

Adventures with GOD!

GOD GAVE ME A BEST FRIEND IN JESUS

(A.1.Spring.12)

Biblical Reference	Luke 18:15-17
Key Verse	John 3:15
Key Concept	I can invite Jesus into my life to be my best friend
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Name their best friend 2. Tell where Jesus lives 3. Give thanks to God for Jesus

Life Application

This week the children will hear that Jesus wants to be their best friend. A child of three or four years old can understand the significance of faith. It's important to talk to them about Jesus, who wants to be our friend, who is always with us, who loves us and listens to us even when we can't see him. This week the children will have the experience of recognizing that Jesus is someone real even though they can't see him.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Silhouette of a face, noses, mouths, hair, tape	10 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible story	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Craft	Popsicle/craft sticks, crayons, colored paper	15 minutes
Game	A big drawing of Jesus, me, puppets, tape	15 minutes
Prayer and song	Mirror, illustration	10 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: Before class, make a silhouette of a big face (basically make a big circle). If it's possible laminate the circle or use contact paper to laminate it. You can also cut out different noses, eyes, ears, mouths, hair, etc. Tell the children to pick one or two things to put on the face. Talk about how each of them have different features, that no one is exactly alike. End the introduction time talking about how Jesus wants to be our friend and it doesn't matter what we look like, or if we have big eyes or little eyes. He loves us as we are.

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 when the children came to Jesus. Tell them about how the disciples reacted, but focus on Jesus' reaction. We can imagine that Jesus received the children with smiles and hugs. He was kind and loving with them. He continues to be a very special friend to children today. Check out the appendix for more ideas for this Bible story.

Craft: With a popsicle or craft stick for each child, help them to make a "me" puppet. They can use colored paper to make the face or clothes. Help them to cut and glue the things onto the stick. Put the child's name on his or her puppet. You will find other craft ideas on the following pages. In one of the options the children will need more help folding and unfolding the paper.

Game: Explain that they can be like the children who want to see Jesus. The game consists in that they need to find the picture of Jesus. Before the class, make a big image/drawing of Jesus and tape it to one of the walls in your classroom. You can change the game, depending on the kids in your class. If the children are older they can ask questions about the story and about the Bible verse and if they answer correctly they can take a step towards Jesus. Or you could cover their eyes and they could try to get to Jesus without seeing (make sure there is tape on their "me" puppet so they can hold it out and stick it on the figure of Jesus). There are a number of different ways to make the game interesting for the children. Finish your time together, singing "Jesus loves me." Show the children their reflection in the mirror as they sing the song.

Closing Prayer

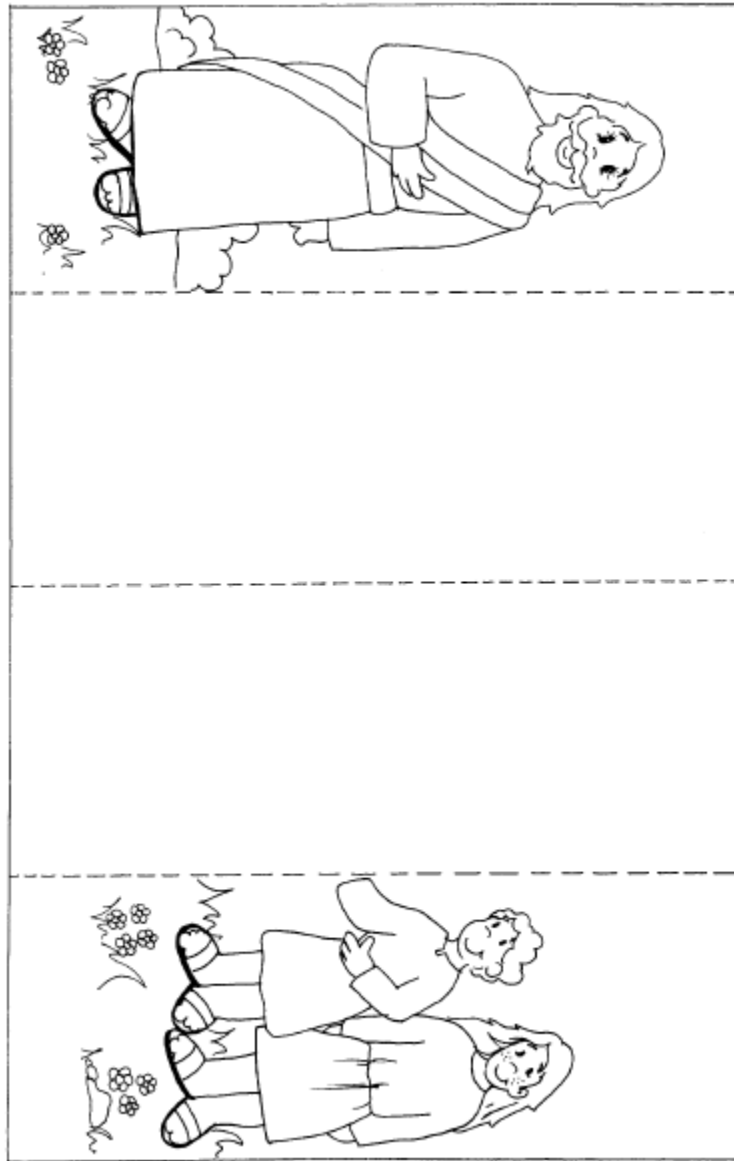
Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

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

Adventures with GOD!

CRAFT

Make a copy for each child. Help them to cut out the square and then fold the paper along the dotted lines, like an accordion. The children can practice folding and unfolding to see how the children get close to Jesus. As they play with it, you can remind them that Jesus wants to be their friend.



Adventures with GOD!

CRAFT

Jesus loves you and wants you to love him. Color the picture and tell your friends that you have a friend named Jesus.

