

# Adventures with GOD!

## JESUS WILL BE WITH ME ALL MY LIFE

### (B.1.WINTER.11)

Biblical Reference	Luke 2:25-38
Key Verse	Isaiah 45:22
Key Concept	Jesus will be with me even when I am older.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain why adults need to know that Jesus is with them</li> <li>2. Give thanks that God is with us, our parents, our grandparents</li> <li>3. Make a time line to show how children change as they grow</li> </ol>

#### Life Application

Even though children love to think and talk about, “When I grow up....” it’s difficult for them to understand what it will be like. They have a “romantic” idea of what life is like for adults, but don’t really understand all that is involved. But what they can understand is that Jesus will be with them their whole life, even when they are adults. During the week the children will ask the adults in their family (parents, aunts and uncles, grandparents, friends) how Jesus has been with them as adults.

#### 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
Activity	Booklet, fabric, crayons, scissors, glue	10 minutes
Bible story		10 minutes
Craft	Time line, crayons, markers	15 minutes
Prayer		10 minutes
Bible verse	Illustration of time line	10 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 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:** While they children arrive, give them a blank piece of paper and ask them to draw a child and an adult. Or if you can give them a sheet of paper that already has two people drawn on it, it will save some time. Have cut out pieces of fabric and tell them they can use glue to dress the child and the adult. This will be the new page in their booklet. The title can be, "When I'm grown up..."

**Bible story:** It would be interesting to have an adult, a parent or a grandparent come and share with your class today. Invite someone with enough advance warning and tell them what you would like them to share about in the class. When the person is in the class with the children, conduct an interview of sorts and asks the person how they have experienced God's presence in their life.

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After your interview with the person, narrate briefly the story of Simeon and Anna. Here are some of the key things to share during the story:

- The promise that God had given Simeon
- How God fulfilled the promise to Simeon
- How Anna recognized Jesus as the Messiah
- How Mary guarded all of these things in her heart.

Use the idea of a time line (see the visual example in the following pages) and talk with the children about the things that happen in our lives as we get to be certain ages. Help them to visualize how God is present in the different stages of life. Hang a symbol of a face, which can represent Jesus in the time line, present with the people at different stages of life.

**Craft:** Using the instructions and the model in the following pages, help each child to make his or her own timeline. Use puppets to represent the people and if it's possible, it would be great if the children could "dress them" with pieces of fabric. While they are working, talk with them about the things they think they will do and be in the future. Maybe there are children who have a specific idea of what they will be in the future. Be sensitive to the children as they talk, encourage them to remember that no matter what God will be with them and will guide them. With God nothing is impossible.

**Prayer:** Before praying, help them reflect one more time in the idea that Jesus is always with them. The word of God says that Jesus has been ever since the creation of the world. Jesus is present with us as children, and Jesus will be with us as we grow and become youth and later adults. Together give thanks to God that Jesus has been with us and will continue to be with us in the future. Also give thanks to God for Jesus' presence in the lives of their parents and grandparents.

**Bible verse:** Use the time line craft that they've made to help them learn the Bible verse for today.

**Conclusion:** Encourage them to talk with different adults in their life to hear how Jesus has been with them throughout their life journey. The children can learn a lot from the testimonies of people in their life, whether people in their family or in the church.

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## 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).

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. 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

### Jesus will be with me my whole life

Materials – A blank piece of paper for every child, pencils, markers or crayons, 3 copies of the circle with Jesus for each child.

Instructions –

1. Make a time line (see the illustration below).
2. Draw three people (a child, an adult in the center, and a senior citizen to the right)
3. Write the verse Isaiah 45:22 below the time line
4. Cut out and glue a circle with Jesus' face over each of the three people.

