

Adventures with GOD!

WE ARE OPEN LETTERS (A.3.SPRING.13)

Biblical Reference	John 4:1-42
Key Verse	Acts 4:20
Key Concept	I must speak of the things I've learned about God
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell something about the Samaritan. 2. Name at least three people they will share what learned about God. 3. Give thanks to God.

Life Application

Children have learned how God communicates love for humanity. Throughout history, God has given messages through people. Today, we have the testimony of the Bible, messages received from God, and the stories in the Bible. While we do have the Bible, God still uses people to communicate love and will to a world full of need. Children can be spokespeople of God, testifying what they have learned from God, as did the Samaritan. During the week, children will seek the opportunity to share the love of God speaking to them. The testimony of a young child who speaks of God has eternal value.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible	10 minutes
Craft	See attached	10 minutes
Game	See attached	10 minutes
Snacks		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

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 the Key Verse for the day 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 story?

Bible Exploration: Invite children to sit in a circle on the floor, and open the Bible as you tell the story of a person who was thirsty. You can use puppets to tell the story, too. It's important to communicate the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan. She had to share the story of Jesus with others in the village. Discuss when the Samaritan realized Jesus is the Son of God, and then ran home to tell all the people she had seen the Son of God in person. Ask: What was the reaction of other people? They also wanted to know Jesus. The woman did something that we can do well. She spoke of Jesus with neighbors, family, and friends. We can do the same thing! Let children think and answer. Maybe children can think of creative ways to share the story of Jesus. Children must understand that they can share the love of God and Jesus through their words, actions, song, and even drawing.

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Craft: Make circles on cardboard or paper stock. See illustration on page 4 with the words to write in the circles. Punch holes at the top and help children to create a necklace.

Game: Children learn faster when they play. Don't be afraid to start the lesson with a game. Consider playing the memory game today attached on pages 5-7. Encourage all children to participate in the game.

Snack: Before serving a healthy snack, children can express their love to God and Jesus. Pray by asking God to send the love of Jesus to every child. Children can see love reflected in the people around them, their parents, siblings, neighbors and their church.

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?

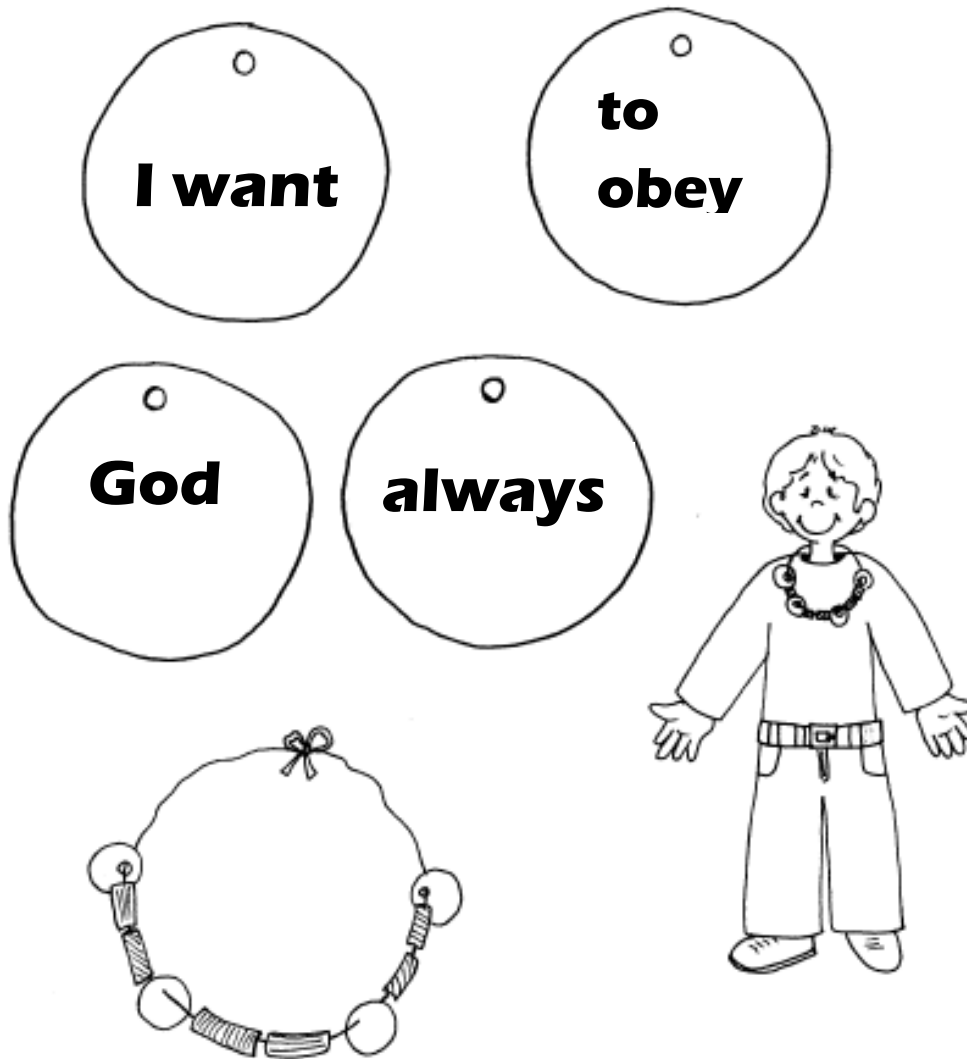
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, the candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, 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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Craft – Necklace

Draw circles (enough for all children) on cardboard. Cut out the circles and use a hole punch at the top. Help children write the words as shown below. They can color the circles and then assemble them on yarn to make a necklace.

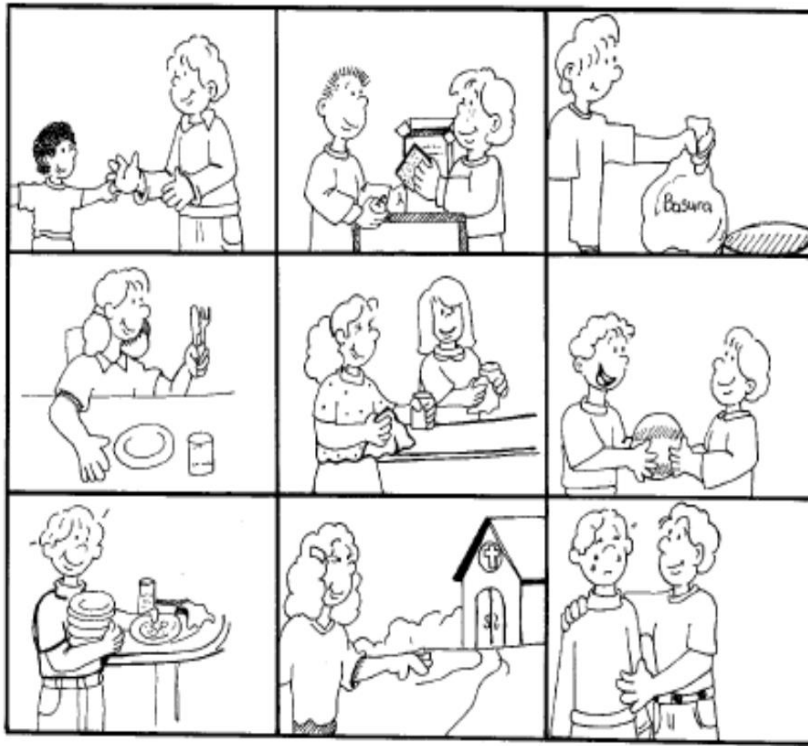


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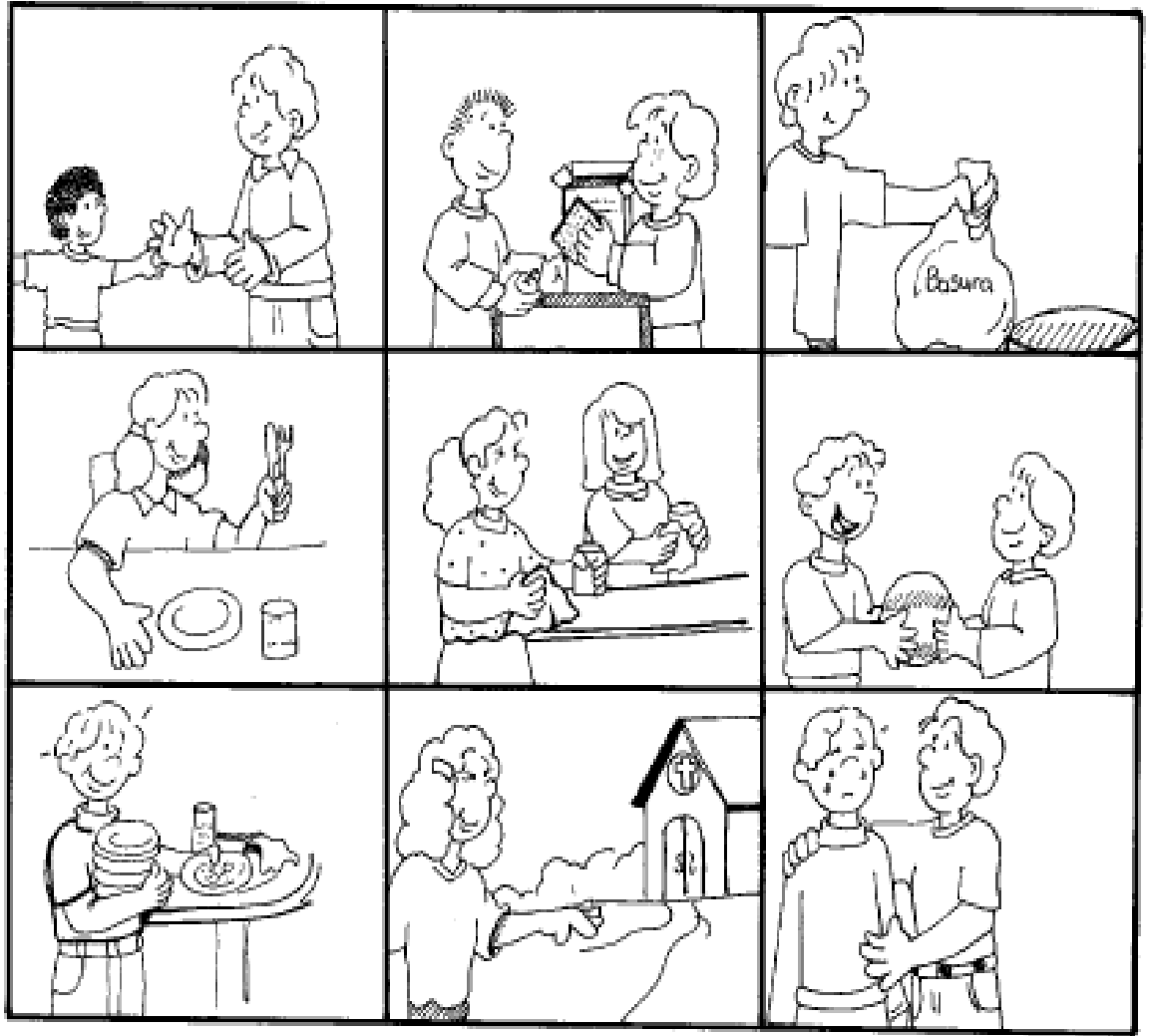
Game - Memory

Preparation: Start by cutting matching sets of the individual pictures below. Children can color the cards.

How to play: Put all the cards face down on a table. Each child can take turns playing the memory game by matching each card with another. You can do this individually or as a class.



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