

Adventures with GOD!

MY PARENTS ARE A GIFT FROM GOD (A.3.WINTER.10)

Biblical Reference	Luke 15:11-32
Key Verse	Proverbs 15:20
Key Concept	My parents are a gift from God
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name their parents/guardians. 2. Discuss how parents bless their life. 3. Give thanks for their parents.

Life Application

God created families that come in all different shapes and sizes. Children should understand that parents are a gift from God; therefore, we must respect and love our parents. In this lesson, children reflect on the ways they are blessed by their parents/guardians. Children can also bless their parents by being obedient. Encourage children to thank their parents during the week for all that they do.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	Illustrations	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, Illustrations	15 minutes
Craft	Refer to Page 4	15 minutes
Snacks	TBD	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

INSTRUCTIONS

Adventures with GOD!

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Luke 15:11-32 two times and ask children to respond.

Question Examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

Introduction: Ask the children: What do parents do? Who gave us our parents? Why does God want us to have parents? Parents are a gift from God. If you have pictures of parents, show them.

Bible Exploration: Have your Bible open to the story found in Luke 15:11-32. Introduce the story by describing a son who did not think his parents were a gift from God. The son went to live far away from his parents, and while the son was away, his father missed him very much. Every day, the father prayed for his son to be safe. One day, the son returned home, and his father welcomed him with a big hug, gifts, and a feast in his honor. God gave us our parents to care for us, love us, and protect us. We should also take care of our parents by loving and respecting them. Talk about what children can do to bless their parents. Ask: How have parents blessed us? How can you be a blessing to your parents? Take a minute to pray for parents.

Adventures with GOD!

Craft: Refer to page 4 for directions and materials. If extra time, there are additional illustrations and activities on pages 5-9.

Snacks: Ask them to God for their parents who have given us so much and also take the opportunity to give thank God for refreshments and snack. Repeat the verse several times.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W=Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

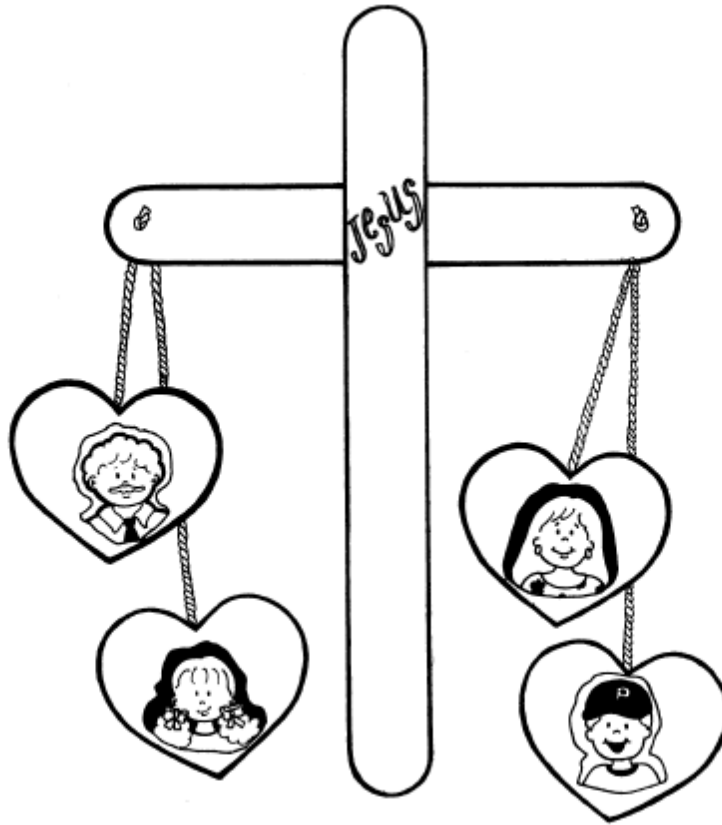
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

Adventures with GOD!

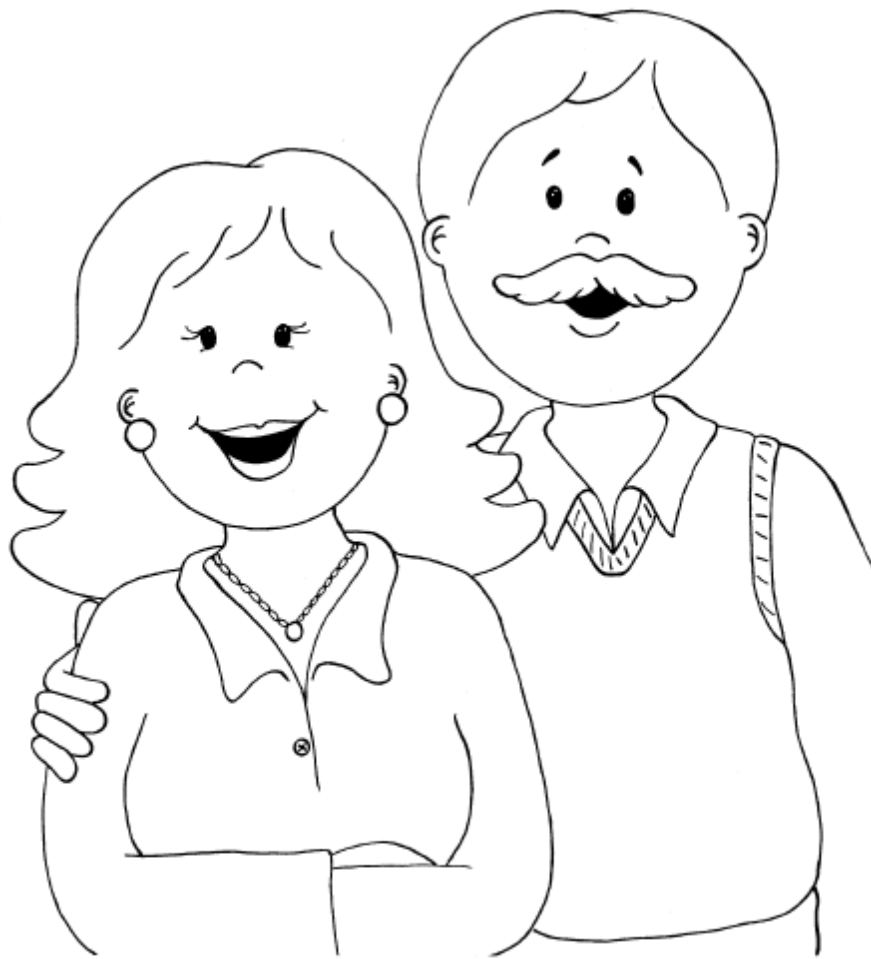
CRAFT

Form a cross by joining two Popsicle sticks. Tie each end of the cross with pieces of yarn approximately the same size. Give each child enough little hearts or red cardstock paper for each member of their family. Draw a picture of a family member in each heart. At the center of the cross, help children write the word JESUS.



Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATION



Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATION



Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATION



Adventures with GOD!



Adventures with GOD!

