

Adventures with GOD!

INTRODUCTION: GOD'S HELPERS (A.1.Winter)

LESSONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-5

GOALS FOR THE TRIMESTER: Help children foster a relationship with God. Explore the first years in Jesus' life and how people responded to his arrival. Express thanks to God for their great friend Jesus.

MESSAGE TO THE TEACHER:

The birth and childhood of Jesus is one of the most loved and well-known Bible stories for little children. While they study the birth and childhood of Jesus, they will have the opportunity to see that people responded in different ways to the Son of God. They will see that some people responded with joy and love, while others wanted to kill him. The same is true today. People respond differently to news of Jesus' coming. We were all created unique by God and we all have the free will to choose how we will respond to God's love and gift that was given in Jesus Christ.

Always remember that God has created us all uniquely. For example, in a class of 10 children each of these children has different ways of responding to God. The same is true of the activities you will do this trimester. One child may be content to listen to a story but not want to participate in the craft. Another may not want to pay attention to the story but will be happy doing the craft or memorizing the Bible verse. One child may not respond to anything other than kind, gentle words, or maybe will only want to participate when you are singing a song. Each child is different and they learn differently. This does not mean they are being rebellious or misbehaving. It just demonstrates that we were made differently, with different interests by our creator.

For a teacher it is utterly important to accept the children as they are and then see how this acceptance makes them more open to the changes that God wants to do in their lives. Jesus came to be Savior to each child in your class. He came to love the child who talks non-stop in your classroom. He came to have a relationship with the child who is shy in your class. The child with Down syndrome is loved unconditionally by God. Jesus came to love, accept and lead each of these children to the Father. We have to reflect this same attitude as we walk alongside them on this journey.

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Remember that children learn hearing, seeing and touching. We have to offer them each one of these opportunities so that everyone has a chance to learn these Biblical truths in the way they best learn. Maybe you won't be able to include activities for every different learning style in each class, but you can make sure that you have a balance of different activities throughout the trimester so that each child can respond in the way God created him or her. Take time to get to know the children in your class, to find out how they learn best and then you will be able to include activities that speak best to their learning styles and needs.

Look for methods that allow each child the opportunity to respond for himself or herself to the person of Jesus. Provide a variety of different activities that permit the children to express their needs and desire to know Jesus as Savior. Plan activities that are engaging and allow the children to express themselves. It's important to have moments of silence and reflection as well. Games are a great way for children to learn while doing.

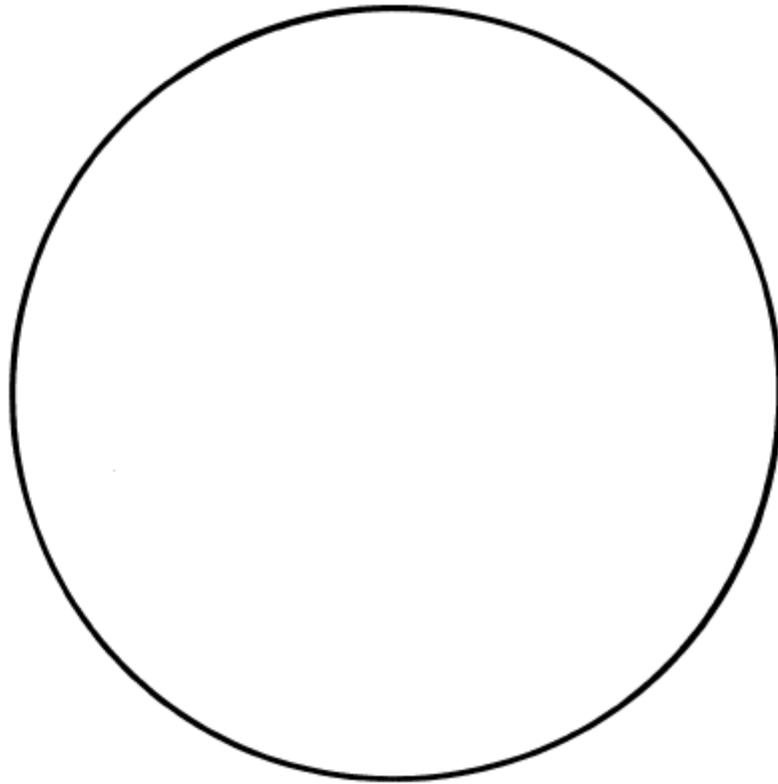
Take time to pray before you prepare each class. Savor the time that the Lord is giving you to accompany these precious children and they come to know God. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance to teach the children with power and wisdom.

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DECORATION

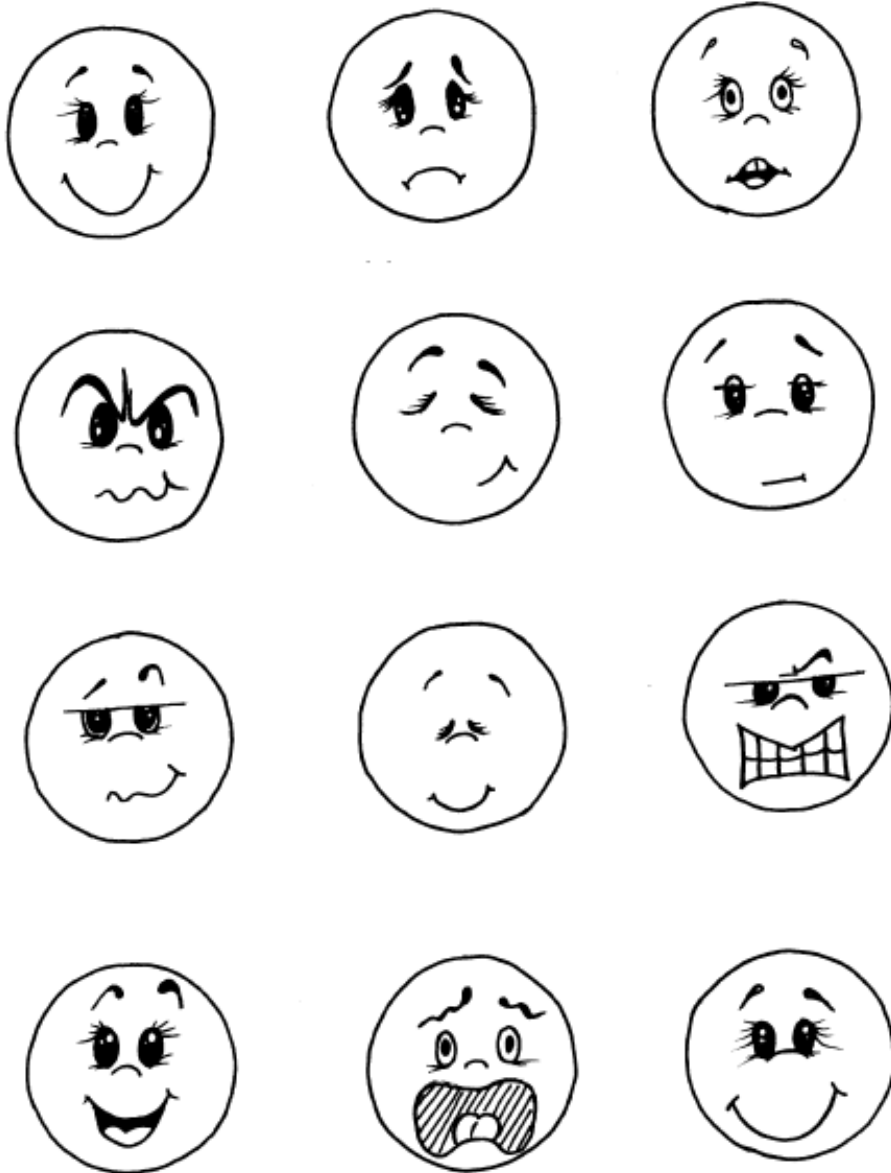
On a wall in the classroom, hang up 7 (or more) big circles (like what is found below but bigger). These circles will become the faces of some of the people found in the story of Jesus' birth (Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, Herod, the owner of the stable, the soldiers, the angels, Simeon). Each face will have a different expression because each of the people responded differently to the message of Jesus' birth. You will use the faces to help the children decide how they will respond to the news of Jesus' birth.

On the other wall you can make a nativity scene out of the silhouette that are found in the following pages. You can enlarge the images and place a new one each week until you have the whole scene on the wall for Dec. 25th. If it's possible to put a Christmas tree in the classroom, that is another way to decorate. The other idea is to have a birthday party for Jesus the last Sunday before Dec. 25th. The children will understand the message that Jesus is real and that's why we celebrate his birthday.



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ILLUSTRATION



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SILHOUETTE



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