

Adventures with GOD!

JESUS IS WITH ME WHEN I HAVE PROBLEMS

(B.1.WINTER.4)

Biblical Reference	Acts 12:1-17
Key Verse	Psalm 46:1
Key Concept	When I have problems, Jesus gives me assurance that he is with me.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give an example of a problem they've had lately and how they felt about it 2. Act out the story of the Apostle Peter in jail and how God helped him 3. Share a problem they have had and ask Jesus to help them

Life Application

We all have problems, even children. Peter was one of Jesus' apostles (followers, disciples) and he had problems too. God wasn't only with Peter when he was in jail, but God helped rescue Peter and get him out of jail. In the same way God is with us when we have problems and God helps us out of even our deepest problems. Children will learn that even in our problems God is with us.

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, crayons, yarn, glue, scissors	10 minutes
Bible Story	Illustration	10 minutes
Drama	Bible	15 minutes
Bible verse	Illustration	5 minutes
Craft	Worksheets, crayons, pencils	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: The symbol for today is a sad face. In preparation, make a bunch of sad faces and put them up on the walls of the classroom. Remember that each time we make the atmosphere of the classroom eye-catching it will help engage the students in the theme for the day and the Bible story. While you wait for all of the kids to arrive, the children can work on their booklets. Today's page is entitled "When I have problems>" They can draw a sad face in their books and decorate the page with whatever craft supplies are available.

Bible Story: The Bible story for today is from Acts 12:1-17. The important concepts are:

- The detail of the story – Peter is arrested, there are 16 guards, and the church prays, there is a miraculous rescue, the church reacts.
- The reaction that Peter could have had, as well as the reaction of the others.

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Ask the children to name some of the problems that Peter had. Use drawing, illustrations, puppets to tell the story. Also, you will find a craft in the following pages (Peter escapes from the jail) that will help you to illustrate the happenings of the story.

Drama: It would be good to have the children act out the story. Choose children to play the different roles: Peter, the guards, Rhoda, the people of the church. They can act out the drama while you read the story from the Bible.

Bible Verse: After the drama, invite them to sing some songs that talk about the joy we have in Jesus, even in the most difficult moments. Pray together and learn the Bible verse together.

Craft: In the following pages you will find a craft that you can make to emphasize the fact that Jesus is with us in difficult times. On the worksheet you have a picture of a child crying. You could have each child write or draw a problem that they have. On the sheet with the sad face, they can write "I asked Jesus for help." On the sheet with the happy face they can write, "Jesus is with me and I am joyful."

Ask each child, which is the face that best describes how they feel today. It's important to create an environment where they feel safe to share their joy and sadness.

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?

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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

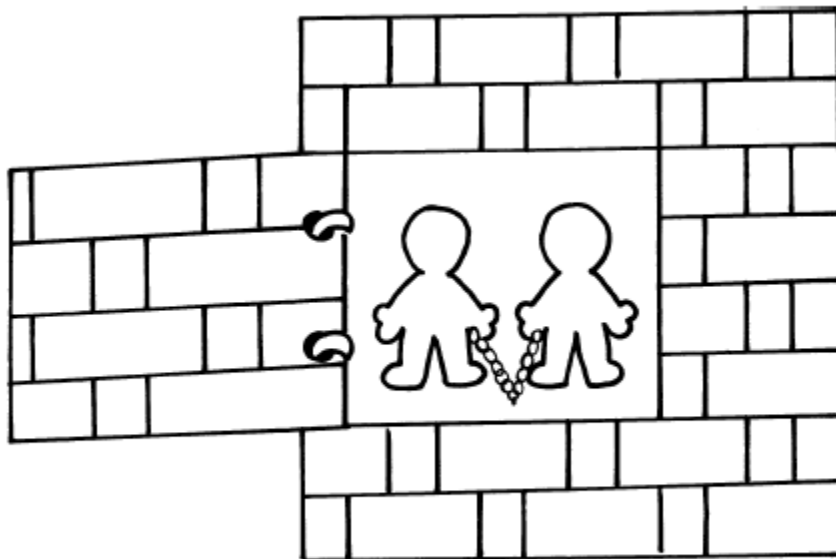
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CRAFT

Materials – Poster board (15 cm x 15 cm), Markers, yarn, whole puncher, the crisscrossed sides of a plastic basket (or something similar to create bars).

Instructions-

1. Use the model below as an example of what you can do. You can make it bigger and it can serve as a visual aid while you tell the story.
2. Cut one part of the plastic “bars” on the left side of the poster board. Make two holes in the poster board and use yarn to tie the plastic “bars” to the side of the poster board. This represents the open doors of the jail cell.
3. On the board of the poster board draw in other “bars”, but leave the part that is covered by the door blank (see illustration).
4. In the blank area, draw two guards with a space in the center for Peter, who isn’t there. Draw the chains hanging from the hands of the guards.



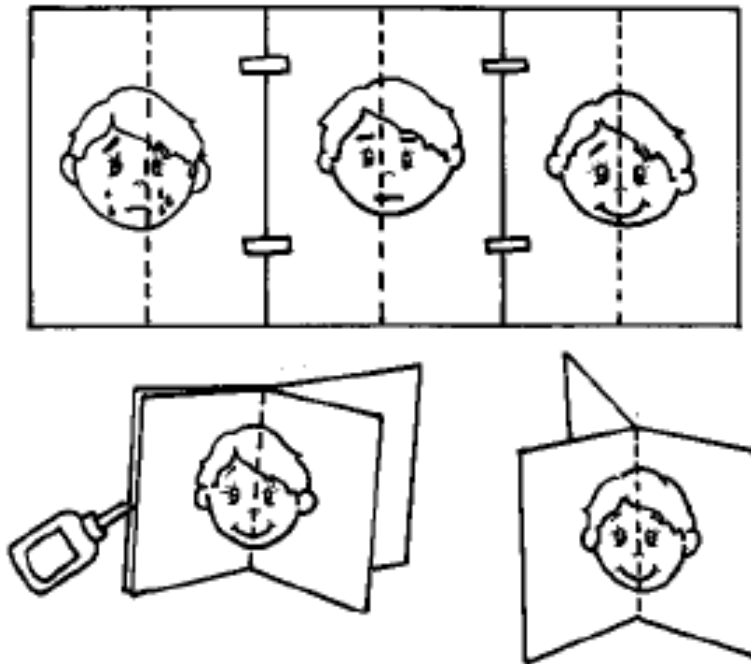
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CRAFT

Materials – three copies of the child’s face for each child, scissors, glue or tape, crayons

Instructions –

1. Make sure you have three copies of the face found on the following page for each of the children in your class. Also, make an example of the craft so they can see what the finish product will look like.
2. The children can color the three faces, making sure to change the expression on each of the faces. Help them to make a sad face, a sad face with tears, and a happy face.
3. Fold the three papers with the faces on them in half (length wise). Connect the three sheets (with tape or glue). Put them in the following order – sad face with tears, sad face, happy face.
4. On each of the sheets of paper they can write something underneath the face. On the sheet with the face with tears they can write a problem they have or have had. On the sheet with the sad face they can write, “I asked Jesus for help.” Under the happy face they can write, “Jesus is with me and I am joyful.”



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ILLUSTRATION

