

Adventures with GOD!

THE GIFT OF THE PROMISES OF GOD (C.3.WINTER.8)

Biblical Reference	Luke 2:21-38
Key Verse	Luke 2:29-30
Key Concept	God's promises are a gift.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinguish between the promises of God and the promises of the world around us 2. Explain the Key Verse in their own words 3. Name two or three promises that are related with the birth of Jesus

Life Application

God has given us so many gifts, and some of these gifts include promises. We know God's promises are true, and God will keep these promises. This was true in the life of Simeon and Anna, and it is true in the lives of children. In this lesson, children will have the opportunity to reflect on these promises.

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	Illustration, Bible, pictures cut out from magazine	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations, activity sheets	20 minutes
Craft	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



Adventures with GOD!

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 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 2:21-38 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 passage?

Introduction: Before the class, find images in old magazines and newspapers that promote happiness or try to "sell" happiness, fulfillment, a good life, etc. Cut the images out and glue them on different sheets of colored card stock. Show children the images, and ask them if they know what "promises" are being offered through the different products being sold. How many of us have bought something because the commercial or the ad promised us something? Do the promises that these ads and commercials offer us always come true?



Adventures with GOD!

What about the promises that God gives us in the Bible? Do we trust that God is faithful to keep promises? Today we're going to talk about God's promises and how they came true in the life of Simeon and Anna, and how they are true for all who believe in Jesus.

Bible Exploration: Invite the children to form four groups. Provide Bibles and activity sheets (found on pages 5-8).

When children have finished their investigations, ask them to form a big circle so they can share their discoveries. Show a picture of a rainbow and ask children what promise of God this represented in the Old Testament (God's promise to Noah that the earth would not be flooded again). Ask each group to take 2-3 minutes and share what promises they found in God's word and examples of people who have experienced God's faithfulness in keeping promises.

At the beginning of the class you all heard the story of Simeon and Anna. What was the promise Simeon received from God? What promises were made that were fulfilled when Jesus was born? Simeon knew the promises of the coming Savior and Messiah that were found in the Old Testament and the prophets, but it was the Holy Spirit that revealed to Simeon that Jesus was the fulfillment of this promise.

What are God's promises to you and me? God is faithful and will be true to the promises. Like Simeon and Anna, we might not know when these promises will be fulfilled, but we trust and wait.

Learn the Key Verse together. Ask a few volunteers to describe the verse in their own words.

Craft: The ornament instructions and pattern are found on page 9.

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).



Adventures with GOD!

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

Adventures with GOD!

ACTIVITY SHEET 1

Find the verses below and write down a key word or phrase for each verse. Then think about people in our lives or in the Bible who have experienced this promise.

Psalm 30:5

Psalm 34:19-20

Psalm 41:3

Isaiah 43:2

John 14:1-2

Romans 8:28

2 Corinthians 4:17

2 Corinthians 12:9

Adventures with GOD!

ACTIVITY SHEET 2

Find the verses below and write down a key word or phrase for each verse. Then think about people in our lives or in the Bible who have experienced this promise.

To those who are poor:

Psalm 12:5

James 2:5

To those who are generous:

Psalm 41:1

Proverbs 3:9-10

Proverbs 11:25

Luke 6:38

To those who are humble:

Psalm 138:6

Isaiah 66:2

Luke 14:11

Adventures with GOD!

ACTIVITY SHEET 3

Find the verses below and write down a key word or phrase for each verse. Then think about people in our lives or in the Bible who have experienced this promise.

Those who seek God:

Deuteronomy 4:29

Proverbs 8:17

Luke 11:9

Those who believe:

Psalm 37:3

Mark 9:23

Mark 11:24

Luke 17:6

John 6:35

John 12:46

Romans 1:16

Adventures with GOD!

ACTIVITY SHEET 4

Find the verses below and write down a key word or phrase for each verse.

Isaiah 7:14 – Matthew 1:18

Isaiah 9:6-7 – Mathew 1:1

Micah 5:2 – Matthew 2:1

Genesis 3:15 – Galatians 4:4

Genesis 18:18 – Acts 3:25

Daniel 9:25 – Luke 2:1-2

Hosea 11:1 – Matthew 2:14

Adventures with GOD!

CRAFT

Materials: construction paper, ribbon, glue, scissors

Instructions:

1. Draw three hearts on red construction paper and cut them out. Use the patterns provided.
2. Glue the hearts on to the ribbon vertically.
3. Write a promise of God on each of the hearts.
4. Help the children make a loop out of ribbon or yarn that can be placed at the top of the ornament so that they can hang it.

