

Adventures with GOD!

MY SIBLINGS ARE A GIFT FROM GOD (A.3.WINTER.11)

Biblical Reference	John 11: 1-37
Key Verse	Psalms 133: 1
Key Concept	My siblings are a gift from God
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss how Lazarus felt about his siblings. 2. Talk about how they show their love to siblings. 3. Give thanks for siblings.

Life Application

Although quarrels and fights can be common among siblings, God wants siblings to live in harmony with one another without fighting. God's desire is for siblings to be friends by giving and sharing what they have. It is important to teach children the obligation to love and respect older and younger siblings. During this lesson, children will express how much they love their siblings, and ask God to help them express this love.

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
Bible Exploration	Bible	10 minutes
Craft	Blank Cards, Decorations	15 minutes
Snacks	TBD	10 minutes
Game	Bandana	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

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 the key verse Bible passage for the day 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?

Bible Exploration: In this lesson, the story focuses on siblings that loved each other well. Tell the story of Lazarus, and his thankfulness for sisters that loved and cared for him. When Lazarus became ill one day, his sisters cared for him and prayed to Jesus for healing. Stress the importance of taking care of siblings. It is important for siblings to take responsibility for each other, and to view each other as a gift from God. Also, explain that God provides siblings in the great family of God, the Church.

Note: Some children may not have siblings, so it's important to be sensitive to that.

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Craft: Using construction paper or cardboard, help children to construct a card. On pages 4-6, there are illustrations for children to decorate and paste onto their card. Help children compose a nice message to their siblings.

Snacks: It is important to take a few minutes for children to recognize if they have misbehaved with one of their siblings, and to apologize to God. It's also important to give thanks for special brothers and sisters. Serve refreshments .

Game: Divide the group up in pairs and set up a simple obstacle in the classroom. Blindfold one child in the pair, while the other child is instructing how to navigate the obstacle without falling. After they completed the obstacle, have the children switch roles. It's important for siblings to look out for each other!

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. The candle 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.

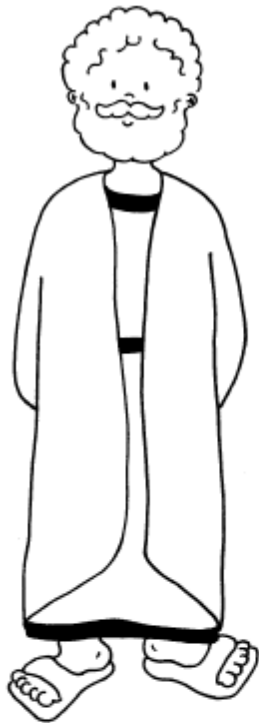
Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us

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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

Illustration

Lazarus, Martha and Maria



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