

Adventures with GOD!

JESUS IS WITH ME ALL DAY (B.1.WINTER.1)

Biblical Reference	Exodus 13:21a-22, 2 Chronicles 16:9a
Key Verse	Psalm 23:6a
Key Concept	Jesus is with me all the days of my life.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give examples of how Jesus is with them during the day. 2. Make a list of moments when Jesus is with them in the different hours of the day (specific situations) 3. Express how they perceive the care of God knowing that Jesus is with us all day and in every situation

Life Application

A pillar of clouds is tangible evidence for the people of Israel of the presence of God and it will be an analogy for the children of the presence of Jesus with them each day, in every situation. They will feel more secure knowing that Jesus will never leave them alone. He is always with them. When the children feel certain about Jesus' constant care it will be helpful when they face difficult moments in life.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Decoration		5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity	Worksheets, crayons	10 minutes
Bible Story	Illustration	10 minutes
Bible Verse	Illustrations	10 minutes
Craft	Paper plates, pieces of fabric, glue, scissors, markers, paper	15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Decoration: The focus of this trimester will be to show the different ways that we experience God's care for us. Prior to the class look for images, photos, drawings, etc., that express in one form or another how God loves us and takes care of us. Put the images on a piece of poster board and put it on the wall in the class room. You can also decorate the classroom by using illustrations of clouds, because clouds in the Bible were a concrete symbol of God's presence and care.

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 on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

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 as we read the Bible we do that 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 Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this story? 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?

Activity: Each Sunday during the trimester, the children will add another drawing/image to their booklet "Jesus is with me." Before the first class, have the covers of these booklets ready and have the white paper pages ready to put in the cover. Staple the booklet together. At the end of the class, the children can draw something that expresses for them the theme of the day.

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Bible Story: The story today is about how God showed his presence to the Israelites when they were in the desert. This is a concrete example of God's presence with God's people in the Old Testament. Make a pillar of clouds using cotton balls, gluing them to a blue piece of paper. If it's possible to find other illustrations of the story, it would be very helpful in the telling of the story. This will help them to imagine what it would be like to follow a pillar of clouds. Help them to think about the different situations they face daily, when Jesus is present.

Examples – when we get up, when we get dressed, when we eat breakfast, when we go to school, when we play, when we rest, when we study, when we do our homework, when we talk with our parents, ALL DAY!

The Israelites had the clouds as a continual sign of God's presence with them. By faith, we believe that Jesus is with us when we have invited him into our lives as our best friend and Lord. Use this time to help children think about the importance of having Jesus in our lives and the confidence and security that brings.

Bible Verse: It's important to be very creative when it comes to teaching verses. It's also important to explain any words that might be difficult to understand. It would be good to write today's verse on the illustration of a big cloud (decorated with cotton balls). Allow the children to thank God that Jesus is with us in every situation, every day. Use the attached illustration as a visual while you talk about prayer. The children can talk to Jesus through prayer every day, anywhere and anytime.

Craft: In this lesson you will find the instructions for a craft they can make and take home. During the week as they see this visual, they will be reminded of Jesus' presence with them.

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 and give them 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).

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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? How would you like to respond to 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, it reminds us that God is always with us. Today the children can give thanks to God for the guidance and directions that we have been given in the Bible, by our leaders and our parents. Before praying, reflect for a few minutes on the advantage that we have today to have the word of God which gives us direction. Remind them that we are all given the decision to choose the path that follows God. We each have to choose. 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

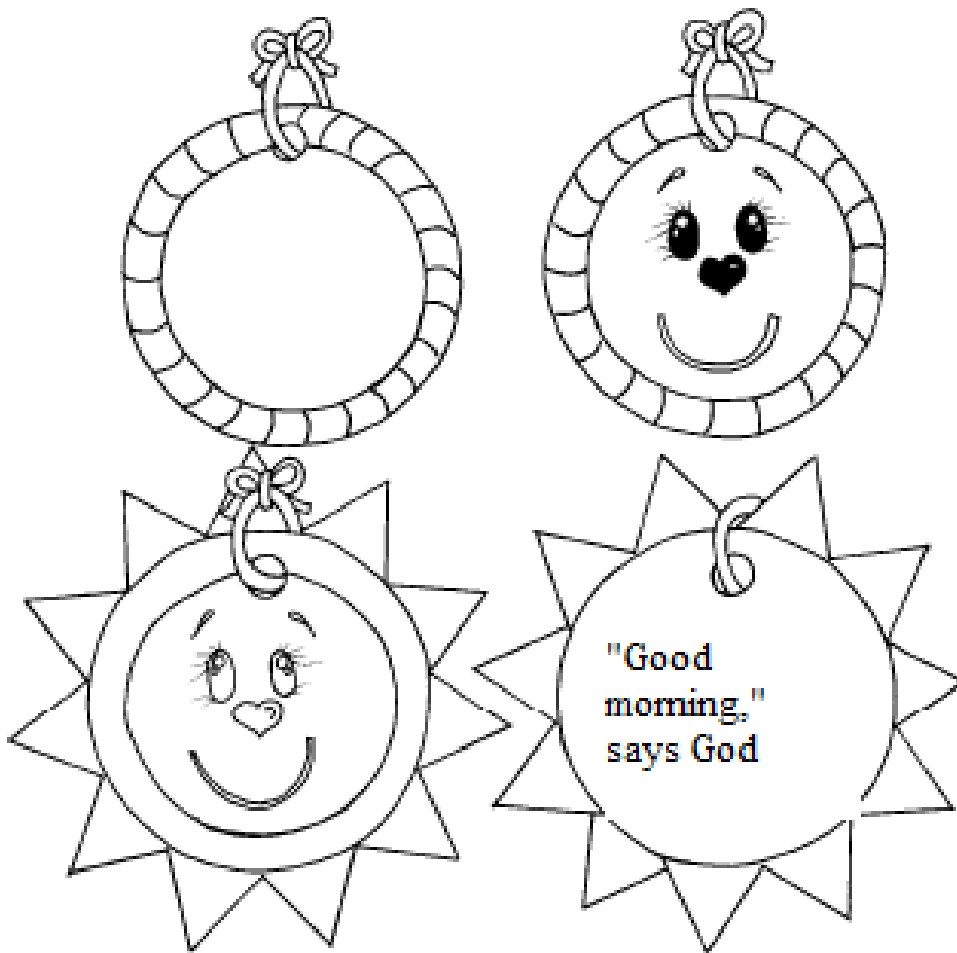
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CRAFT

Materials – paper plates, string, hole puncher, black and yellow felt, marker, glue, paper, scissors

Instructions –Use the examples below as guides.

1. Make a hole in the upper part of the plate and pass a piece of yarn through the hole.
2. Have the children color the plate yellow, or glue a piece of yellow felt on one side of the plate.
3. Draw in eyes, nose and a mouth, or use black felt.
4. On the same side as the face, write out the verse in small letters.
5. On the back side of the face write the words, "Good morning," says God.
6. Tell them to hang this up in their home, so when they see this sun they will remember God's love for them and Jesus' care for them during the day.



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ILLUSTRATION



Psalm 23:6a