

Adventures with GOD!

WHERE IS IT WRITTEN (C.3.SPRING.8)

Biblical Reference	2 Timothy 2:14-18
Key Verse	2 Timothy 3:15
Key Concept	The word of God both guides and instructs me as I follow God
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comment on why it's important to ask, "Where is it written?" after we hear a teaching at church 2. Give thanks to God that the Bible is available in their own language and many other languages 3. Pray for people that still don't have the Bible translated in their language

Life Application

The Bible warns us of times when people will steer us away from the truth of God. A question that Covenanters have been asking from the beginning is, "Where is it written?" For us, the Bible has ultimate authority. It's important for children to know how to read God's word so they can critically engage with what they're told by others. Thank God we have the Bible in our language and many other people also are able to read the Bible in their languages. This is an opportunity to pray for those who do not have the Bible in their language.

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		5 minutes
Learning Centers		10 minutes
Bible Exploration	See instructions	15 minutes
Game	Phrases written out on paper	10
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 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 Timothy 2:14-18 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: Spend time reviewing the books of the Old and New Testament. If you are familiar with a song that teaches the books of the Bible, it would be great to use it or find another creative way to review. Then, pull out a large banner that you've made out of paper or poster board with the following phrase written on it: Where is it written? Show them the question and ask them if they have an answer. What in the world is this question referring to? Explain that this is a very important question for Christians to ask, and we'll be looking at those reasons during the Learning Centers.



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Learning Centers: In the Learning Centers, children will reflect on the question, “Where is it written?” Prepare the materials and instructions at each center. Explain to children that they can choose whichever activity, and explain what the different options. When children have finished at each of their centers, invite them to come together and sit in a circle.

Bible Exploration: Begin by asking the group to share what they learned during the learning centers. As children share, continue to elaborate on what they are saying. The following brief history is included at the center of investigation: When the early church was growing in number they saw many new and different ideas introduced. The early church saw false teachers who weren’t really teaching God’s word to edify the people. They also began to be persecuted for their faith in Jesus. Many were actually executed during the time of the Roman Empire.

In the year 325, a man named Constantine was elected as the new Roman emperor. His mother knew about Jesus and taught Constantine, who then made laws to protect the Christians. The Christian Church began to change and people became leaders as they wanted a job in the government. Little by little, emphasis on God’s word seemed to disappear. Soon, only the priests read the Scriptures, not just the everyday believers. The Church became more institutionalized and people started to abuse their power by teaching things that weren’t Biblical. But one day, in the early 1500s, a priest by the name of Martin Luther began to challenge the corruption he saw. This began the Reformation; part of the beauty about the Reformation was how it placed an emphasis on knowing Scriptures, and made the Bible accessible to normal, everyday people in their languages.

Today the Bible is translated into many, many different languages. But there are still many people who cannot read the Bible because it’s not available in their language. (This would be a good time to talk about some of the languages it’s translated into and what people groups still do not have the Bible in their language. Wycliffe Bible Translators would be a good resource for this.)

Ask children what they need in order to ask the question, “Where is it written?” (for example, the Bible written in their language, knowledge of how to read the Bible, etc) Ask children what they would do if someone said something they weren’t sure was Biblical or not. The Covenant began as small groups of faithful followers met to read the Scriptures together. It was very important for them to ask the question, “Where is it written?” This is what helped to define their beliefs, and still shapes our beliefs today.



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Game: Where is it written? Write different phrases on strips of paper and put them all in a basket. Divide the group into two groups. One group sends up a representative to pick out a phrase and read it to his or her group. The group then needs to decide if it's from the Bible or not. When they've had a while to reflect on the phrase, ask them to answer by using the question, "Where is it written?" If it's from the Bible, share with children the Bible reference. Each group should have several turns to guess.

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).

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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CENTER OF INVESTIGATION

The focus of this center is on the question, “Where is it written?”

Instructions:

1. Make a list of difficulties a person may have if he/she doesn't have a Bible, or doesn't know how to study one.
2. Read the brief history below about the place of Scripture in the church, and make note of important dates and people.
3. Read 2 Timothy 2:14-19 and explain why we use the phrase, “Where is it written?”

Brief history:

When the early church was growing in number they saw many new and different ideas introduced. The early church saw false teachers who weren't really teaching God's word to edify the people. They also began to be persecuted for their faith in Jesus. Many were actually executed during the time of the Roman Empire.

In the year 325, a man named Constantine was elected as the new Roman emperor. His mother knew about Jesus and taught Constantine, who then made laws to protect the Christians. The Christian Church began to change and people became leaders as they wanted a job in the government. Little by little, emphasis on God's word seemed to disappear. Soon, only the priests read the Scriptures, not just the everyday believers. The Church became more institutionalized and people started to abuse their power by teaching things that weren't Biblical. But one day, in the early 1500s, a priest by the name of Martin Luther began to challenge the corruption he saw. This began the Reformation; part of the beauty about the Reformation was how it placed an emphasis on knowing Scriptures, and made the Bible accessible to normal, everyday people in their languages.

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CENTER OF EXPERIMENTS

The focus of this center is to reflect on how we can know if the ideas we hear are in agreement with God's word, and how we can know what the Bible says.

1. Read the list of phrases and decide if it's in the Bible or not. How do we know?

* I am the light of the world

* Love your enemies

* Do onto others as you would want someone to do onto you

* Don't obey your mother and your father

* Just do it

* For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son

* Do what feels good

2. Explain why it's important to know what is in the Bible. What difference does it make? How do we guard God's word in our heart?

3. Mention the different ways the Bible is written on our hearts. Make a big picture together, illustrating how we can hold God's word in our heart.



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CENTER OF APPLICATION

The teacher will need to give children a brief introduction to the role of Scripture in the Evangelical Covenant Church. This can be found in the Covenant Confirmation Curriculum, “The Journey: The New Testament and Beyond” in session 28. Or visit the Evangelical Covenant Church website and print out some basic reading on the Affirmation of the Centrality of Scripture.

Instructions:

1. Read the introduction on the importance of Scripture in the Covenant Church:

We affirm the centrality of the word of God. We believe the Bible is the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct. The dynamic, transforming power of the word of God directs the church and the life of each Christian. This reliance on the Bible leads us to affirm both men and women as ordained ministers and at every level of leadership. It is the reason we pursue ethnic diversity in our church and is the inspiration for every act of compassion, mercy, and justice. (Covenant Affirmations)

Why is the question, “Where is it written important?”

2. How do we know whether something comes from God’s word or not? How do they know what God’s word says?

3. What would happen if the Bible wasn’t in our language? How would we know what to believe about God? Pray for the people around the world that don’t have the Bible in their language, and thank God for the people who translate the Bible so that others have access to God’s word.