

Adventures with GOD!

HIS KINGDOM IS INVISIBLE (C.1.WINTER.4)

Biblical Reference	Luke 17:20-21, Luke 4:16-21, Luke 18:16-17
Key Verse	Psalms 145:11-13
Key Concept	I am a part of the spiritual and invisible kingdom of God.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Write a definition of visible and invisible. 2. Make a list of 4 things that are invisible that are a part of their daily existence 3. Explain how Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of the Messiah on the throne of David

Life Application

The Jewish people were waiting for a human king that would free them from slavery to the Romans. The prophecies about the Messiah were surely interpreted to describe a powerful king. But, God's plan was different. In God's mercy the salvation came through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We also know that God will establish God's eternal kingdom when Jesus comes again. However, we know without a doubt that Jesus brought this kingdom to earth, though it may be something we don't see. For people who have put their faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord, we are part of God's kingdom. Children can make the decision to be a part of God's kingdom, as well.

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	Work sheets, pens	10 minutes
Bible story	Bible, illustrations	15 minutes
Hidden Picture		10 minutes
Craft	Crayons, paper, scissors, glue	15 minutes
Bible verse	Game	15 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?

Activity: Work on the worksheet "Invisible but Real" together as a class. Look at the pictures and try to determine together what invisible things they represent.

Bible Story: As a bridge between the previous activity and the Bible story, you can turn off the light for a minute and then turn it on again. Ask them what invisible things we can appreciate because of the light (electricity). Ask them if they were able to think of other invisible things that are real. Then, talk about Psalms 145:11-13 which speaks about God's kingdom. Review what the children said during the Bible Reading, and then turn to Luke 17:20-21. Ask – What do you think of when you hear the word kingdom? How does Jesus describe the kingdom of God (write the answers on the board)? Let's see how else Jesus describes God's kingdom; read Isaiah 61:1-2 and Luke 4:16-21. Who brings the kingdom? What is it like?

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Add these answers to the ones you have written on the board. Ask – How is the kingdom Jesus describes different from other kingdoms? What can you see? What can't you see but you know is there? Now read Luke 18:16-17, who does Jesus say the kingdom belongs too? How does this make you feel to be invited by Jesus? Draw a picture of what you think it's like to be a part of God's kingdom. When you've finished you can pray, giving thanks to God for Jesus who initiated God's kingdom on earth and makes it possible for us to be part of God's kingdom. If there are any children who want to take the step to accept Christ in their lives and be a part of God's kingdom take time to pray with them. Finish with a song that expresses worship to God.

Hidden Picture: Again, take off 2 pieces from the hidden picture. Take time to talk about the parts they can see. What do they think? What will the picture look like when all of the pieces are uncovered?

Craft: Today they will begin a craft that can be worked on for a number of weeks. The tangram is a certain type of puzzle and they will begin by making figures for a nativity scene.

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

Invisible but Real

Write below the image each of the invisible things they represent.























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WORKSHEET

Answers "Invisible but Real"



Atomic energy



Heat/smell



Ideas/concepts



Love



Music



Electricity



Joy



Wind



Air



Friendship

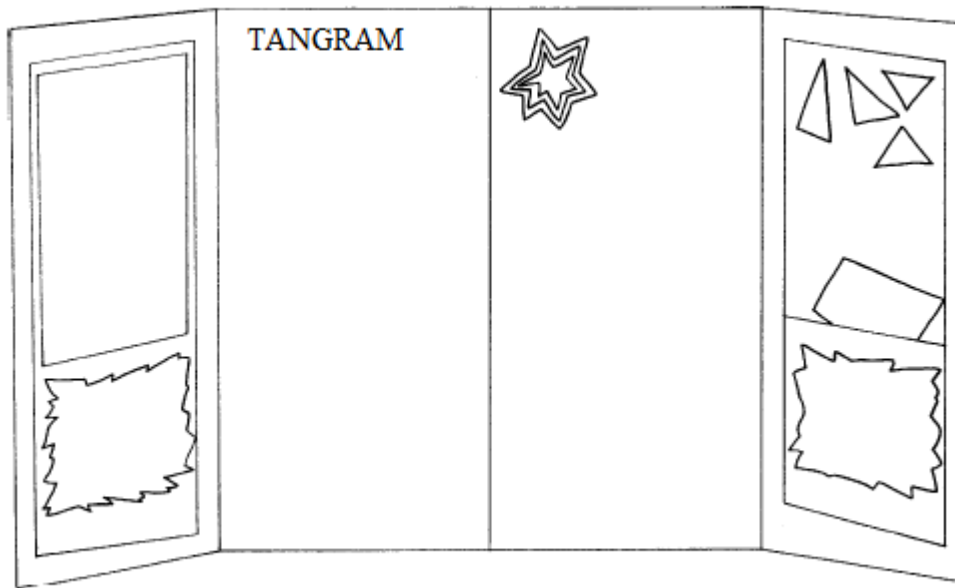


Gravity

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PUZZLE – TANGRAM

In four sheets of poster board (30 cm x 30 cm) copy and glue (as seen below) the title of the activity and instructions. Make a “pocket” on the two sides of the poster board. In the pocket on the left-hand side, put blank sheets of paper (at least 5-7 for each child). In the pocket on the right-hand side, put envelopes (one for each child) with the pieces of the puzzle (or you can have the children cut out their own puzzle pieces and simply give them the sheet with the pieces to cut out). The children can work with the pieces to make the appropriate figures (see the figures in the pages below). They can glue the figures on the blank sheets of paper and write the indicated Bible verses below the figure. In the next week, the children can also use the silhouettes of the tangrams to make their own decorations, gluing them on poster board to make a nativity scene.



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TITLE AND INSTRUCTION CARDS FOR THE TANGRAMS

CHRISTMAS TANGRAMS

INSTRUCTION CARD #1

A tangram is a puzzle that consists of 7 pieces and it originated in China. You can make the figure of people or animals with the five triangles, square and rhombus.

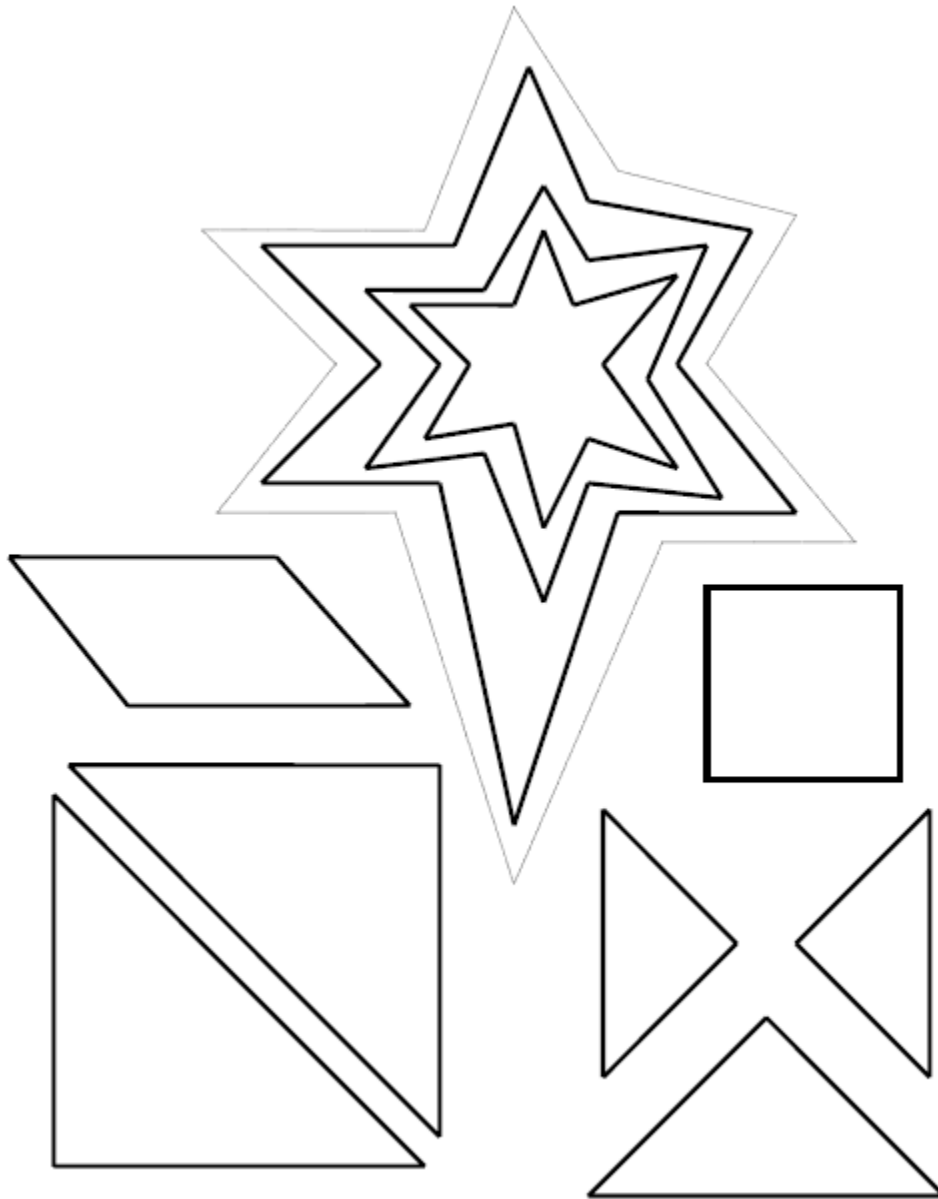
INSTRUCTION CARD #2

You must use 7 pieces for each figure. There are 7 figures that can be formed with these pieces – an angel, Mary and baby Jesus, Joseph, three wisemen and a camel. You can't cut or fold the pieces nor can you overlap them.

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STAR PIECES FOR THE TANGRAM

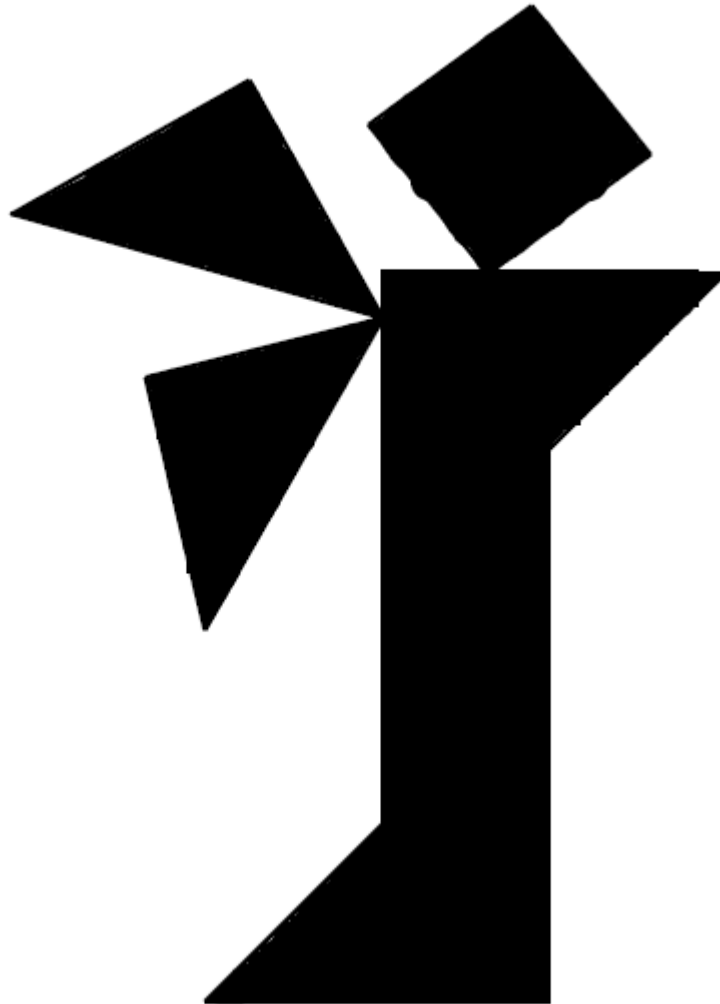
You have to cut out the 7 pieces for each figure that you are going to make. You should give each child a set of pieces for each figure they will make.



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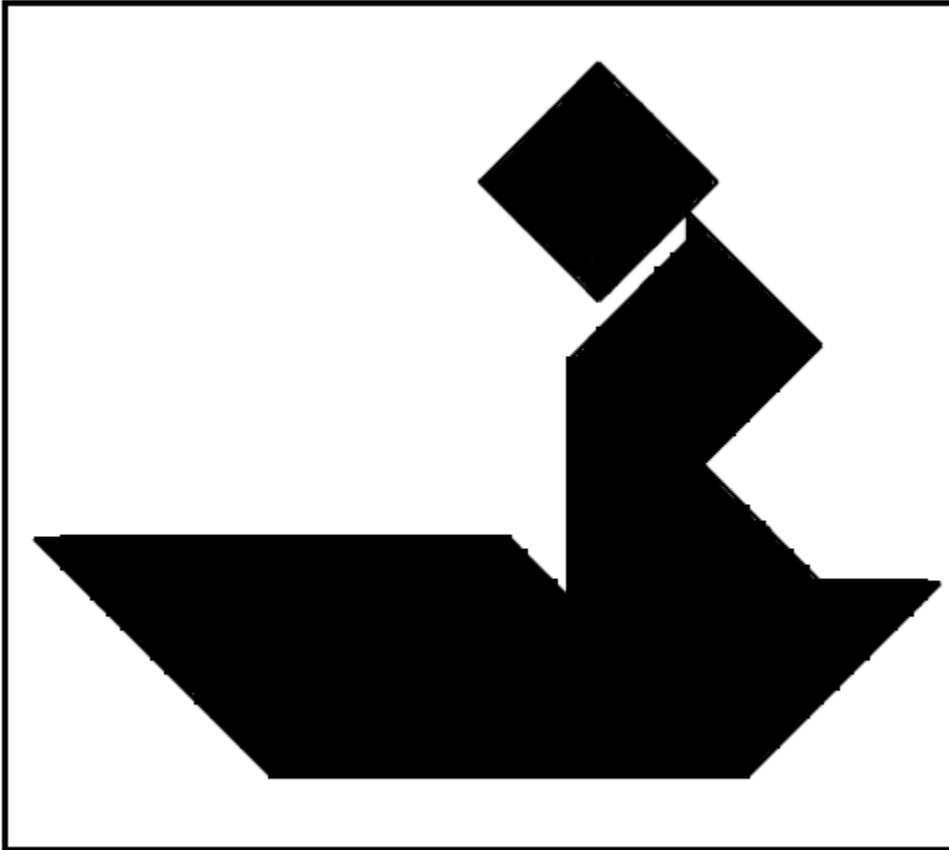
TANGRAM OF AN ANGEL

Luke 2:10,11



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TANGRAM OF MARY AND BABY JESUS
Luke 2:7



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TANGRAM OF JOSEPH

Luke 2:16



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TANGRAM OF A WISEMAN
Matthew 2:2



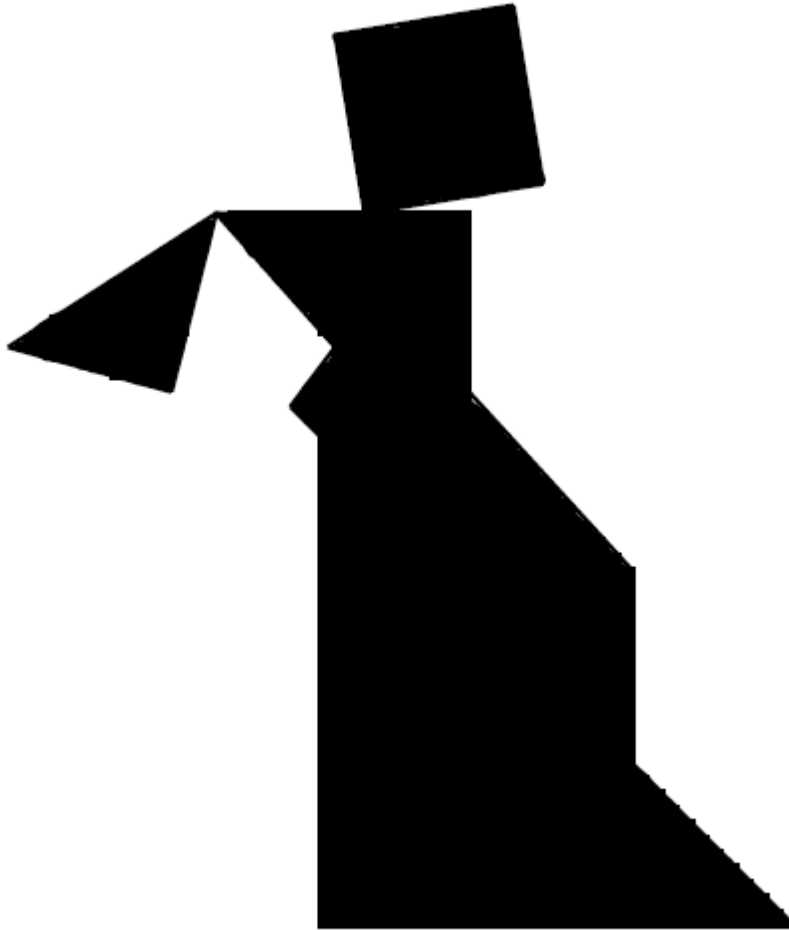
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TANGRAM OF A WISEMAN
Matthew 2:1,2



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TANGRAM OF A WISEMAN
Luke 2:11



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TANGRAM OF A CAMEL
Matthew 2:9

