

Adventures with GOD!

MY LIFE TODAY IS A GIFT FROM GOD (B.3.WINTER.9)

Biblical Reference	Luke 19:1-10
Key Verse	Psalm 118:24
Key Concept	My life today is 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. Draw a picture of their life today. 2. Express how they feel about their life today. 3. Say the Key Verse.

Life Application

Sometimes we live life without even thinking about the gift that it is. We forget that our health, our family, our neighborhood and our church are gifts from God. We are to give thanks to God for these good gifts. The best gift is God. And God is with us in our present situation.

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	White board, markers, magazines	15 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, illustrations, time line	10 minutes
Key Verse	See instructions	5 minutes
Activity	Activity sheet	5 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 Luke 19:1-10 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: There are two different options for starting the class. You can go outside and take a walk, if weather permits. Ask the children to be silent and to observe what they see, making note of all the things they see that are a gift from God today. After the walk, go back to the classroom, and together make a list of all that they saw that was a gift from God. If you cannot go for a walk, give them magazines to look through in groups, and have them cut out images of those things that they consider to be gifts from God in their lives today. Have them make a collage to share with the rest of the group.

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Bible Exploration: Today's story is about Zacchaeus. Talk about what life was like for Zacchaeus before he met Jesus. What was his job? Why did people dislike tax collectors? Then, either with illustrations or through a drama, tell the story of Zacchaeus. This was no ordinary day for Zacchaeus. How did he feel when Jesus saw him and told him to come down from the tree? What was his response when Jesus said he was going to go to his house? Why was this such a big deal? In that one day, Zacchaeus's life changed. He experienced Jesus' love, and he decided to change his behavior and actions.

Today we experience God's love in many different ways. Think about the difference between Zacchaeus's past and his present in this story. Now think about the difference between our past and present. Using the timeline from last week, put an arrow above the age that represents the "present" of the children. We remember that all of our life is a gift from God – our past and our present right now. Take out the gift box, and ask the children what gift they think is in there today? Take out the piece of paper with the words, "My life today." What should our response be to the gift of life today? Have the children express through words or actions their thanks to God.

Key Verse: With actions, or with a simple melody, learn the Key Verse together. Have the children divide up into teams, and have each team come up with a way to act out or sing the verse.

Coloring Activities: See pages 5-6.

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.

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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?

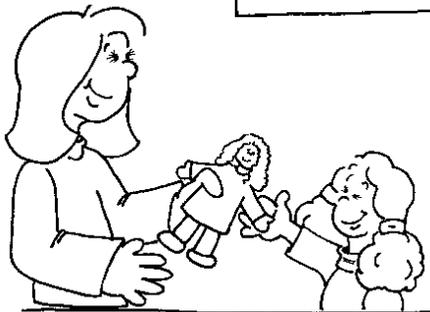
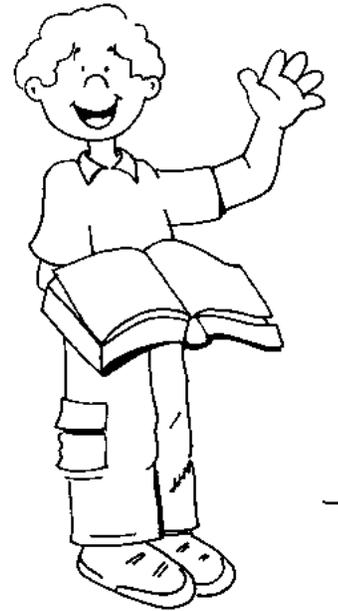
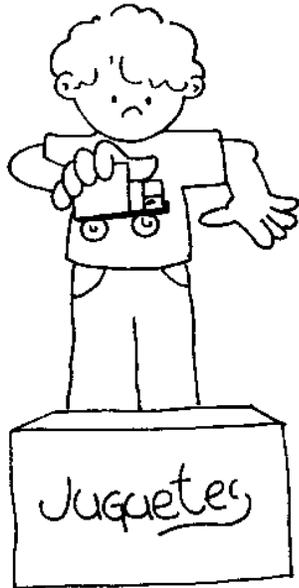
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. The candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the 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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ACTIVITY SHEET 1

Color the actions that would show God our thankfulness and appreciation



ACTIVITY

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ACTIVITIESHEET 2

Color the things that are gifts from God in your life today

