

# Adventures with GOD!

## MY FAMILY IS A GIFT FROM GOD (A.3.WINTER.9)

Biblical Reference	Acts 2: 44-47
Key Verse	1 Timothy 5: 8
Key Concept	My family is a gift from God
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Say the names of each family member.</li> <li>2. Discuss the importance of each person in family including them.</li> <li>3. Give thanks for each member of their family.</li> </ol>

### Life Application

God has given us a human family that loves and cares for us. Children should learn that our family is a gift from God. Today, children learn what it means to love, respect, obey, and care for their families.

### 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	Illustrations, Paper Plates, Yarn	15 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](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 the Acts 2:44-47 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:** Be sensitive of children who have one parent, guardians other than parents, etc.

**Introduction:** Decorate the classroom with pictures of different families. Let the children tell what they see in them. Encourage children to share about their families. Tell them how many members are in your own family. Some have very large families, others small. Consider providing paper and crayons so children can draw family members.

**Bible Exploration:** Find copies of biblical families in children's books. Open Bible in your hands, begin to relate briefly on biblical families. The family of Adam and Eve had three sons: Cain, Abel and Seth. Noah's family had three sons, along with their wives. The family of Abraham and Sarah had a son, Isaac. Think of other biblical families, and remind children that family is a gift from God. Ask: What makes a family? Allow answers. Help children discover that family is precious, and God gives us the people in our family to love and care for them.

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**Craft:** Attached on pages 4-7, are illustrations of parents, children and families. Children can cut, decorate, and glue illustrations that represent their families on a paper plate. Write on the plate, "My family is a gift from God". Make a hole at the top of the plate where children can string a piece of yarn to hang. While working, repeat the Key Verse and have children say it out loud. Be sure to explain what the Key Verse means and ask if the children understand. Encourage children to share the Key Verse with each member of their family, and to tell their families how much they love them.

## **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 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

## **Illustrations**

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**“My family is a gift from God”**