

Adventures with GOD!

GOD GAVE ME THE CHURCH (A.1.Spring.9)

Biblical Reference	Acts 4:42-47
Key Verse	Romans 12:5
Key Concept	The church that God gave me is a sign of God's love.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain in their words what the church is2. Tell one or two things that the first believers did together in Jerusalem3. Tell who the most important person in the church is

Life Application

Adults, just as much as children, have difficulty in understanding that the church is not a building or a belief system. The church is all of us who have put our faith in Jesus Christ. This week the children will take a picture home that will help them remember that they are a part of God's church.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Activity	Paper, crayons	5 minutes
Bible story	Paints, markers, colored paper, fabric, Bible	10 minutes
Craft	Scissors, fabric or paper, paint, crayons	15 minutes
Activity	Crayons, paper, scissors	10 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

Adventures with GOD!

INSTRUCTIONS

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)

Activity: Each child should have a piece of blank paper. Help them to draw a picture of the church they attend (focus on the building). Later you will use these drawings for another activity, so be sure to write the child's name on their drawing. If the children are too young, you draw the picture of the church and have them color it.

Bible story: Make some finger puppets, using the middle finger, ring finger and pinky. Draw a face on each of these fingers. When it's time to tell the story interlace the fingers of both hands, so that the fingers are on the inside, not showing. Show them your thumbs and say, "This is the door." Then point the index fingers up, making sure they touch and say, "This is the roof or the steeple." Then, flip your hand over and wiggle your fingers that have the faces drawn on them and say, "This is the church." (This is a variation of the famous finger game, "This is the church; this is the steeple). Teach them how to do it with you. If there is time draw the faces on their fingers as well. Talk to them about the fact that the church isn't a building. We are the church!

The most important person in the church is Jesus. Obviously the children can't see Jesus, but they can begin to understand that Jesus is the center of everything we do as the church. Remember to talk about Jesus as you talk about the church to help them remember that Jesus established the church and is with us, the church today.

Maybe end your story time with a song, you can use the words below and make up your own melody and actions.

"I am the church. You are the church. Together we are the church. All those who believe in Jesus; together we are the church."

Adventures with GOD!

Craft: Gather some different kinds and colors of fabric to make a big banner with the children. This banner can be used in your sanctuary. It can have the words, “Jesus lives! Jesus is coming!” or some symbol of our faith like the cross, a butterfly (symbol of new life), etc. You can use colors that also tell our story of faith (purple – a royal color, gold – reminds us of God in heaven, green – new life). Many banners are made of felt, or another type of material that is cut into a long panel. Have the children help you glue the words or symbols on the banner.

Activity: If it’s possible get a photo of each child. If it isn’t possible, draw a picture of each child and put his or her name under it. The photo or picture should be no more than 4 cm x 4 cm and it will be glued into the picture of the church building they colored earlier. Help them to remember that they are part of the church.

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!

ILLUSTRATION



Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATION

