

Adventures with GOD!

LOVE IS A GIFT FROM GOD (A.3.WINTER.13)

Biblical Reference	John 3: 16
Key Verse	1 John 3:16
Key Concept	Love is a gift from God
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell why God sent his son into the world. 2. Draw the great love God has for us. 3. Give thanks to God for his son Jesus.

Life Application

God's love is so beautiful. God loved the world so much that God sent Jesus to suffer on the cross for our sins. Young children understand what a punishment is, and do not like to be punished; Children understand that wrongdoing deserves punishment. This lesson is about the love of God, which sent Jesus to forgive our punishments. Children will recognize that the love of God is wonderful. During the week, with the help of their parents, children will learn to love others.

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
Activity	Illustration	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, Illustrations	10 minutes
Song	Song	3 minutes
Craft	Illustrations, Paper Plates	15 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 John 3:16 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?

Activity: Attached on page 5 is a maze activity. Encourage children not to worry about the dangers that exist (in both life and in the maze activity) because Jesus loves and protects them.

Bible Exploration: Start telling the story of the lost sheep. Consider using illustrations to tell the story. Remember that sheep spent hours lost, alone, sad, crying, and screaming for help. It's important to tell the story with drama. Children understand how scary it is to be lost, and know that when they are in similar situations, Jesus is the Good Shepherd that will come to their aid with arms open.

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Song:

In God's green pastures feeding, by His cool waters lie,

Soft in the evening walk my Lord and I;

All the sheep of His pasture fare so wondrously fine,

His sheep am I.

Waters cool, [in the valley] pastures green, [on the mountain]

In the evening walk my Lord and I;

Dark the night, [in the valley,] rough the way, [on the mountain,]

Step by step, [step by step,] my Lord and I.

Craft: Pass out the illustrations found on page 6, and have children color the figure of Jesus and paste on paper plates. While children are working, talk about the reasons God sent Jesus to this world and the sacrifice on the cross. If there is extra time, children can color illustrations on pages 7-8.

Snack: Before serving a healthy snack, children can express their love to God by using the phrase, "God, I love you because you have given me _____." Pray by asking God to send the love of Jesus to every child. They can see love reflected in the people around them, their parents, siblings, neighbors and their church. Ask God for their lives.

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).

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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?

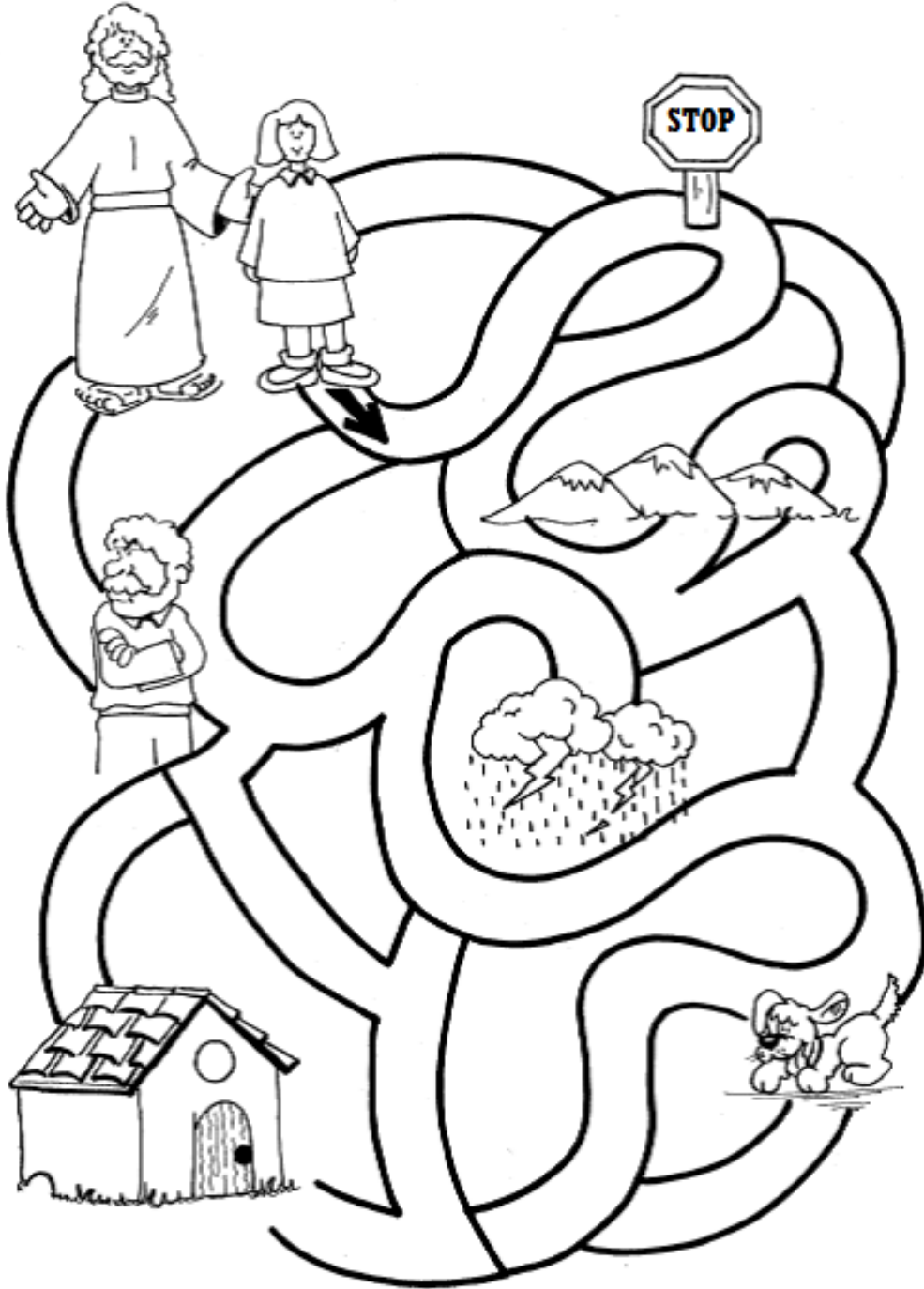
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded,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

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Activity

Help the little girl find her way home



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Craft

Follow the dotted lines drawn to Jesus.



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Illustration



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Illustration

