

Adventures with GOD!

FLIGHT TO EYGPT (C.1.WINTER.9)

Biblical Reference	Hosea 11:1, Matthew 2:13-15, Luke 2:22-24
Key Verse	Psalms 139:7-12
Key Concept	God is with us wherever we are and no matter what happens.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Explain how the gifts from the magi were part of God's plan to protect Jesus 2. Show on the map the route that Joseph, Mary and Jesus took to Egypt

Life Application

During the Bible story today the children will hear that God fulfills his plans and purposes and nothing and no one can get in the way. Sometimes difficult things do happen and God allows them to happen. Other times things happen that we're sure don't come from God, but we always need to remember that God is in control. It wasn't easy for Joseph to take his family to Egypt, but God had planned it like that. It's possible that Joseph didn't understand why it had to happen like this, but he followed what God had asked him to do. God always uses every circumstance, even the difficult ones, to fulfill the plans that God has for us.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Story	Map, Bible	15 minutes
Hidden Picture		5 minutes
Activity	Work sheets, Bible, pens	15 minutes
My GROW Adventure review	GROW Booklets	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 Psalms? 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 passage?

Activity: How children share stories of the different places they have lived, or furthest place they have visited.

Bible Story: The story today will help them to understand the events that culminated in Jesus and his family having to flee to Egypt. Tell them that after Jesus' birth, his family had several different experiences. Read Luke 2:22-24 together which talk about Jesus' being present at the temple in Jerusalem. Use a copy of the map (enlarged) that you will find in the following pages. Show them where Bethlehem is and where they had to go to present Jesus in the temple. Explain that Jesus' family stayed in Bethlehem and lived there even after Jesus was presented in the temple.



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We don't know why they stayed there, maybe Joseph found a job or because the trip to Nazareth would have been difficult with a new baby. We don't know when the magi came, but we know that Jesus was living in a house with his family. Review the details of the magi's trip Matthew 2:1-12 (we don't know how many there were). Talk about the reaction of Herod when he heard the news of a new Messiah being born and what he requested of the magi. Ask the children what gifts the magi brought to Jesus (see if they remember from last week's lesson). Now read Matthew 2:13-15. Then ask them how Joseph knew he had to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt. What did he have to do to get ready for the trip? Make a list of things that they might have had to pack up. Maybe have them help you draw an illustration of the family fleeing Bethlehem. Show the route on the map that they probably followed to Egypt. How much time do we think they were there? To conclude, talk about how God knew that this would happen and God had made a way for Jesus to escape safely and not be killed by Herod. God is with us always and no matter what happens, whether it's good or bad. It would be good to spend time giving thanks for God and his loving presence in our lives. Let the children pray out loud.

Hidden Picture: Remove the two pieces that contain the Bible verses for today. Have the children repeat the verses and find creative ways to remember them.

Activity: First Christmas review – handout copies of “Who participated in the first Christmas”. Have the class work together and after each answer have children imagine what it would have been like to be one of the people who participated in the first Christmas.

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).

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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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WORK SHEET

Who participated in the first Christmas? There were many people who played important roles in the arrival of Jesus. Some announced his coming, others came to adore him, and others took care of him. Write the letter (that precedes the name), in the space that corresponds with the correct description. Use the verses to verify your answers.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| A. JOHN | ___1. Told Mary she would have a baby (Luke 1:26-31) |
| B. MULTITUDE OF ANGELS | ___2. Jesus' mother (Luke 2:5-7) |
| C. GABRIEL | ___3. Jesus' father (Luke 1:35) |
| D. WISE MEN | ___4. Married to Mary (Matt. 1:24) |
| E. JOSEPH | ___5. This unborn baby jumped with joy (Luke 1:44-60) |
| F. HEROD | ___6. Demanded a census (Luke 2:1) |
| G. MARY | ___7. Brought good news to the shepherds (Luke 2:10) |
| H. SIMEON | ___8. Praised God (Luke 2:13-15) |
| I. GOD | ___9. Went quickly to Bethlehem to see the child (Luke 2:15-16) |
| J. CESAR AGUSTUS | ___10. Lived long enough to see Jesus (Luke 2:25-32) |
| K. SHEPHERDS | ___11. Saw the star and came to worship Jesus (Matt. 2:1-11) |
| L. THE ANGEL | ___12. The king who wanted to kill Jesus. (Matt. 2:13) |

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WORK SHEET

Answers: Who participated in the first Christmas?

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|------------------------|--|
| A. JOHN | __C__ 1. Told Mary she would have a baby (Luke 1:26-31) |
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| E. JOSEPH | __A__ 5. This unborn baby jumped with joy (Luke 1:44-60) |
| F. HEROD | __J__ 6. Demanded a census (Luke 2:1) |
| G. MARY | __L__ 7. Brought good news to the shepherds (Luke 2:10) |
| H. SIMEON | __B__ 8. Praised God (Luke 2:13-15) |
| I. GOD | __K__ 9. Went quickly to Bethlehem to see the child (Luke 2:15-16) |
| J. CESAR AGUSTUS | __H__ 10. Lived long enough to see Jesus (Luke 2:25-32) |
| K. SHEPHERDS | __D__ 11. Saw the star and came to worship Jesus (Matt. 2:1-11) |
| L. THE ANGEL | __F__ 12. The king who wanted to kill Jesus (Matt. 2:13) |

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MAP

It's good for the children to see the map and visualize what Joseph had to do to take his family from Bethlehem to Egypt. They can learn many things by looking at the map of ancient Israel. Make sure to enlarge the map so that it is easy to see. Note the city of Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Egypt. Laminate the map so that the children can write on it with erasable markers. Have them draw a line between the different cities to see the journeys that Jesus' family took before he was born and when he was just a small baby. (Nazareth to Bethlehem, Bethlehem to Jerusalem, Jerusalem to Bethlehem, Bethlehem to Egypt).

