

Adventures with GOD!

MY ABILITIES ARE A GIFT FROM GOD (B.3.WINTER.4)

Biblical Reference	1 Samuel 16:17-22, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
Key Verse	Ephesians 2:10
Key Concept	God has given me abilities that can be used for the good of others, not just for my own benefit.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make a list of abilities that they have. 2. Act out how they can use their abilities to help others, giving thanks and praise to God. 3. Say the Key Verse by memory.

Life Application

Each person has received abilities from God. We are to use what God has given us for God's glory and for the good of others. Sometimes it's easy to think only of ourselves and what will benefit us, but God asks us to be generous with others. Everything we have been given has been given as a gift from God. Maybe the children have never thought about their abilities or how special they are and how they can be used by God to help others. This is a good opportunity for them to recognize how special God has made them.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity	Worksheets, pencils	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, illustrations or costumes	10 minutes
Key Verse		10 minutes
Craft	Card stock, ruler, hole puncher, scissors, crayons, yarn	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 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIRV) 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 through the passage?

Bible Exploration: Take out the box that is wrapped like a gift. Have everyone gather around. From the gift box, take out a slip of paper with the word "Abilities" on it. Then take out other words/phrases that describe some of the abilities that we possess. (Examples on page 10.)

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The Bible story for today tells of young David who used his gift of music to help King Saul. Read 1 Samuel 16:17-22. Using illustrations or puppets, have the children represent the people in the story. Ask children to think of other people in the Bible who used their abilities to help others (ex. Deborah the judge, the boy with the loaves and fishes, Martha cooking in the kitchen, etc).

We are all different, and our abilities are a gift from God. No one of us is completely like another person. God wants us to share the best of us with others.

Ask the children what abilities they discovered they had during the previous activity. Ask them how they can help others or show others God's love by using their abilities. Have volunteers act this out, and see if the other children can guess the ability and how they plan to use it for the good of others.

Activity: There are various activity sheets that the children can use, which focus on the abilities God has given us. In one of the activity sheets they will have the opportunity to identify some of their abilities. The others include different activities for the children to experiment with and see if they have certain abilities (mazes, puzzles, etc).

Key Verse Activity: See page _____.

Craft: See page 12.

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?

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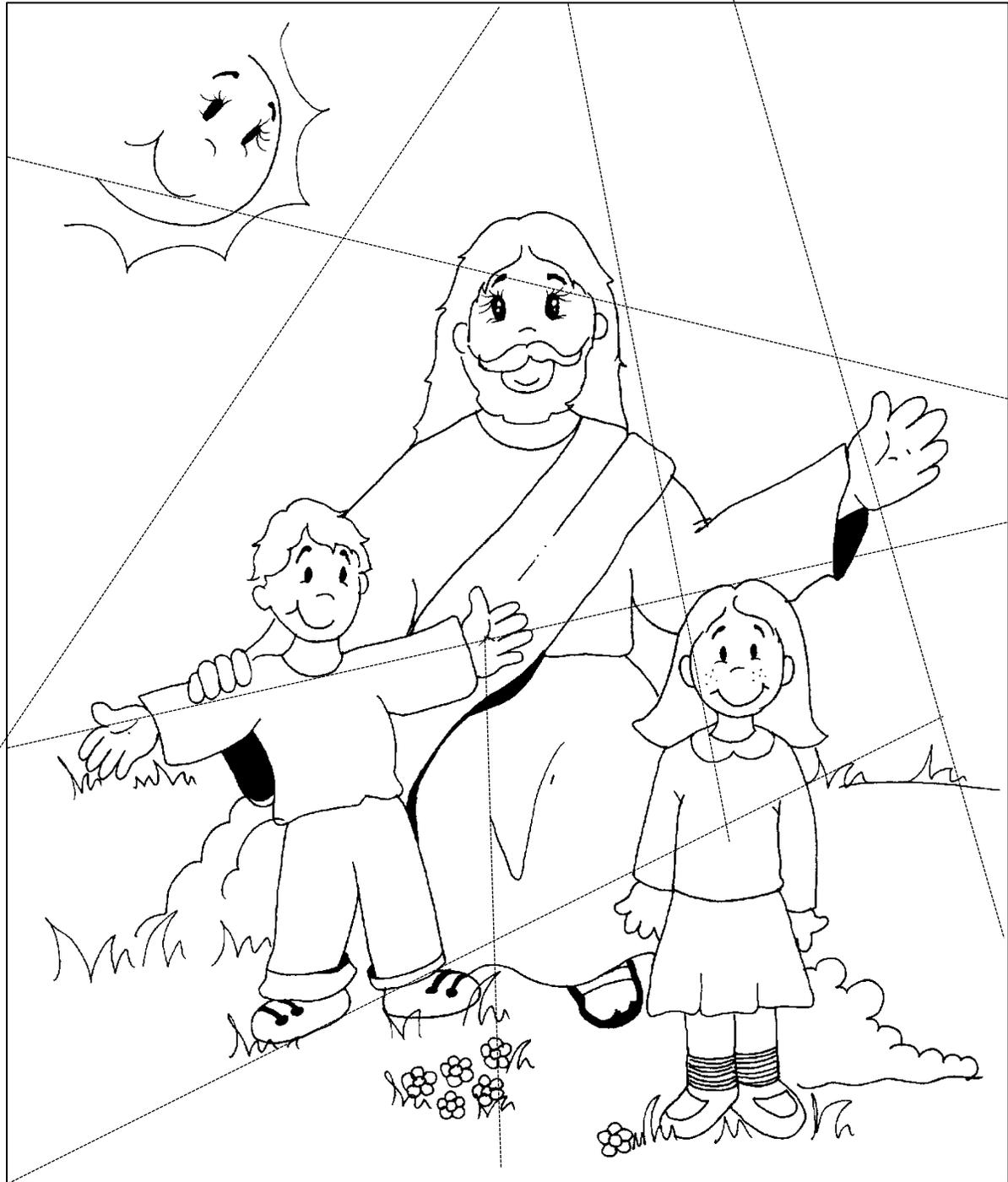
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. The candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the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

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ACTIVITY SHEET

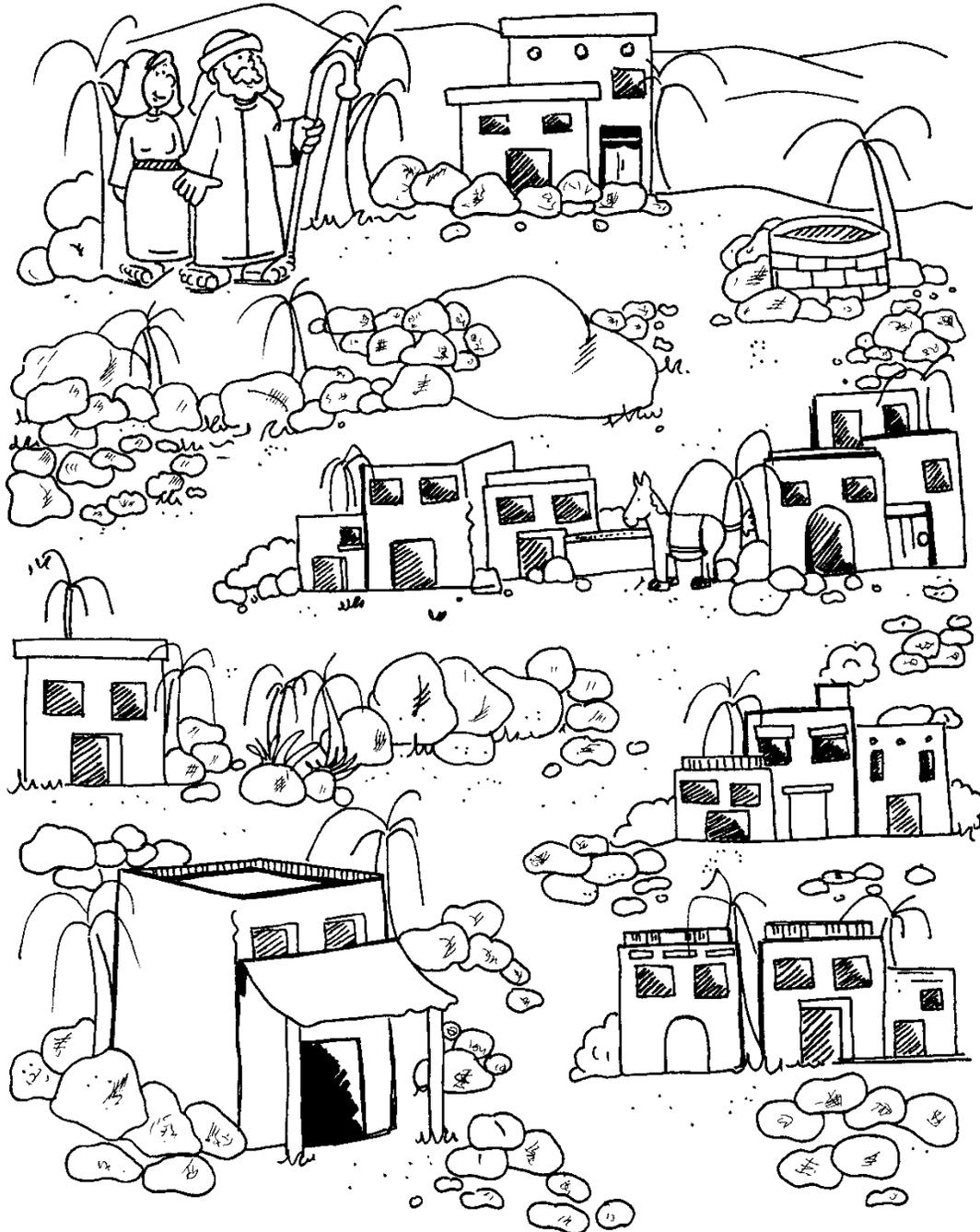
Puzzle



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ACTIVITY SHEET 2

Labyrinth for younger children

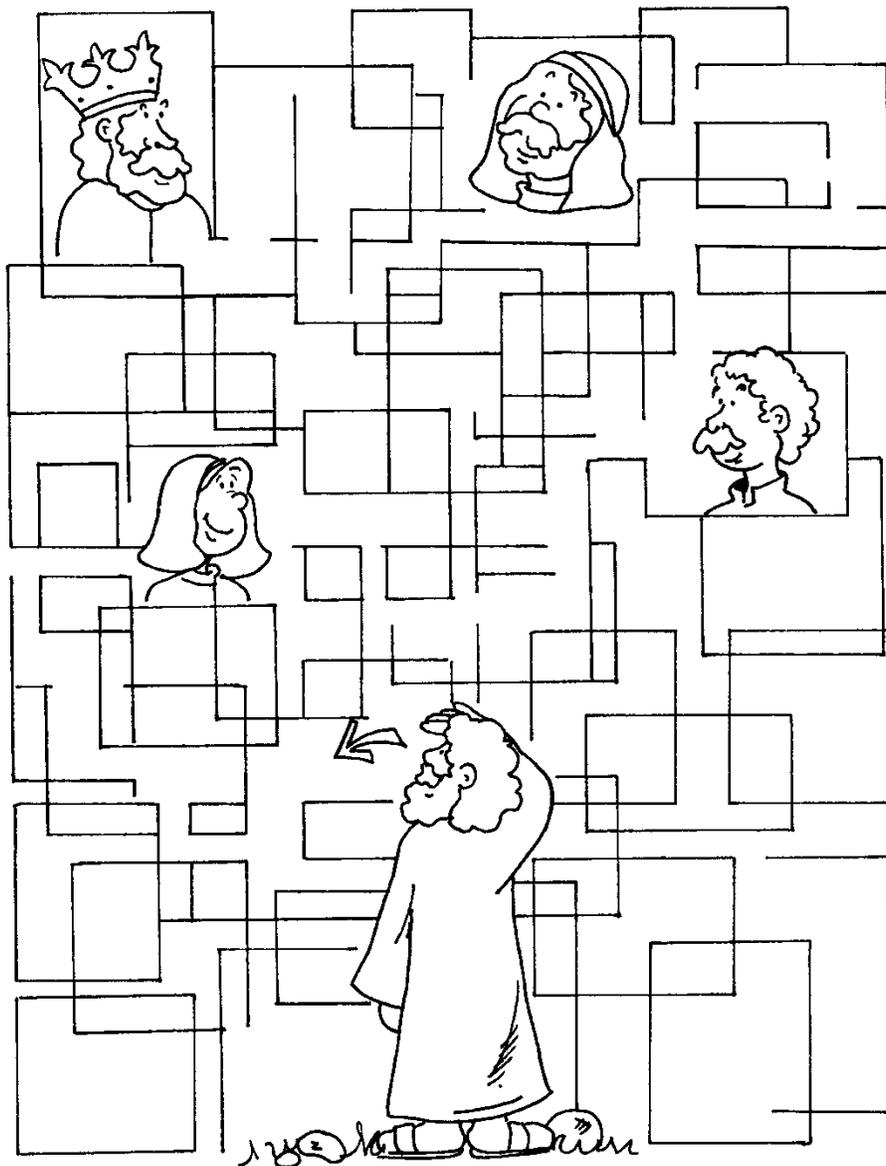


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ACTIVITY SHEET 3

Labyrinth for older children

Before talking to the king, this man needs to talk with the people on the way to the king. Can you help him?



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ACTIVITY SHEET 4

Below are some words that describe some of the abilities God gives to people. Our abilities are gifts that develop over time. It may be possible that as children, you've never thought about the abilities you have as gifts from God. Look at the list below and circle any that apply to you, or add your own.

COOK

PLAY SPORTS

DRAW

SING

TAKE CARE OF SMALL CHILDREN

HELP PARENTS WITH HOUSEHOLD CHORES

READ BOOKS

ACT

PAINT

MAKE COOKIES

WRITE STORIES OR POEMS

COMPOSE SONGS

SOLVE RIDDLES

SPEAK IN PUBLIC

ORGANIZE YOUR ROOM

ENCOURAGE FRIENDS

PLANT SEEDS

TELL JOKES

SOLVE MATH PROBLEMS

GIVE DIRECTIONS

MEMORIZE PICTURES OR WORDS

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KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Materials: index cards (or something similar)

Preparations:

1. Write the Key Verse on index cards – one word per card.
2. Make two sets (or one for each team).

Instructions:

1. Divide the group into 2 or more teams.
2. Choose a representative from each team.
3. Put a set of cards (face down and mixed around) on the table in front of each of the representatives.
4. Count to three, and let them flip over the cards and put them in the correct order. When they have the words in order they should read the verse aloud. The first one who does this correctly gets a point. Then flip all the cards back over, mix them up, and have each team send a new representative.

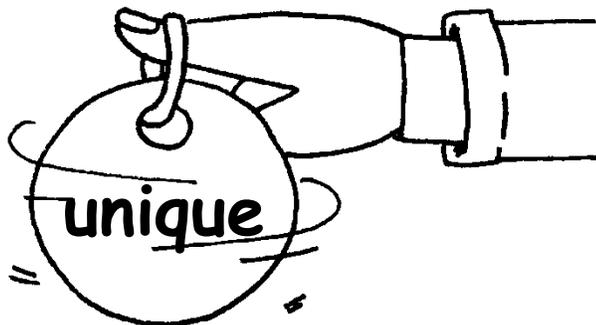
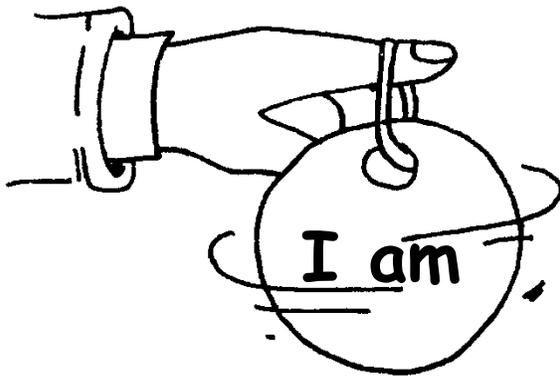
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CRAFT

Materials: card stock, hole punch, yarn, scissors, crayons or markers

Instructions:

1. Cut out circles, about 3 inches in diameter.
2. Make a hole at the top and have children cut out a piece of yarn to string through the hole and make a loop. Tie a knot in the yarn.
3. On one side of the circle write "I am." On the other side write the word "unique."



This is something they can take home and hang up in their rooms, to remind them that they were created uniquely by God.