

Adventures with GOD!

THE WIDOW WHO HELPED BY RECEIVING HELP (B.3.SPRING.9)

Biblical Reference	Luke 7:11-17
Key Verse	Luke 7:16
Key Concept	Christ can work in my life in powerful ways, especially in my weakest and saddest moments.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Define three new words from the lesson2. Narrate the story3. Name the person who will receive the card they make

Life Application

We all have moments in our lives when we feel weak, sick, sad, helpless, and in need. Maybe it's the sadness we feel from the loss of a loved one that makes it seem impossible to go on. Or maybe it's the absence of our parents or friends that makes us feel isolated and lonely. But, it was in a time like this that the widow from the town of Nain experienced the greatest joy after her personal encounter with Jesus. We, too, can experience this peace and joy when we trust and look to Jesus in our weakest moments. During the lesson, children will make a card for someone that they know could use encouragement. Encourage the children to give the card to this person during the week.

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	See instructions	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, time machine	10 minutes
Key Verse		10 minutes
Craft	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes

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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 7:11-17 twice 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: This lesson will focus on a woman who was facing a very sad and difficult situation, as her only son died. If possible, darken the room and only have candles (real or electric) or small lamps to create some light. Invite children to take some flashlights and look for the strips of paper with the questions for the Bible Exploration. When the questions have been found, invite children to sit together around the time machine.

Bible Exploration: You may choose to use the time machine this week and the sample dialogue is found on pages 5-7. Today's visitor will be a widow, and the story is based on Luke 7:11-17. When she appears she should be dressed in a black coat or shawl (with white clothes

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underneath), carrying a candle. Then begin the dialogue. After the dialogue ask how they would describe the widow and why they think this story was included in the Gospel of Luke. How did this woman's life and situation change when she met Jesus? What miracle did Jesus perform? What was the woman's response? What about the times that we ourselves face sad and hard situations? Ask the children how they deal with sad moments or lonely moments. Talk together about how even in those difficult times, Jesus is with us, and can make something beautiful out of it. Have they experienced the peace and joy that Jesus brings?

Key Verse: Before learning the Key Verse together (Luke 7:16) ask children to help you define some key words from the story: Only son, widow, bier or coffin, compassion. Then ask for a volunteer or two who can tell the story in their own words. Remind them that this is an extraordinary story where Jesus performed an extraordinary miracle. Next, look at the Key Verse and ask them to read it together several times. Ask for a few other volunteers to repeat the verse and act it out as they say it.

Craft: Provide sufficient material for the children to make some encouragement cards. Include paper, colored paper, crayons or markers, pencils, scissors, glue, and stickers on hand. Invite children to make a card for someone who is going through a difficult time. Help them to write the verse on the card (or have it printed out on labels that they can then stick on the card). While they are working talk with them about how they can show compassion and encouragement to others. Encourage children to give their card, or have their parents help them give the card, to the person they made it for.

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. In the same way, 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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BIBLE EXPLORATION

Questions for the widow

Question #1 – Who are you?

Widow: I am a woman who has experienced great sadness. I had an excellent husband and he got very sick and died suddenly, leaving me a widow.

Question #2 – Do you have other family members?

Widow – Yes, I do. They, along with my faith in Yahweh, are what get me through these moments of great sadness.

Question #3 – How many children do you have?

Widow – Actually, I have one son. And he fills my life with such joy. He is noble and gentle and very obedient. He is an excellent son.

Question #4 – So, why then are you so sad?

Widow – Well, for years it was my son and I found great comfort in my son and friends who live in my town of Nain, just a little south of Nazareth. My son and I lived well together until...(she starts crying).

Question #5 – Until what? What happened?

Widow – Until one day, almost exactly like what happened with his father, he got sick. I was so desperate. My friends new how upset I was and did everything they could to comfort me.

Question #6 – What happened to your son?

Widow – Each day he got worse, until that dreadful day when he died. My only son was gone. I was heartbroken. The pain and sadness was too much to bear.

Question #7 – We are so sorry. What did you do?

Widow – There wasn't much I could do but cry and cry. I couldn't understand how this could happen. Didn't God love me? Why was this happening to me? I had no strength, but my family and neighbors did everything for me. They prepared for his funeral and burial. They put him in a



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coffin and four men carried the coffin from the house to the funeral. Someone had to walk next to me and help hold me up as I felt so weak. We got to the doors of the town and when we were about to leave, something extraordinary happened.

Question #8 – What was it that happened there?

Widow – Well we were in our procession, crying and singing songs of sadness and mourning, when we ran into another procession. It was a big procession of people entering the town. There was one particular young man who stood out in the crowd. He was very much alive and the people seemed to be following him. We stood face to face and the young man, Jesus, could see that we were sad as we were in this funeral procession. And this Jesus saw the coffin and my dead son. Then he looked at me and I was a little surprised by the fact that he would notice me. But he looked at me with such compassion and then the most amazing thing happened.

Question #9 – What amazing thing happened?

Widow – Jesus went up to the coffin and touched my son and talked to him. Can you imagine that he said, “Young man, get up.” And my son, heard the voice and obeyed. His life was returned to him and he sat up. My son sat up. (Voice getting excited). He was no longer dead and he looked at me.

Question #10 – What were you feeling?

Widow – As you can imagine I was in shock. I couldn’t believe my eyes. But, everyone around me witnessed the same exact thing. It was the most glorious moment of my life. My son was helped down and Jesus brought him over to me. It was like life returned not only to my son but to me. There was dead silence and then it was as if the mourning turned into dancing and a huge party broke out. People cried for joy at what they had just witnessed. (At this moment the woman can take off her black jacket/cape and reveal the white clothes she has on) Word about this miracle spread. Everyone was talking about Jesus. We knew that we had just witnessed someone very special sent by God. I knew that God had not abandoned me. Rather God had sent someone to help us, not me, but everyone in our town. Never give up hope that God will do something good, even in bad circumstances.

Oh, I’m sorry, I’d love to talk more, but I have to get back. We’re still celebrating this new miracle of life. Remember, rejoice in God always, trust Jesus. Amen!