

# Adventures with GOD!

## JESUS IS THE GREATEST GIFT FROM GOD (A.3.WINTER.12)

Biblical Reference	Ephesians 2: 8, 2 Corinthians 9:15
Key Verse	2 Corinthians 9: 15
Key Concept	Jesus is the greatest gift from God
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss today's bible verse.</li> <li>2. Tell the story of Jesus.</li> <li>3. Give thanks to God for sending to Jesus as the ultimate gift.</li> </ol>

### Life Application

Humans have never been able to fully grasp and describe how great, beautiful, and amazing the gift of Jesus is to the world. Today children reflect on the reality of Jesus showing his love for all of humanity. Children will have the opportunity to verbalize their love to Jesus, and to give their lives to the Lord, if they have not already. During the week parents should remind children to repeat the Key Verse, and to thank God for the gift of Jesus.

### 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
Song	Song	3 minutes
Introduction	Boxes, Wrapping Paper, Illustrations	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible	10 minutes
Key Verse	Bible, Illustrations	10 minutes
Craft	Refer to Page 5	10 minutes
Activity	Boxes, Wrapping Paper, Illustrations	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

# Adventures with GOD!

## 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](http://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 Ephesians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 9:15 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?

### Song:

Jesus loves me! This I know,  
For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak, but He is strong.  
Refrain:  
Yes, Jesus loves me!

# Adventures with GOD!

Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,  
As He loved so long ago,  
Taking children on His knee,  
Saying, "Let them come to Me."  
Jesus loves me still today,  
Walking with me on my way,  
Wanting as a friend to give  
Light and love to all who live.  
Jesus loves me! He who died  
Heaven's gate to open wide;  
He will wash away my sin,  
Let His little child come in.  
Jesus loves me! He will stay  
Close beside me all the way;  
Thou hast bled and died for me,  
I will henceforth live for Thee.

**Introduction:** Wrap four or five small boxes, and put pictures of the neighborhood, family, plants, animals, etc. inside (or any other gifts of God we've covered in this curriculum). In another box put a picture that represents Jesus. Ask: what are the gifts that God has given us? Have them look through boxes and identify the pictures inside. Leave the box of Jesus closed until you are ready to start the story.

**Bible Exploration:** God was concerned about the sad state of the world because of sin. Ask: what is sin? One day God decided to send a big surprise, a great, wonderful gift because God loves us so much. God sent Jesus to live with humans as an example of an extraordinary life. Ask: what did Jesus do to show love for us? While Jesus was on earth, he taught about love, and practiced what he preached. Jesus was the greatest gift we have received from God. During this time, consider talking with children about accepting Jesus into their lives. How wonderful to hear children say, "Jesus, come into my heart", and "I receive you in my life." Pray for this time.

**Key Verse:** Write each word of the Key Verse on a sheet and draw a picture of what each word represents. The pictures will help in memorizing the verse. Allow children the opportunity to show the pictures to others, and help them learn the verse.

# Adventures with GOD!

**Craft:** Refer to page 5 for directions and materials.

**Activity:** Children can color a picture of Jesus. When everyone has finished coloring, one by one, they can put their drawing of Jesus in a cardboard box, saying "Thank you God for giving me the gift of Jesus." Wrap the box in decorative wrapping paper, and in a few weeks, reopen the box and thank God for the gift of Jesus. If there is extra time, children can color the illustration on page 6.

**Snack:** Serve refreshments and snacks to celebrate.

## **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

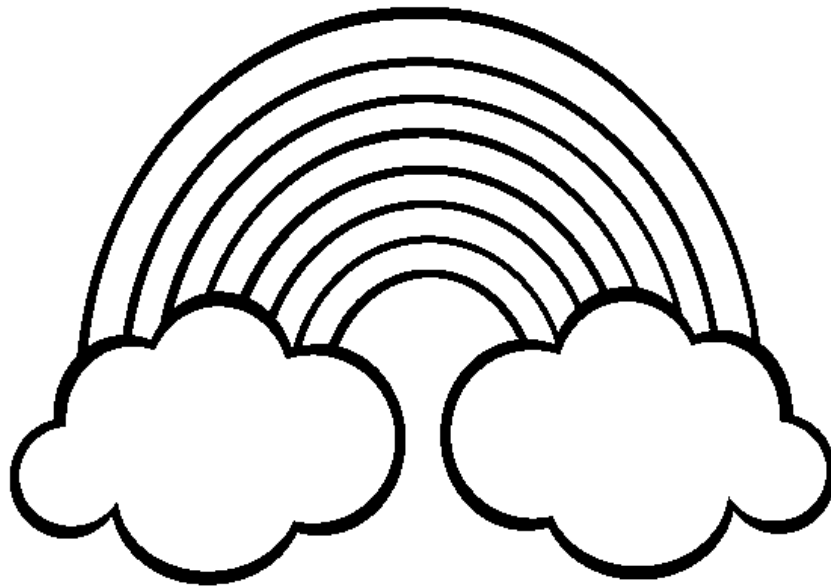
# Adventures with GOD!

## Craft

Materials: colored paper, glue, crayons, pictures

Preparation:

1. Make copies of the illustration below
2. Cut and decorate illustration using crayons, markers, magazine clippings, etc.
3. In the clouds, paste images that represent the gifts of God covered in this curriculum
4. Use tape and/or hole punch and yarn to hang



[www.THECOLOR.com](http://www.THECOLOR.com)

# Adventures with GOD!

## Illustration

Color the pattern (find Jesus' name)

