

Adventures with GOD!

JESUS IS WITH ME EVEN WHEN I'M FAR AWAY

(B.1.WINTER.9)

Biblical Reference	Psalm 139:7-10
Key Verse	Psalm 139:7
Key Concept	Jesus is with me even when I'm in faraway places.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make a list of things that they should take with them on a long trip: clothes, tooth paste, tooth brush, Bible, Jesus 2. Explain the concept of "far" using examples from the country where they live 3. Say part of Psalm 139 by memory

Life Application

It's possible that the kids in your class haven't traveled to places that are far away and that they don't understand the concept of "far." You will have to help them capture the idea by talking about other cities in the country they live in, other countries, etc. If we help them understand that there is no place too far for Jesus, we are helping them develop a concept that will be influential for the rest of their lives. The care and protection of God is with them wherever they are, no matter how far away from home.

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, etc.	5 minutes
Activity	Illustration, maps, photos, suitcase	15 minutes
Craft	Paper plate, glue, scissors, crayons, model	10 minutes
Bible story	Pictures	10 minutes
Activity		10 minutes
Bible verse		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 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: to make the next page in their booklets, they can draw things they would want to take with them if they were going on a trip to a faraway place. The title of the page can be "Far away."

Activity: Together with the children make plans to travel to a place far away. First explain to them and help them understand what the word "far" means. You can have them walk with you outside of the class room. You can show them the difference between things that are close and far by asking them to mention objects they see that are close and far. Show the children a map of where they are in that moment and how far away other cities are from them. Ask them if they have families that live in other cities or countries. When you've talked about what "far away" looks like, help them think about things that they would take with them on a trip.

Adventures with GOD!

Have suitcase ready and take things out as they mention them: clothes, brush, tooth paste, Bible, etc. Explain that Jesus is always with us. Anywhere we go, he goes with us. How awesome!

Craft: The activity for today helps to solidify the idea that Jesus is always with us, even when we're far from our home. The children will make a "world" that will help them remember that God is present everywhere, even in places that seem far away. See the instructions in the following pages.

Bible Story: Using the verses in Psalm 139, talk about the different places where Jesus is with us. Find pictures or illustrations ahead of time that you can share that help the children to visualize the places that David mentions.

Vs. 7 – Where can I go that's far for you?

Vs. 7 – Where can I go to flee?

Vs. 8 – It doesn't matter how high or low I go, you are there.

Vs. 9 – If I go to another country, you are there

Vs. 9-10 – It doesn't matter where I go, you are there.

Activity: Now you can plan your trip, remember everything you've talked about so far. Choose a place, draw the route, think about what type of transportation you will need to get there, the places you'll visit, etc. Have a few places in mind that you can suggest and have pictures of that place to show them. The snack can be part of the trip. During the conversation it's important to remind them that Jesus goes with you.

Bible Verse: As it was mentioned in the previous lessons, it's very important that the children memorize Psalm 139. It is a very important Psalm that will speak to their lives for years to come. Help them to memorize this Psalm in creative ways.

Adventures with GOD!

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

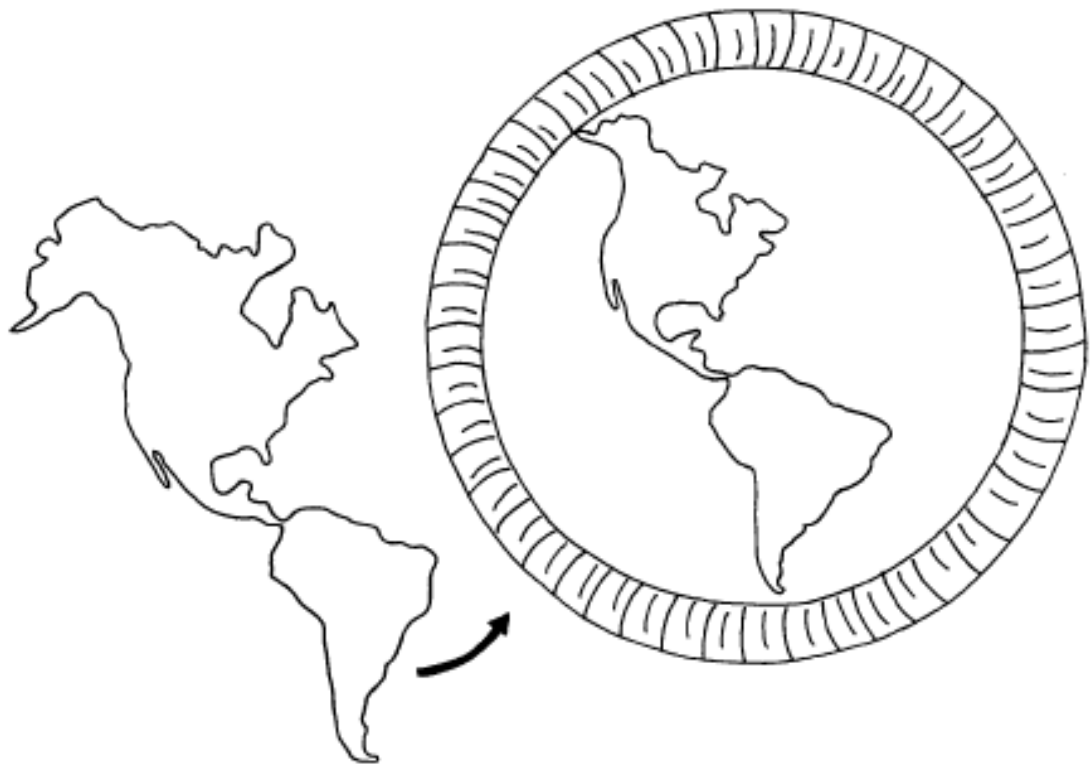
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CRAFT

Materials – 1 paper plate, a picture of a map, crayons, glue, scissors

Instructions –

1. Color the plate blue
2. Color the map that's found in the following pages and cut it out
3. Glue the map on the plate and write the Bible verse



Adventures with GOD!

PATTERN

Map



PSALM 139:7