

Adventures with GOD!

THE SEED OF A WOMAN (C.1.WINTER.2)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 3:15, Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-24
Key Verse	Galatians 4:4-7
Key Concept	I have been chosen to serve God.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write out one of the Bible verses from today that talk about Jesus being born of a woman 2. Reflect on what it means to be a child of God. 3. Comment on being chosen by God (related to Mary's and Joseph's response to the job God had given them)

Life Application

God is always ready to invite us into a loving relationship. It is up to us to lovingly respond. God chose a young woman, Mary, to have the privilege of being the mother of the son of God. Even though she was overwhelmed by the idea, Mary responded to God with humbleness and loving obedience, saying, "I am God's servant." It is important that children understand that God invites normal, everyday people to serve in God's kingdom. God hopes we will respond to his love. Serving God is not easy; it wasn't for Mary, but as we see in this story God's love for us and our love for God is a blessing.

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
Craft	Calendar	10 minutes
Activity	Work sheets, Bibles	10 minutes
Bible Story	Bible	15 minutes
Activity	Paper, markers	15 minutes
Hidden picture	Hidden picture	5 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 key verse Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? 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?

Craft: As children arrive they can continue working on their advent calendar if they haven't already finished. It's important to talk with them as they are working about the importance of Christmas. Help them understand the differences between cultural celebrations and the Biblical narrative of Christmas.

Activity: In the following pages you will find a worksheet entitled "Seed of a woman". The children can work on it using their Bibles. After they've had time to work on it talk about what they have found in the Bible verses. Who did this prophecy in Genesis speak of? Who was the woman? Who is the offspring who will save us? Who has adopted us as children? What does that mean to you?

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Bible Story: Look together at the following passages: Luke 1:26-38 and 2:1-7. God gave Mary a very special role. Look how Mary responded (you could act out Luke 1:26-38 if there is time. If there isn't simply talk about Mary's reaction). How would you react if you had an encounter with an angel? (The children can imagine what it would be like to be given such a special and difficult role by God.) How would you respond in this situation?

What excuses would you give for not being able to carry out the role that God wants to give you? Mary was humble before God and knew God was with her, in all of the situations she would face. What was the result of her loving obedience (read Matthew 1:18-24). God provided a human father to be a part of this special family.

Talk about how Joseph responded to the fact that Mary was pregnant and how he responded to God. Emphasize the loving response of Mary and Joseph, our need to respond in love to God's love for us. The children can pray asking God to help them respond in loving obedience to God.

Activity: Have each child draw a picture of ways they can show their loving obedience as children loved by God. Have them share their drawings with one another.

Hidden Picture: Again, take off 2 pieces from the hidden picture. Use this time to reinforce the Bible verses for today.

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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WORKSHEET

Seed of a woman

Read the Bible passages and answer the questions below:

Genesis 3:15

Who is God talking to?

“And I will put _____ (What does this word mean? _____) between you and the woman (Who? _____) and between your _____ and hers (who? _____). He will strike your _____ and you will strike his _____ .

Who will win???

What does this verse say about Jesus’ coming as the Messiah?

Galatians 4:4

“But when the _____ of time had _____, God sent his _____ (Who? _____)

Born of a _____ (Who? _____), born under the _____ (Who’s law? _____).

To _____ those under the law, so that we might receive _____ as
_____ of God.

What does this verse say about Jesus’ coming as the Messiah?

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WORKSHEET

Answers: Seed of a woman

Genesis 3:15

Who is God talking to?

“And I will put enmity (What does this word mean? anger, disgust) between you and the woman (Who? Mary) and between your offspring and hers (who? Jesus). He will strike your head and you will strike his heel .

Who will win??? Jesus

What does this verse say about Jesus’ coming as the Messiah? (Accept the answers of the children as they talk about how God was going to send Jesus to end evil. Help them see the figurative language that is used to talk about Jesus and Satan. Remind them that a wound to the head is mortal, while a wound to the heel is not mortal).

Galatians 4:4

“But when the fullness of time had come . God sent his son (Who? Jesus)
Born of a woman (Who? Mary), born under the law (Who’s law? God’s).

To save or redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children of God.

What does this verse say about Jesus’ coming as the Messiah? (Again accept the ideas that the children have. Talk about Jesus being born of a woman and under God’s law).