

Adventures with GOD!

MY NEIGHBORS ARE A GIFT FROM GOD (A.3.WINTER.7)

Biblical Reference	Leviticus 19:18
Key Verse	Leviticus 19:18
Key Concept	My neighbors are a gift from God
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Say the names of their neighbors. 2. Discuss how to love and care for their neighbors. 3. Thank God for their neighbors.

Life Application

Our neighbors are a gift from God; they should be treated the same way we want to be treated. Sometimes we hardly know our neighbors, but it is important to develop a friendship with them. During this week, encourage the children to reach out to another child they haven't played with. Parents can help and encourage children to introduce themselves to 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
Song	Song	2 minutes
Introduction	Illustration	5 minutes
Activity	Illustration, Crafts	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, Illustration	15 minutes
Craft	Refer to Page 10	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 Leviticus 19:18 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?

***Note:** This lesson is similar to the lesson two weeks ago. Remember children need to hear the word of God several times before can apply it to their life.

Song: Sing songs about happiness. "I am happy" may be an appropriate song.

Introduction: Display a picture that represents your community. Children should mention what's near their home, where their neighbors live, and so on. This activity has already made in A.3.Winter.4 lesson talking about the community where they live. Repetition of activities is good at this age.

Activity: Make copies of the illustration found on page 5. Children can decorate the heart using crayons, markers, magazine clippings, etc. The heart represents the love of God that is ready for

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everyone wanting to receive it. With our small hearts and little hands, we can show our neighbors the love of God. Give examples of what it looks like to love your neighbor (such as playing with your neighbor, sharing toys, etc.).

Bible Exploration: Talk about how Jesus taught his disciples to love one another and how his neighbor was the Good Samaritan. Use the illustrations attached on pages 6-9. If you have time, children can act out the story. Jesus gave us these teachings for us to put them into practice. We should treat others the way we want to be treated (by being friendly to the elderly, sharing what we have, working with others to keep the neighborhood clean, showing respect, loving, and so on). Jesus taught us to love our neighbor, therefore are to love others as we would want them to love us.

Craft: Refer to the illustration and directions found on page 10. Have children take home the craft to share with parents and siblings about how special their neighbors are.

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?

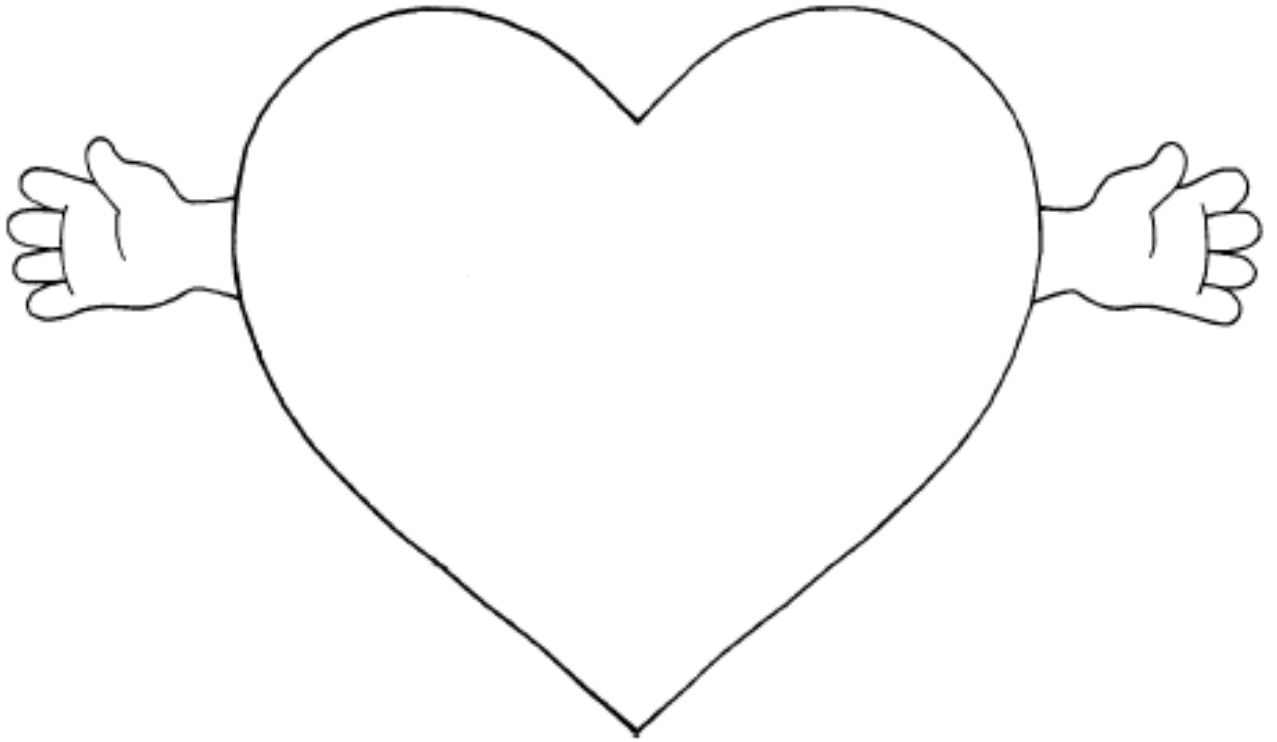
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. The candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the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

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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

Illustration

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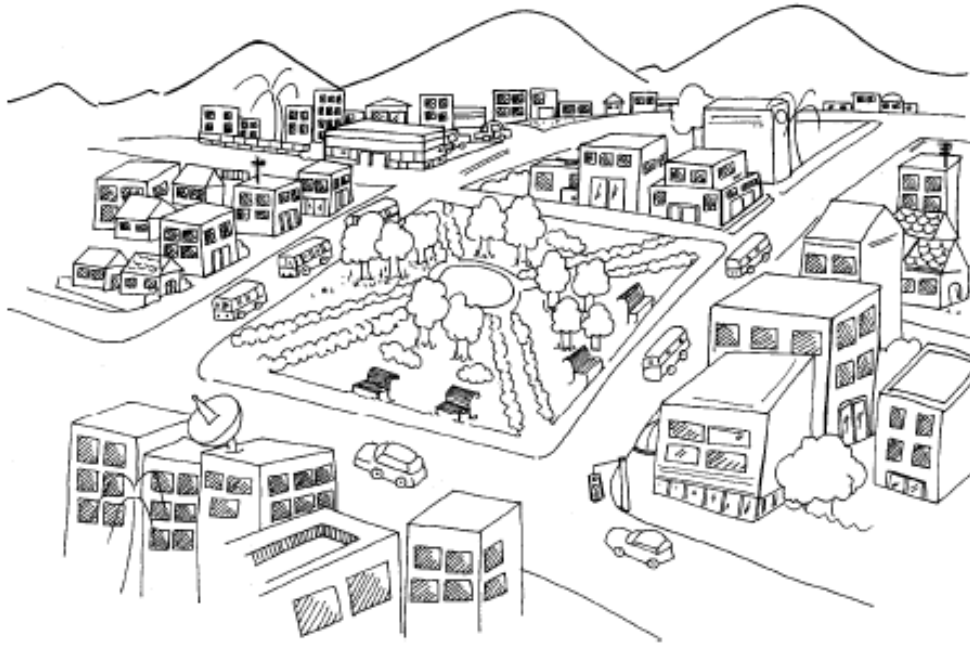
Illustration

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Illustration

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Craft

Materials: cardboard, yarn, scissors, hole punch, crayons

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Directions:

1. Give each child cardboard.
2. Make holes with hole punch in the appropriate places.
2. Show how to pull the yarn through the holes.
3. Decorate

