

Adventures with GOD!

JESUS IS WITH ME ALL NIGHT (B.1.WINTER.2)

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| Biblical Reference | Exodus 13:21b-22, Psalm 121:4 |
| Key Verse | Psalm 4:8 |
| Key Concept | God is with me. I do not need to fear the darkness. |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Express the fears they have during the night 2. Illustrate some of the fears they have during the night 3. Confess that Jesus is with them and they don't need to be afraid of the night |

Life Application

Darkness during the night hours usually produces fear in children of this age. But there is wonderful news and that is that Jesus is with us in the night time just as he is during the day. The pillar of fire was a symbol of the presence and care of God in the night for the Israelites. This helps us remember that God takes care of us. Help them to know that they can sleep and trust that Jesus is with them.

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 | Booklets, colored paper, scissors, glue | 10 minutes |
| Bible Story | Illustration, drawings | 10 minutes |
| Prayer | Illustrations | 10 minutes |
| Game | Cards, blackboard/whiteboard, chalk/markers | 15 minutes |
| Craft | Crayons, worksheets | 10 minutes |
| My GROW Adventure | Review | 5 minutes |
| Closing Prayer | Candle | 1 minute |

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INSTRUCTIONS

Decoration: The symbol of the story today is a pillar of fire. Decorate the room with various pictures, images, photos of the night time. If possible you could also cover the windows, so that the room is darker. Or bring in a small lamp to use instead of the overhead light. Many times children are fearful at night. Take advantage of this time to tell time to remind them that God is with them, and even at night we can talk to God through prayer and read God's word.

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: Today they can color the sheet in their booklet entitled "...all night." They can draw pictures of the stars, the moon, even the earth, or they can cut them out of colored paper and glue them onto the booklets.

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Bible Story: Again, you will read about the Israelites in the desert. During the night it was very cold because there were strong winds. The Israelites would have died from the cold if it hadn't been for the care and protection of God. God is always very practical. In the day God gave them a cloud to protect them from the hot sun and at night God gave them a pillar of fire to keep them warm. The Israelites were in the desert 40 years and God never left them. God is so good. Give the children an opportunity to express what the Israelites might have experienced without the presence of God at night (they can also express their own fears that they experience at night). How would the Israelite children feel in the desert? There were no lights like we have in our homes. How do we feel when we see light during the night?

Of course they had fire, but the nights were very dark in the desert. Help the children to visualize what it would have been like at night in the desert. Help them remember that just as God was with the Israelites during the nights in the desert. God is always with us.

Prayer: Help them express their thanks to God. Start by saying, "God I give you thanks that Jesus takes care of me all night. When I'm scared in the night, help me trust you. Sometimes I'm scared when... (let them add their own words). Give them the opportunity to each pray and express their words to God.

Game: Pictionary. In this game you will form two teams. A child from one of the teams goes up to the blackboard or whiteboard. This child will take a card that has a situation on it that may cause fear. If the child can't read, help explain the situation by reading the card to him or her. The child will then have to draw this situation (no talking). The children on the same team try to guess the situation that is being drawn. If they are able to guess it in the time given (1 minute) the team will get a point. Then a participant from the next team has to do the same thing, until everyone has had a turn to draw.

The team that wins can serve the snack to the team that has lost. This will help them to remember that serving is a privilege. You can use the following examples in the game:

1. When I hear a strange noise at night
2. When it's dark
3. When I'm walking outside at night
4. When I meet a person I don't know
5. During a test
6. When I go to the doctor

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Craft: If there is time, you can color the illustration found in this lesson. While they do it, they can repeat the verse to each other. Take advantage of this time to emphasize the key concept. Remind them that God is our pillar of fire and God lights our way and takes care of us even in the darkness of night. We do not need to fear the dark.

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).

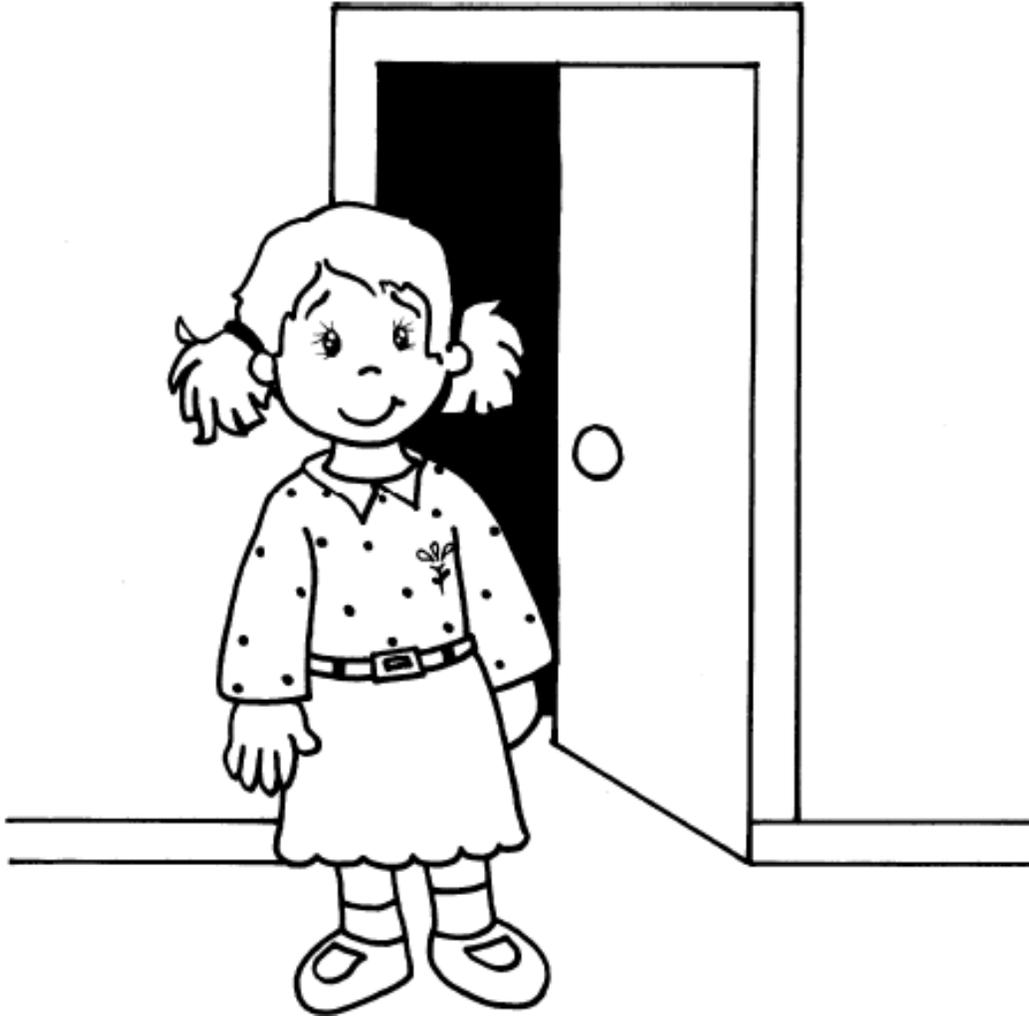
W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

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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ILLUSTRATION



I do not need to fear the dark, because God is with me.

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CRAFT

Color



Psalm 4:8