

# Adventures with GOD!

## WE ARE OPEN LETTERS (C.3.SPRING.12)

Biblical Reference	2 Corinthians 3:2-3
Key Verse	2 Corinthians 3:2
Key Concept	I am a letter written by God, and my life should reflect God's work in me.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write a letter to God expressing a commitment to be an example of God's love to others</li> <li>2. Illustrate how we represent God well or when we don't represent God well to others</li> <li>3. Explain what it means to be an "open letter"</li> </ol>

### Life Application

It's fascinating to see the ways God speaks to us, especially how God speaks through us to others. We are an open letter from God to the world. When we make the decision to be followers of Jesus Christ, our lives should reflect God's love. As we end the trimester, children will reflect on the role they play in communicating God's love to others.

### 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
Review	Ladder, books of the Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	Letter	5 minutes
Learning Center		10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Large sheet paper, markers, Bible	10 minutes
Activity	Paper, markers, craft supplies	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](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 we read the Bible 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 2 Corinthians 3:1-3 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?

**Review:** Today is the last day for the books of the Bible competition. Consider giving everyone a small prize for their efforts in memorizing the books of the Bible. Give children an opportunity to say the books of the Bible if they haven't done so already. Spend some time reviewing the different ways they've learned throughout the semester that God speaks to us. Hold up a symbol or illustration, and ask children what it represents; allow children time to reflect and share what they've learned throughout the semester.



# Adventures with GOD!

**Introduction:** The theme for this lesson will explore how our lives are letters from God. Ask children if they've ever received a letter. Who was it from? What did it say? How did it get to them? Show children an example of a letter you received. Then, invite children to go to the Learning Centers where they will focus on letters from God.

**Learning Centers:** Prepare the materials and instructions at each center. Explain to children that they can choose whichever activity to go to and explain the different options. When they are finished at each of their centers, invite children to come together and sit in a circle.

**Bible Exploration:** Invite children to share what they learned at their Learning Centers. Then, open your Bible to the Bible passage for today. Explain how the Apostle Paul was writing a letter to his friends in Corinth. Ask children to repeat the Key Verse (2 Corinthians 3:2) with you. On a large sheet of paper, ask a volunteer to write the verse. Then, invite children to draw pictures of themselves and include their names. Explain that as they follow Jesus, and as they accepted him as their Lord and Savior, they become letters from God to others. Ask children how they can be a letter from God to someone else. What does it mean that we are "living letters"? How do they feel about being letters from God?

**Activity:** Then invite children to either write a letter to God, or make an illustration about being a living letter for God in their family, their school, their neighborhood, etc. Provide a variety of paper and materials so children can get creative.

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).



# Adventures with GOD!

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.

# Adventures with GOD!

## CENTER OF INVESTIGATION

The center will focus on letters, specifically what they are and what they consist of.

Instructions:

1. To begin, make a list of the different elements of a letter (you can write this on a piece of paper, or on the white board if there is one). If you don't remember, ask the teacher to see the letter he/she brought in. For example:

-date

-name

-greeting

-information

-questions

-closing

2. Look up the Key Verse (Corinthians 3:2) in at least 2 different versions of the Bible, and talk about what you understand this verse to mean.

3. Using the example given, write a letter from God to the world, expressing God's love and desire to be in relationship with each person.

# Adventures with GOD!

## CENTER OF EXPERIMENTS

This center will reflect on how we represent God in our world as living letters, or as letters from Christ.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-3 and discuss what Paul is saying to the Corinthians.
2. Answer the question, "How are we open letters or letters for Christ?" (Write out your answers)
3. Make a list of the ways we reflect, and the ways we sometimes we don't reflect, Christ in our lives. Or if you prefer, draw pictures or using modeling clay to represent the ways we represent Christ and the ways that we don't.

Positive ways I reflect Christ

Ways I don't reflect Christ

# Adventures with GOD!

## CENTER OF APPLICATION

This center includes a craft that will serve as a reminder that each of us are living letters, or open letters from God to the world.

Instructions:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-3
2. Designate a leader to read the instructions for the craft (see the following page).
3. Make hearts using white card stock or paper. Make enough cards for everyone in the class. Cut out a rectangle using red card stock or paper (as seen in the illustration on page 8). Fold the rectangle in half, and glue one side of the rectangle to the center of the heart. On the inside of the rectangle card, write a message about being a letter from God to the world.

# Adventures with GOD!

## CRAFT

