

Adventures with GOD!

THE TIME OF HIS BIRTH (C.1.WINTER.6)

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| Biblical Reference | Daniel 9:25, Luke 2:1-2,3-7 |
| Key Verse | Luke 2:6-7, Psalms 90:1-2 |
| Key Concept | God has always been and God is always with us. |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain how we can understand the message that God gave Daniel 2. Reflect on the continual presence of God. 3. Express their thoughts about why God came as one of us and what that means to them today. |

Life Application

God doesn't have limits like we do. That's why God is able to give messages to the prophets like the ones God gave to Daniel. God not only understood how the Messiah would come, but when the Messiah would come. The children can trust their lives to God because God knows what will come. If we believe that God wants the best for us and God knows what we will face both now and in the future, we can live confidently trusting God, and knowing God is always with us.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

| Activity | Materials | Time |
|-------------------|--|------------|
| My GROW Adventure | GROW Adventure materials | 5 minute |
| Opening Prayer | Candle | 1 minute |
| Bible Reading | Bible | 5 minutes |
| Activity | Puzzle pieces, poster board, glue, pens | 15 minutes |
| Bible story | Numbers, Bible, white board and markers or paper | 15 minutes |
| Hidden Picture | | 10 minutes |
| Bible Verse | | 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 key verse Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this Psalm? 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 Psalm? These verses talk about God who is always present and who has always existed.

Activity: Today the children will put together their nativity scenes out of the tangrams. In the past two weeks they put together the figures and today they will use the figures to make a nativity scene. There are a variety of ways they can do it. They can glue them onto a big piece of poster board or they can mount them on poster board and then cut them out and make a mobile. Have a variety of materials available for them to use (poster board, colored paper, glue, scissors, crayons, yarn, plastic clothes hangers, etc.) This is something they can take home.

Adventures with GOD!

Bible Story: In the Bible story today we want to help the children to understand that God is not limited by time like human beings are. This is a very difficult concept to grasp, both for children and adults, but it's a very important concept to grasp. We can also help them see how Daniel used expressions (numbers) that have been difficult for even the wisest and most intellectual scholars to comprehend. Today, we will think about what he was trying to say, but even today we can't comprehend fully the message. 400 years before Jesus was born, God called a special person to be a prophet. His name was Daniel and he didn't live in Palestine, but Babylon, because the Babylonians had destroyed Israel and had taken the Israelites to Babylon.

Daniel was a man of God and he continued to be a faithful Jew (believing in God) even when he was living in a foreign country and was a very important person in the Babylonian government. Daniel was a person of prayer. He prayed three times a day, acknowledging God's continued presence. God gave Daniel messages for God's chosen people. Daniel received important messages about the destruction of some of the empires (Babylon, Greece, Rome). But he also received a message about the coming of the Messiah. Have the children read Daniel 9:22. Then use the worksheet in the following pages, to find Daniel's prophecy.

It's important to understand that God is not limited like we are. God knows what is going to happen. God knew when his son would be born and die. Daniel's prophecy was like a sign to the Jews that were waiting for the Messiah to come. A reminder that God is always with us and that God has always been. Read Luke 2:1-7, Ask: why do you think God came as one of us? I wonder what God thinks of us? What do you think about God?

Hidden Picture: Again, take off two pieces from the hidden picture. Take turns reading the verses that you have uncovered up until now.

Bible verse: Try playing the game "Find the jars" which you will find in the following pages.

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).

Adventures with GOD!

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

Adventures with GOD!

INFORMATION SHEET

Daniel's prophecy

In Daniel 9:25 we find the prophecy that talks about the birth of the Messiah. The prophecy is not necessarily easy to understand. But God has given us some clues to be able to understand it. Together see if you can answer the clues and find the answer to Daniel's prophecy.

1. In verse 25 there are two sets of time: 7 weeks and 62 weeks. Add them together, how many weeks total?
2. It says these weeks begin, "From the moment that the restoration and reconstruction of Jerusalem was ordered..." Historically we know that the order to restore Jerusalem was given in 444 B.C. in the time of Nehemiah.
3. Another clue we are given is in verse 26 where it says "the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing." The death of Christ occurred around 33 A.D. This is the end of the 69 weeks.
4. How many years between 444 B.C. and 33 A.D.?
5. In the bible prophecy weeks can also be translated as blocks of 7 years. So instead of 69 weeks there are actually 69 blocks of 7 years. What is 69×7 ?
6. As you have now noticed these two numbers do not match. That's because the calendar in the past consisted of 360 days rather than 365 days.
7. Multiply 477 years \times 5 days (the number of actual extra days per year) $477 \times 5 =$ _____
8. Now divide the total number of days from #7 (above) and divide by 365. The number of days in a year 2385 divided by 365 _____.
9. Now add 477 plus the answer from #8. To arrive at the actual number of years between 444 B.C. and 33 A.D., both the prophecy and actual years are now the same. (483)

In this case it is a prophecy of the year Jesus would give up his life for us and rise from the dead. Conquering both sin and death and offering us eternal life with God.

Adventures with GOD!

THE WATER JUG GAME

This is a good game to use to review verses that the children are trying to memorize or have memorized.

Instructions: The girls (Sarah and Maya) have a problem. When they came to the town well to get water for their mothers, their water jugs got mixed up. Each girl has a Bible verse. The water jugs have the words to the two Bible verses. The goal is to find the correct words for each Bible verse and help the girls to be able to take the correct water jug home.

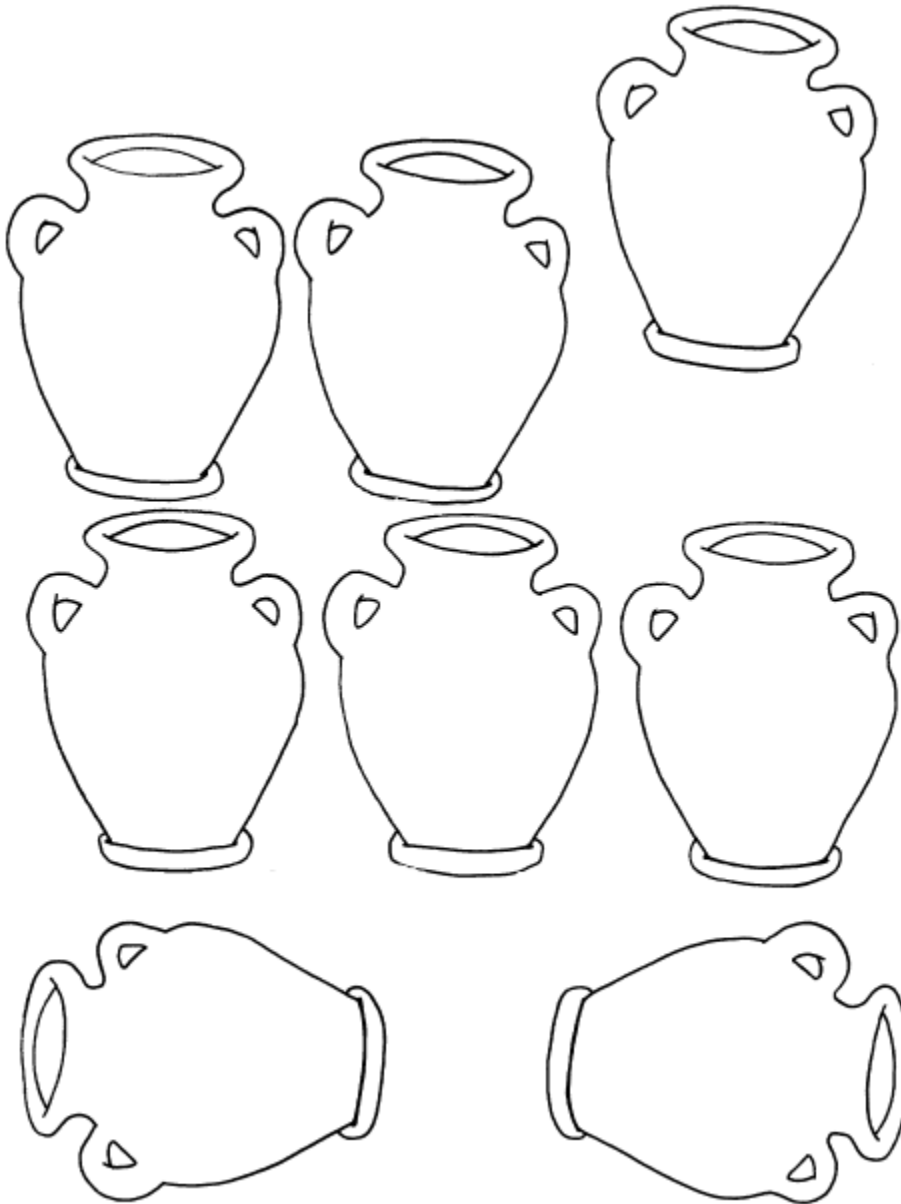
1. Make as many water jug as is needed for all of the words in the two Bible verses (one jug per word). It would be a good idea to laminate the water jugs after they have been made, and use erasable markers so that you can use the jugs more than one time.
2. Also, laminate the figures of the girls and then write the reference for the Bible verses (ex. Mark 1:1, Daniel 6:2) that you want to use (again, use dry erase markers).
3. The correct answers can be written on the backside of the big jug. That way the children can look and see if they've put together the words correctly to form the Bible verses.

Note: The illustrations for this game are found in the following pages.

Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATIONS

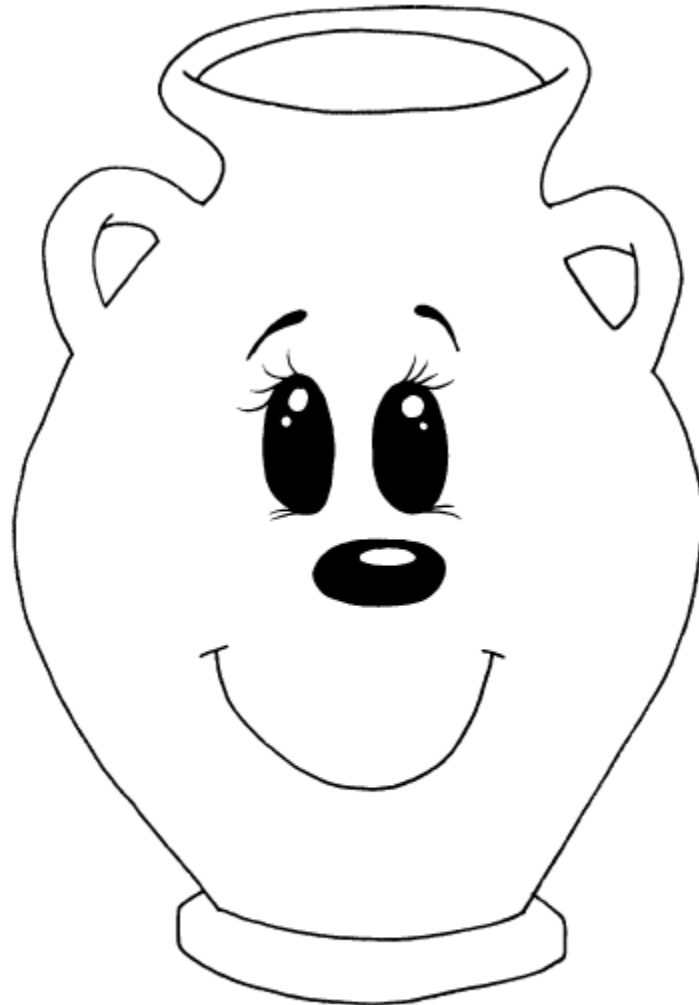
Jars for the game



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ILLUSTRATIONS

Big water jug for the game



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Girls

