

# Adventures with GOD!

## MY RELATIONSHIPS ARE A GIFT FROM GOD (B.3.WINTER.7)

Biblical Reference	Exodus 17:8-13, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
Key Verse	Ecclesiastes 4:9
Key Concept	The people in my life 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"><li>1. Make a list of the things they can't do alone.</li><li>2. Name some of their friends.</li><li>3. Draw the people that they need in their lives.</li></ol>

### Life Application

God never has wanted us to be alone. That is why God created the world and the people in it to be in relationship with each other and with God. The people in our lives (family, friends, neighbors, teachers, and classmates) are not only company for us, but they help us in many ways. Today we will thank God for the gift of relationships.

### 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
Introduction	Puppet	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Craft	See instructions	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](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 Exodus 17:8-13 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?

**Introduction:** To introduce the theme today, use a puppet that is feeling very sad. Establish a dialogue between the children and the puppet. Guide the dialogue, and the children can answer questions and ask questions of the puppet. Here is an example:

- Hi kids, how are you?
- My name is Nancy, what are your names?
- You all look very happy. Ddo you have friends to play with?
- Do you have people to talk with?
- I feel very lonely and that makes me sad. What can I do?

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**Bible Exploration:** Open your Bible and explain that today they will be reading from the book of Ecclesiastes. This is a book that was written by Solomon, the son of King David, who was also a king. This book has many interesting things to teach us. Today they will read a few verses from chapter 4. (Write the Bible reference on the board so they can see it). Read the verses aloud (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10). These verses tell us: we weren't created to be alone, two people can help each other, two people can encourage each other.

There is an example of how this works in Exodus 17:8-14. Ask them to stand up and to extend their hands above their heads. Time how long they can keep them up there without getting tired. Explain that Moses had a special task, and he had to maintain his hands extended above his head for a very long time. While he had his hands extended the people of Israel won the battle, but each time he lowered his arms, the people of Israel would start to lose the battle. Imagine how tired his arms would get. What could he do? Read the story together, act it out, or summarize it using illustrations (See page 5).

Questions for a dialogue: How did Moses' friends help him? What would have happened if they wouldn't have been there? Who are the people in our lives that help us? How do they help us? How do we help other people? Why are our relationships a gift from God?

**Craft:** Give the children a copy of page 6 and/or 7 which they can color and use to illustrate the people that help them. Ask them to talk about the ways the people in their lives help them and encourage them. Or allow them to make the figures from the Exodus story (see page 5), and as they are making them ask them to tell the story in their own words.

Another option is to make a mural together of all the ways they can help the people in their lives and how these relationships are important to them. Have materials available so they can write out words, draw pictures, or cut out pictures from magazines. Ask them what title they can give to the mural. Put the Key Verse on the mural.

## **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

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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.

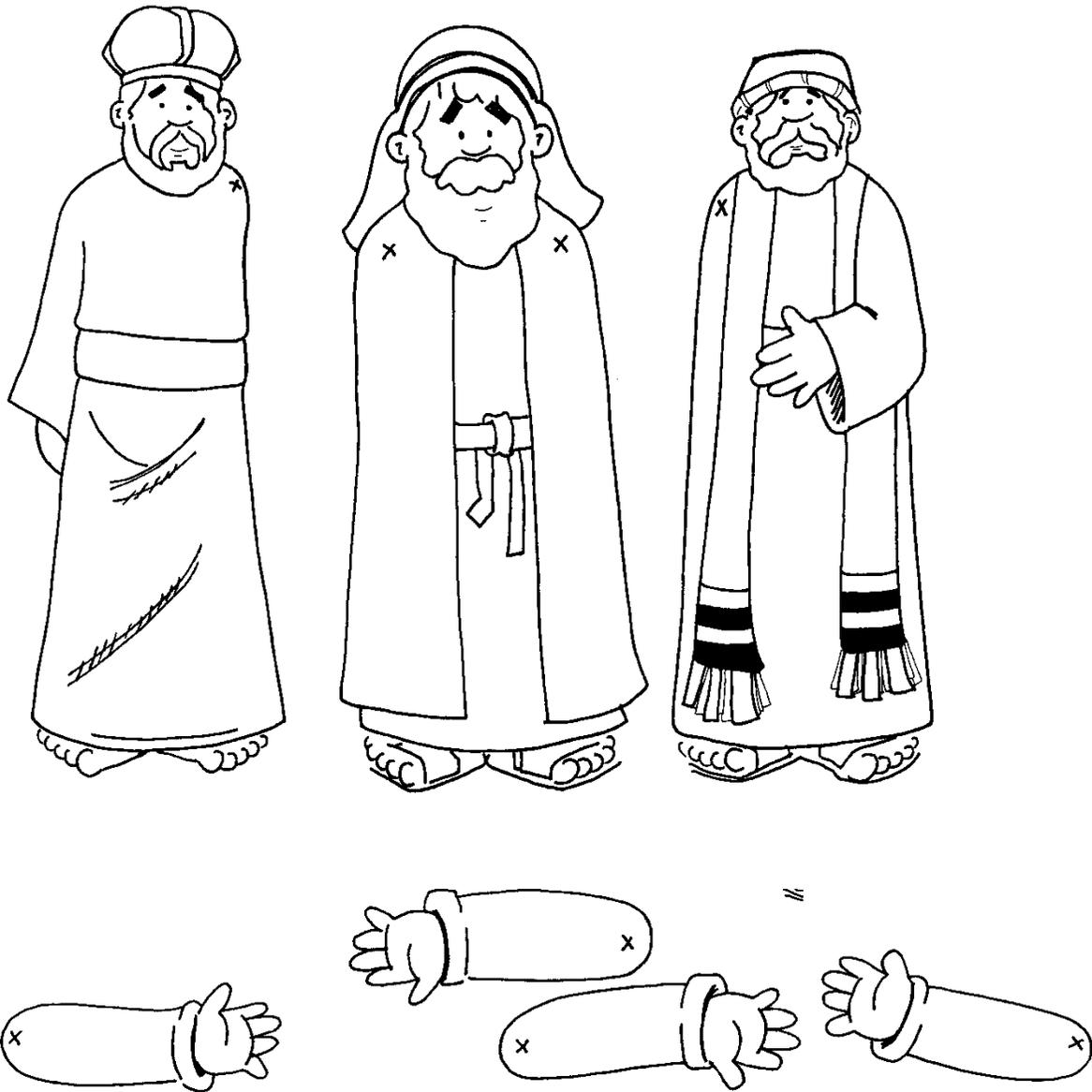
**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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## ILLUSTRATION

### Moses with Aaron and Hur

Cut out the illustrations and use metal fasteners so that the arms can move up and down. You can use these figures to tell the Bible story.



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## ILLUSTRATION

My relationships



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