well. It has been a scary time for me and for my children, but we see God working in our lives. And it's amazing to know that so many people are praying for me. I feel like God wants me to do something to give back for all the kindness and support I have received. And I heard that one of your patients is a teenager with a tumor on his hand. I would love to talk to him if he'd like to talk to me," Pauline said. "That would be wonderful, Pauline," Karen said. "He's pretty scared about what surgery will look like and the treatments he may need. He was asking me the other day what he could expect. I could only tell him a small bit of what to expect because I haven't been through it myself." "I would love to talk to him. Will you set something up for us?" Pauline asked. "It would be my pleasure," said Karen. A few days later, Pauline sat down with Kodjo. She explained to him what to expect with the tests and surgery. She encouraged him to hold fast to God. She told him she would be praying for him. As Kodjo stood to leave, he saw Karen in the doorway. "Thank you, Karen," Kodjo said as he gave her a hug. "Thank you for helping me meet Pauline. I don't feel as scared as I did. She gave me hope that everything would be okay. Pauline said she would pray for me every day. She told me that many people have been praying for her, and she knows that those prayers have helped. I am so glad to have someone praying for me too!" "There are many people who will also be praying for you, Kodjo," Karen said. "You aren't in this alone. We are here and the Lord is always with you too!"

## Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: How did others give Pauline hope and comfort?
- **Ask**: How did she share that hope and comfort with someone else?
- **Ask**: How can we comfort others?
- **Say**: Pauline had cancer, and there were many people who were praying for her. Those prayers offered Pauline hope and comfort. She shared that hope and comfort with Kodjo when she helped him know what to expect, encouraged him to hold onto God, and told him she would be praying for him.
- **Pray**: Dear God, thank you for people who give us comfort when we are scared and hurting. Help us to comfort others as well. Amen.

## Karen Alford

Karen Alford, CBF field personnel in Vogan, Togo, West Africa, provides health care and training for health care workers in Vogan

STUDENT HANDOUT
**APRIL 5, 2026**

# Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

## Learn About

Karen Alford, CBF field personnel in Vogan, Togo, West Africa, provides health care and training for health care workers in Vogan. She had a patient who fought cancer named Pauline. Pauline was able to pay forward the kindness and support she received by comforting another patient of Karen's who was also going through cancer treatment. This session focuses on the theme of offering hope.

## Bible Verse

**2 Corinthians 1:3–4**

Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share this same comfort with others in trouble.

## Learn about Hope Board Game

Grab a partner, two game pieces and a die (that's the single version of dice!). Roll and move your game piece. Draw a card from either the yellow or green deck (based on what you land on). Learn more about hope and follow the directions on your card!

**Yellow Card**
I hope I get an Xbox for Christmas! This kind of hope is a wish for something to happen. Move forward one space as you hope to win!

**Green Card**
Hope is the belief that things will get better. When we hope in God, we believe that God will help us make it through hard things. Move forward two spaces.

**Yellow Card**
I hope I won't be late! This kind of hope is a wish for something to happen (or not happen!) Move back one space since you ended up being late.

**Green Card**
Isaiah 40 tells us that "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." When we have hope in the Lord, we believe that God will help us and give us what we need. Move forward one space.

**Yellow Card**
I hope I will get an A on this test! This kind of hope can be a wish (if you don't study) or something you expect (if you did study). Move forward two spaces because you studied!

**Green Card**
Micah 7:7 says, "But as for me,
I watch in hope for the LORD,
I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me." Hoping in the Lord means that we wait on God. It means to be patient and trust that God is working. Stay put and wait for God.

**Yellow Card**
I hope you have a great day! This kind of hope is a desire that someone has a good day. It's a wish for good things for them. Stay put and draw a green card.

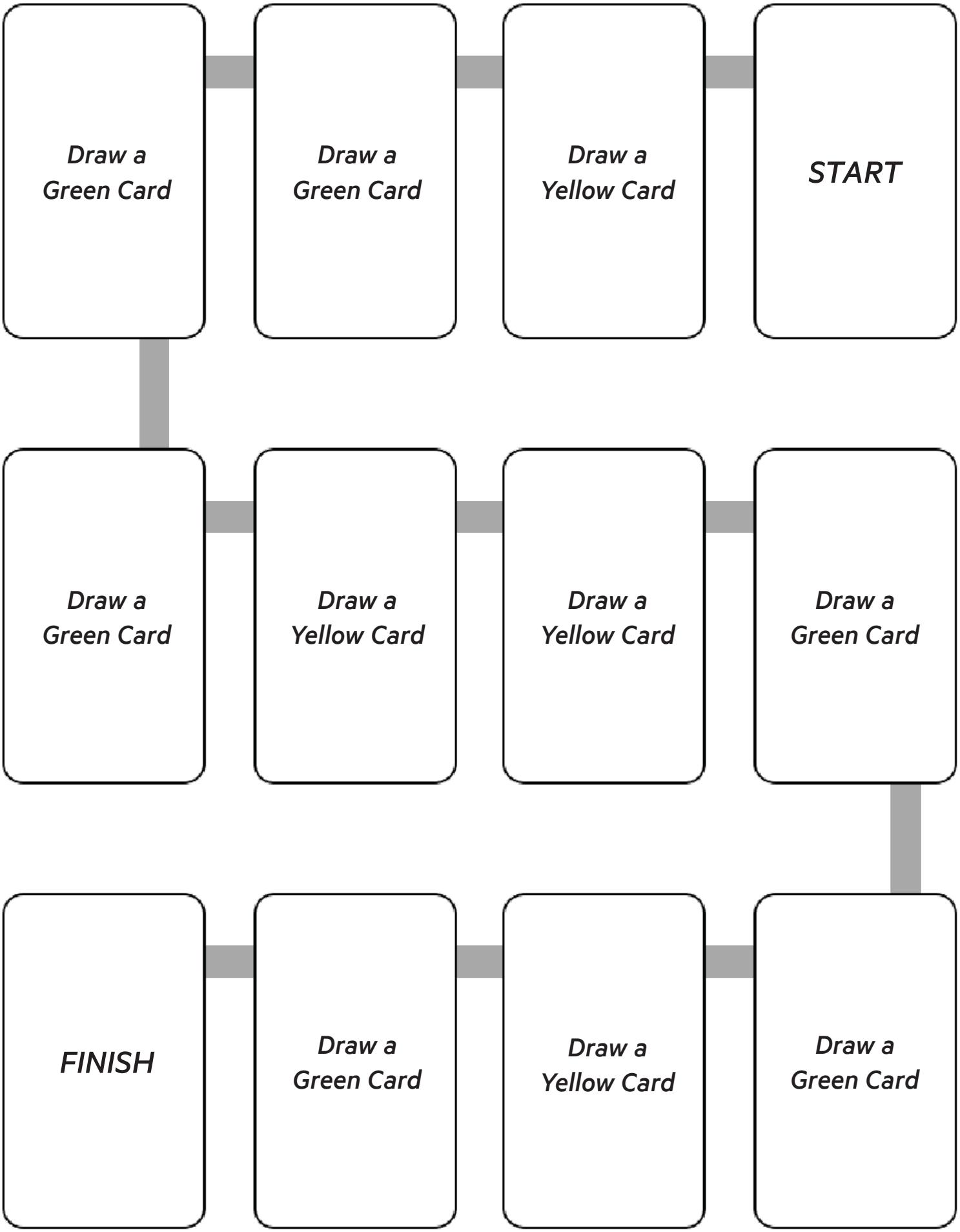
**Green Card**
Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Having faith is more than wishing something will happen. It is believing that God is there, and that God will help us. Move forward one space.

**Yellow Card**
I hope it doesn't rain! This is a wish for something not to happen. We have no control over the weather, but we can wish that it would or would not rain. Move back one space and draw again.

**Green Card**
Romans 15:13 tells us that, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Our hope in God can give us joy and peace. Experience a bit of joy by moving to the finish line!



*Teachers: cut out the cards and use yellow and green markers to draw lines on the backs of the cards. Divide them into two stacks.*


Draw a Green Card
Draw a Green Card
Draw a Yellow Card
START
Draw a Green Card
Draw a Yellow Card
Draw a Yellow Card
Draw a Green Card
FINISH
Draw a Green Card
Draw a Yellow Card
Draw a Green Card