

Adventures with GOD!

THE WORD OF GOD REVEALED IN NATURE (A.3.SPRING.1)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 28, 31
Key Verse	Psalms 19:1
Key Concept	God speaks to me through nature.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss what God created in nature. 2. Express what God felt when God created the world. 3. Give thanks and praise for all living things.

Life Application

The Bible specifically states that God created the world and everything in it, including people. Children can see the greatness, power and love of God revealed in all of creation. During the class, children will learn how God communicates with us through creation. This week, children can make a list of things God created so they can later identify things in their neighborhood, on the way to the church, etc. Parents are encouraged to participate in the activity with them throughout the week.

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
Introduction		10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible	10 minutes
Craft	Plastic Cups, String	10 minutes
Game		8 minutes
Snack		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 (For safety sake, you may 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 Judges 2:10-25 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?

Introduction: The focus of this week's lesson is to understand how God speaks through creation. For young children, this may be difficult to understand since they cannot fully see, hear, or touch the concept of God. But the Bible says that through creation, children and adults can understand the greatness of God's love, which is something children can see, touch and hear. Therefore, invite the class to take a walk around the church so they can look at nature and all that is around them. Discuss how we can care for creation and perhaps search for fallen leaves or stones to then use in a craft. It's important to remind children that they should not take leaves off of trees or damage the flowers. We respect God's creation by simply admiring the flowers, plants and other elements of nature. Give children the opportunity to enjoy themselves, and continue to discuss all the beauty that surrounds us. Discuss how God is listening to them even in these moments.

Bible Exploration: Start off by asking children if they heard the Creation story. Provide illustrations to help visualize how God created the nature around us. It's important to

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emphasize that God is talking to us through the bible. Ask questions such as, "Where does it say that in the Bible?" Encourage children to not only open the Bible to seek the word of God, but to also always have the bible handy. Children will learn by what you teach them. Open the Bible to Genesis and describe the wonderful things God created to make a special and wonderful world, which God gave as a gift. Briefly describe each day and emphasize that only God carried out each day to the fullest until it was completed. It must be emphasized that things were made when God said something. For example, when God said, "Let there be light," there was light! (Have children repeat this out loud). When God said, "Animals will roam the earth" (explain) animals exist because God said something and it was created. You can have children draw and color pictures of each day of creation.

1st day – God created light.

2nd day – God separated the waters.

3rd day – God gathered the waters into seas, made the dry land appear and created grasses, plants, and trees.

4th day- God made the sun, moon and stars.

5th day – God made all of the sea creatures and all the birds of the air.

6th day – God made all the animals and on this very day he made man and woman.

Finally, show pictures of *nature* (trees, animals, people, and flowers) and man-made things (cars, airplanes, toys, etc.). They can point out what things were created by God and what things were by created humans with the intelligence God provided.

Craft: Help children develop their own "phones". You can either use two cans or two disposable plastic cups, and a long piece of string. Drill holes in the bottom of each cup so you can pass a piece of string through each end. Children can pass messages to each other using the "phone". Perhaps they can repeat the Key Verse to each other. If you decide not to make a phone, you could make a card using leaves children collected on their walk. Children can write the Key Verse directly on the leaf, or paste a slip of paper with the Key Verse on it. If there is extra time, children can color the illustration provided on page 7.

Game: Form a circle to play the game, "Who did it?". Hand out the sheet found on page 6, of the various things God made, and the things made by humans. Read out loud: Who did it? If you show them something God made, children must remain seated. If you show them something humans made, they should stand up. No one should say the answer. When they get the idea of the game, you can go a little faster. Children will hopefully enjoy the game, and it will keep them focused a little longer.

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Snack: Pray and thank God for giving us beauty found in nature, animals, and all of the wonderful living things that bring us joy. It would be good to share some fruit, vegetables or fresh fruit juice, which you can point out are only provided by plants, water and land that God gave us.

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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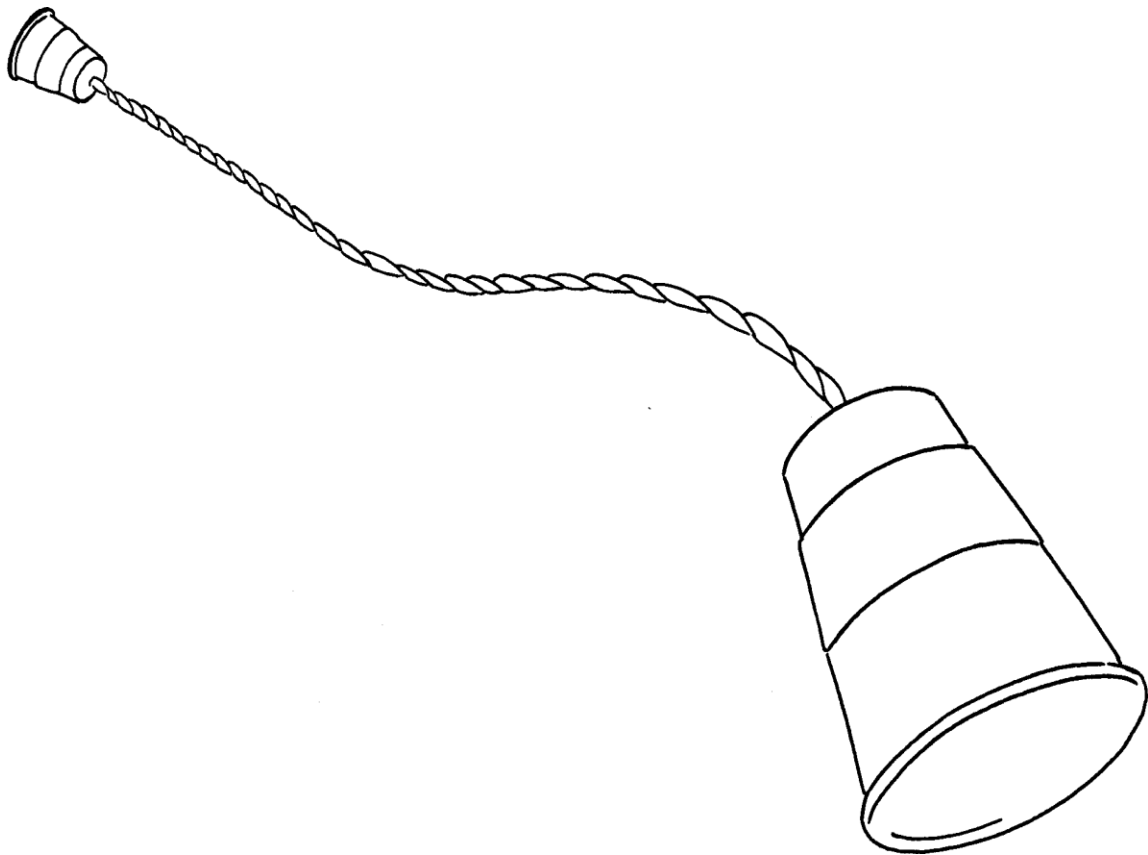
Craft

Phone

Materials: two disposable cups (for each child), and a long piece of yarn or string

Preparation:

1. Drill/punch holes into the bottom of the disposable cups
2. Thread the string or yarn through the holes and tie a knot at each end so the thread cannot exit through the hole.
3. Decorate/color the cups



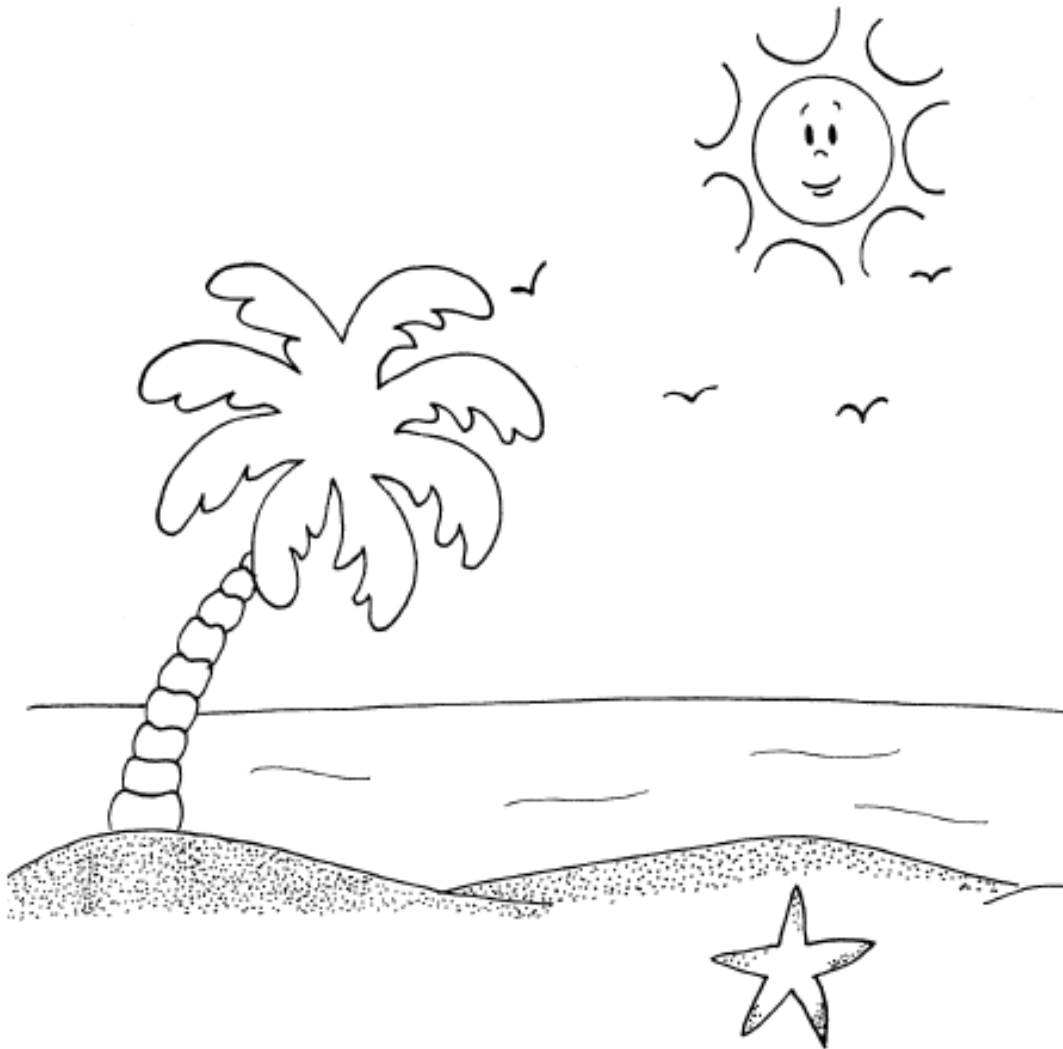
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Illustration
Who did it?



Adventures with GOD!

Illustration
Color



The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies
proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1