

Adventures with GOD!

GOD GAVE ME A BEST FRIEND IN JESUS (A.1.Spring.11)

Biblical Reference	John 11:1-44
Key Verse	John 15:14
Key Concept	The best friend that God gave me is Jesus
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Name some things their friend Jesus does2. Tell the story of the friendship between Jesus and Lazarus, Mary and Martha3. Explain that Jesus is real even though we can't see him

Life Application

For children of this age, it's easy to understand what is visible and concrete. It's difficult for children of this age to understand things that are invisible like the wind, God, etc. This week the parents will help their children to recognize that invisible things are also real. It's important to talk about Jesus everyday and explain that even though we can't see him he is real.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible story	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Drama		10 minutes
Dialogue	Fan	5 minutes
Game	Different picture of Jesus hidden in the room	10 minutes
Craft	Paper, crayons	10 minutes
Invitation	Paper hearts, crayons	10 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Note: It will be very important to involve the parents in following up this week's lesson. Ask them to help their children name things that are real, even if we can't see them (wind, electricity, the sun's rays, etc). Send a note with the children, or talk to the parents individually to encourage them to talk with their children about Jesus, reminding them that even though we can't see him, he is real.

Opening Prayer

Gather children around a 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. Light the candle

Prayer: God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible story: Tell the story of Jesus' friendship with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha using illustrations that you are able to find from a children's Bible, or other sources. You could also draw different scenes from the story. It's important to emphasize that Jesus loved these friends so much that he brought Lazarus back from the dead. You will find the story in the appendix for this trimester.

Drama: To reinforce the story, let them act it out. Choose people to play the different roles. Mary and Martha can find someone and send them to get Jesus. When Jesus arrives, Mary and Martha will be crying. Then, the child who plays the part of Jesus can say in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The child who is playing Lazarus can come out of some hidden place and the rest of the children can be the friends and family that are grieving by the tomb.

Dialogue: If it's possible, have a fan in the room that you can turn on and use to talk about the wind that exists but we can't see it. Or if you don't have a room fan use a hand fan to produce a breeze that they can feel. Use this time to talk about the fact that even though we can't see Jesus, he is real and he wants to be our friend.

Game: Before class, collect a bunch of different pictures and images of Jesus. Before the children come into class, hide the pictures. The children can find the pictures of Jesus. Then, explain that even though we don't see Jesus, he is always with us.

Craft: Make a copy of the craft found in the following pages and instruct the children to draw their own picture of Jesus.

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Invitation: Each person has to make a decision whether or not they will believe in Jesus and invite him to be the center of their lives as their Savior. Today would be a great opportunity to extend the invitation to the children. You can cut out a heart and fold it in half, and give one to each child. Inside of the heart, have the Bible verse or something else that reminds them that Jesus loves them and wants to be in their lives. If there is a child that wants to pray and ask Jesus to be his or her Savior, help them to express this through prayer. You can end your time together by singing a song that talks about Jesus as Savior, friend, etc. It would be good to pray together and end your time thinking about and talking about Jesus, who wants to be our friend and Savior.

Closing Prayer

Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

Prayer: Thank you God for loving us, Thank you God for sending your son Jesus into the world.

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CRAFT

Jesus is the best friend

When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and be our Savior, he accepts our invitation. Some day we will see Jesus face-to-face. Right now we trust that he is with us even when we can't see him. Draw a picture of yourself next to Jesus in the space below. Show how you feel when you think about Jesus' love and the fact that he forgives all of your sins.



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CRAFT

Necklace – I love Jesus

Make a bunch of hearts about the size of the one below, using card stock of different colors. Also cut out some small hearts that they can use to decorate the big heart. Give each child a big heart with the words, "I LOVE JESUS" written on it. Let them color it and glue on the other small hearts. When they've finished decorating it, make a small hole in the top and then put a long piece of yarn through it, tying it together to make a necklace.

While they are working, tell them that Jesus loves them so much and he wants us to love him. He wants to be our friend. He wants to be our Savior.

