

Adventures with GOD!

JESUS IS WITH ME NOW AND FOREVER

(B.1.WINTER.12)

Biblical Reference	John 14:1-3, Revelation 21:10-11,18-19,21-24
Key Verse	John 14:2-3
Key Concept	Jesus is with me now and forever
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Draw a picture of life with Jesus now and in heaven.2. Give thanks to God that we can be with God forever.3. Play a game or create a craft to remind them of Jesus' presence now and forever.

Life Application

God is the only one who knows our past, present and future. God is the only one that knows what life will look like for us today and in the future. Only God knows when our life here on earth will be done. This is a difficult topic for children to grasp, but we can help them by reminding them that Jesus promises to be with us now and forever. God's word contains promises about Jesus being with us for now and forever. We can help children to learn these promises.

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	Illustrations	10 minutes
Invitation and prayer	Book without words	10 minutes
Game	cards	10 minutes
Craft	Card board, scissors, crayons, aluminum foil, glue	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

Adventures with GOD!

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 about the words of Jesus? How do they 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 these words of Jesus?

Activity: Today they will work on the last page in their booklets. Ask them to draw ideas of what it's like to be with Jesus now and what it will be like to be with Jesus forever. Ask them what they imagine heaven to be like. Have materials on hand that shine (like aluminum foil, glitter) so they can decorate their pictures. The title of this page can be, "Now and Forever with Jesus".

Bible story: Hang up all of the pictures that the children have drawn this morning. It's important to be able to appreciate the creativity of the other children. Help them to see all the good and beautiful things that have been drawn and colored. Talk about the ways Jesus is with us now. Next read some descriptions from the Bible about what heaven will be like (Revelations 21:10-11, 18-19, 21-24). Comment on how John was trying to explain what he saw but even his words weren't enough to describe the beauty. Using John 14:1-3 explain that Jesus loves us so

Adventures with GOD!

much that he went to heaven to prepare a place for us with him. He gives us an invitation to be with him and follow him and love him forever.

Invitation: As you talk about this important concept, spend some time inviting them to accept the gift that Jesus has offered life with him now and forever. You could sing a song that talks about Jesus' immense love for us to begin and ask them if they have questions, or want to receive Jesus' love and make the decision to love him back.

Prayer: Guide them in prayer, giving thanks to God for three things:

1. God's amazing, immense love
2. Jesus who died for us and forgives our sin.
3. Jesus who rose from the dead and gives us life forever with him.

Game: In the following pages you will find a game that will help to reinforce the theme that you have been talking about today. Make hearts using the patterns found in the following pages. Cut out the hearts and glue them on card board or poster board. Follow the instructions to play the game.

Craft: The children will create their own representation of what they imagine heaven to be like. They can use different materials, paper, cotton, aluminum foil, popsicle sticks. They will glue it onto a mirror. While they are working talk with them about the idea that Jesus is preparing a place for us and that Jesus promises to be with us forever.

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).

Adventures with GOD!

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

Adventures with GOD!

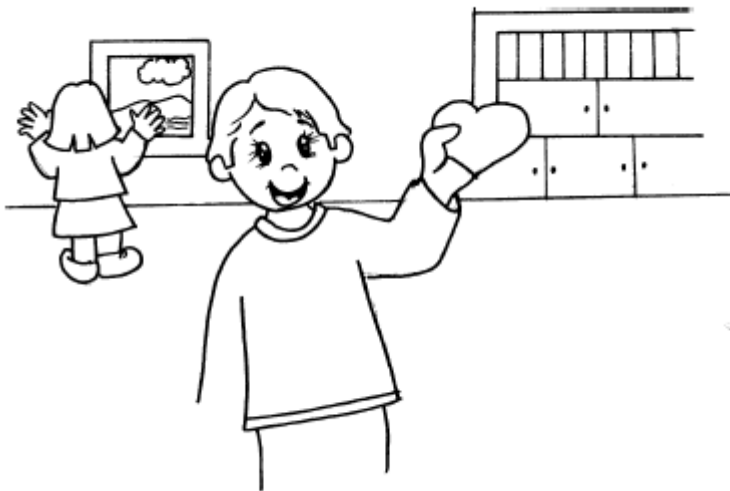
GAME

Finding hearts

Materials – 10 copies of each heart (pattern), poster board, glue, scissors

Instructions –

1. Make 10 copies of each heart and glue them to poster board and cut them out. Hide 9 of the 10 in different parts of the classroom before the children arrive.
2. Show them a copy of each of the heart and tell what it symbolizes.
 - a. Heart #1 – We have all sinned (Romans 3:23)
 - b. Heart #2 – Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
 - c. Heart #3 – When we ask for forgiveness and believe in Jesus, he will make us clean and bring us back to God (Acts 16:31)
 - d. Heart #4 – When we believe in Jesus he promises to be with us for all forever(John 14:3)
3. Show the class samples of the 4 hearts. Explain that there are 9 more of each kind of hearts in the room. When you signal have the class try and find all 36 hearts.
4. When they have found the hearts, discuss what the symbol on their heart means.
5. You could also change the number of each heart to match the number of children in your class so each will have a set of 4 hearts to take with them.



Adventures with GOD!

PATTERNS



1.



2.

