

Adventures with GOD!

APPENDIX (A.1.SPRING)

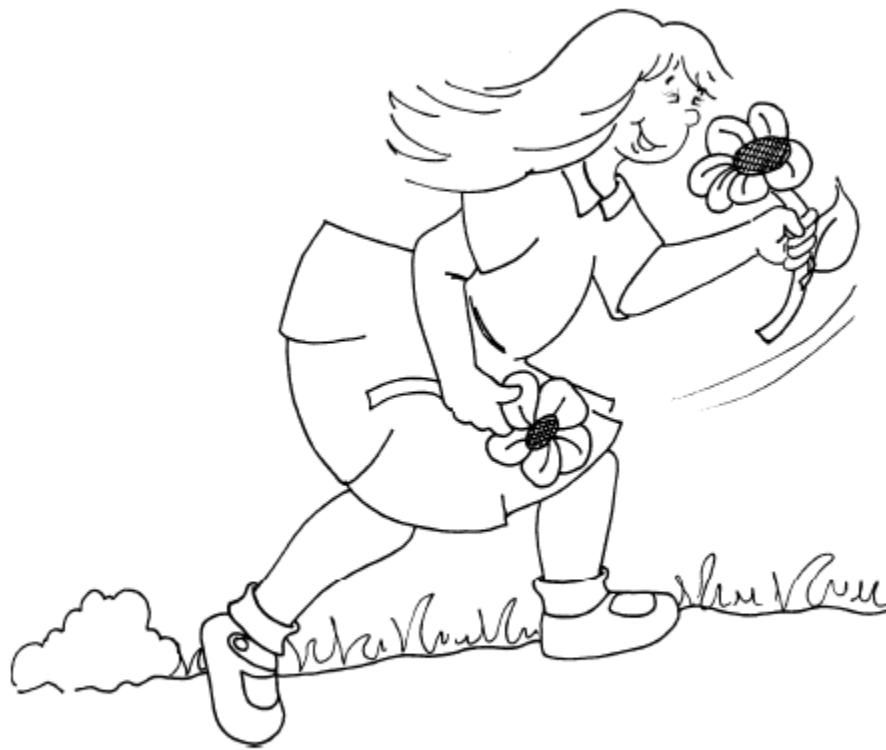
ILLUSTRATIONS OF CHILDREN



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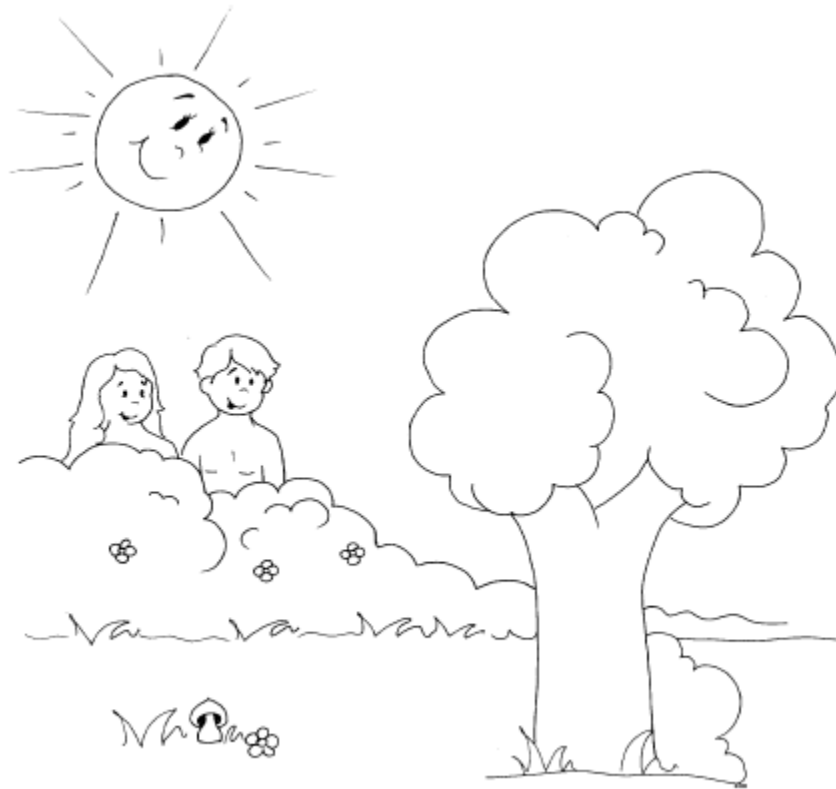
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BIBLE STORIES

A.1.Spring.1

As you cut out the paper figures, say “I can make dolls out of paper.” (make a figure of a child). “I can make many dolls out of paper.” (show them the chain of figures). “I can make many things, but I can’t make a real live person. Only God can create a person.”

“This book (show the Bible) is the most special book in the world because it tells us many important things about God. For example (open the book in Genesis), it tells us that God made the first humans. The first man was named Adam. Do you know how God made him? God took some mud from the earth and formed his body. (take play doh or modeling clay and make a body). God made Adam’s hands and mouth (ask the children to show you their hands and their mouth). God made his ears, eyes, feet...God made the first person and then God breathed life into him. I can make a person out of paper and out of play doh, but only God can make a person like you.”



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A.1.SPRING.2

Who made the first person? God! The Bible says that God formed the person's body with God's own hands. And what did Adam's body have? Arms, ears, eyes, mouth, hands and feet – he had everything that you have.

Use a puppet here, made out of a wooden spoon, or any other material.

In the Bible (open it), we are told the story of a man named Moses.

“Hi, my name is Moses. Something very strange happened to me one day. I was in the countryside watching my sheep (show a picture or a stuffed animal of a lamb) when suddenly I saw a very strange bush. (Show a picture of a bush, or bring in a plant.) There are a lot of different bushes in the countryside, but this one was different than all the others. Do you know why? It was full of fire! (Find a creative way to illustrate fire, maybe using a piece of red paper or red cloth in front of a flashlight, or lighting a candle). I looked at the fire for a long time. The bush didn't burn up. I got closer, when all of a sudden the bush began to talk to me. It was God talking to me from the bush that was burning with fire. God told me he had a job for me. But I told him that I wasn't very good at talking in front of people. How could I do something for God? But, God told me something so wonderful. God told me, 'I will be with you when you have to talk and I will give you the words to say.' I was so happy because God made my mouth and God was going to tell me what to say. Our God is so big and so loving with us.”



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A.1.SPRING.3

One day Jesus, the Son of God, was walking when he heard someone say, “Jesus, help me.” When he heard his name he looked for the person that was calling him and saw a person sitting on the floor. He realized that the man could not see. He was blind. (Have the children close their eyes for a moment and think about all the things they wouldn’t be able to see, if they were like the blind man: trees, flowers, people, friends, birds).

The people that were there said to the blind man, “Be quiet. Don’t bother Jesus.” But the blind man yelled even louder, “Jesus, help me!”

So Jesus stopped and said to his friends, “Bring him to me.”

They called the man who couldn’t see and said to him, “Come, stand up. Jesus is calling you.”

The blind man got up, took his mat and with a jump moved towards Jesus (have the children get up and jump too.)

Jesus asked, “What do you want? What can I do for you?”

The man said, “I want to see!”

Jesus said, “Then by your faith in me you are healed.” And in this moment the blind man could see (Close your eyes and then open them. Imagine how surprised you are by all you see.) Do you know what the blind man did? He followed Jesus. God made our eyes and Jesus, the Son of God, healed the eyes of the blind man. How big and great is our God!



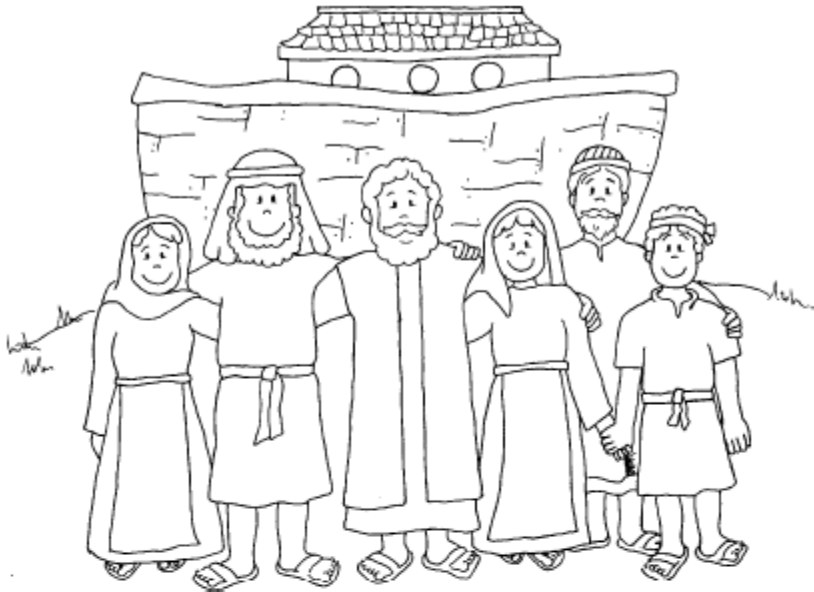
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A.1.SPRING.4



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A.1.SPRING.5



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A.1.SPRING.6

Ask someone from your congregation (a teenager or adult) to help with this story. They should memorize the dialogue and act it out with enthusiasm. They can get dressed up in “typical dress” (use sheets, a towel on their head, etc.)

Andrew: “Hi, my name is Andrew and I want to tell you something interesting that happened. One day when I was with some friends and our leader, John the Baptist, suddenly John saw a man and said, “That is Jesus and he is the Son of God.” I thought about it for a moment, but then I went over to talk to Jesus. We didn’t know what to say when he asked us, “What are you looking for?” We said, “Where do you live?” And Jesus said, “Come and see.” We were with him the whole day, talking together and getting to know him.”

Peter: What a surprise it was when my brother Andrew came up to me and said, “Come and meet my friend Jesus.” I went with Andrew and when we found Jesus he told me things about myself that I didn’t know how he knew. He called me Peter, which means rock, even though my name was Simon. You know what? Jesus was and is the Son of God. I’m so thankful for my brother Andrew who introduced me to him.”

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A.1.SPRING.7

Who is your best friend? (listen to their answers.) The Bible (open it with care and show it to the children, allowing them to touch the pages) tells us about two young men, David and Jonathan. They were best friends. They were always together. They were almost like brothers. They loved each other so much.

One day, Jonathan heard that someone was going to hurt his friend David. Jonathan was very sad and tried to think about how to help his friend. They finally came up with a sign or a signal.

What is a sign? Well, a stop light is a sign? When the light is green it means the cars can go. When it's red the cars need to stop. There are many other things that are signs too. If I do this (wave your hands like you are calling someone to come to you), the other person knows I want him or her to come to me, right?

Well, David and Jonathan decided to use a sign so David would know when he was in danger. Jonathan loved his friend and didn't want to see him hurt. So, one day they were playing when Jonathan made the signal and David knew he had to go to escape the danger.

Jonathan saved the life of his friend. God gives us our friends and we love them and look out for their best, just like Jonathan did for David.

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A.1.SPRING.8

Use the illustration that you used last week and ask, “What were the names of the friends we heard about last week? David and Jonathan. Is there a David in our group? Do we have a boy named Jonathan in our church?”

David and Jonathan were best friends. Jonathan saved the life of his friend David by using a signal to let him know his life was in danger.

The Bible tells us that many years later David could show his love for Jonathan in a very interesting way. Jonathan was the son of a king and while he was fighting an important battle he was killed. David, the new king was so sad to hear about the death of his friend. He asked if Jonathan had any children. David’s servants told him that he had a son named Mephibosheth. What a difficult name to say. It’s possible that Mephibosheth was very scared to know that his father and his grandfather had been killed. He didn’t know what to do. He was all alone.

When David heard about Mephibosheth, he called for him and when he met him he said, “Now you will come and live in the palace with me. You will eat with me and you will never need to be fearful again. I loved your father and I will love you too.”

David was a good friend of Jonathan’s and became like a father to Mephibosheth. God gives us friends and we can thank God for the friends we have.

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A.1.SPRING.9

The church isn't a building. It isn't a temple. The church is the people that love God and love God's son, Jesus. You are part of the church! I am part of the church. God gave us the church. It is like a family with many people who love Jesus.

The Bible tells us the story of the first church. The Bible says that Jesus loves us and has given us the church to help us know him better.

What do we do as a church? (Let the children answer). In the church we can sing, we can pray, we can listen to stories about God and about Jesus. In the church we have good friends. The church is a very special place. When I'm with others in the church I feel happy? How do you feel?

We can say thank you to God for our church, for our friends in our congregation.

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A.1.SPRING.10

Use finger puppets and have the following conversation.

“Hi, my name is Juan. I like to be with my friends at church. Here I learn about Jesus. I have learned that Jesus loves me and is my best friend. I have learned that God gave me a body, my family, and my friends. Thank you God for giving me such wonderful things.”

“My name is Sarah. I am also happy to be a part of the church. I want to say thank you to God. God made my eyes, my hands, my nose. He gave me my family. He gave me my grandparents, my aunts and uncles and cousins. God also gave me the church.”

“Hello Sarah. It’s great to see you. I always look for you because you are a good friend. Jesus is my best friend. But you are a very special friend. I’m glad to be with you and hear stories that our teacher tells us.”

“David, how wonderful that you have come today. I thank God because you are a special part of the church. I am part of the church. We all love Jesus and we are part of the church. Thank you God for giving me the church.”

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A.1.SPRING.11

Open your Bible, before you tell the story.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus lived on earth he had some very special friends. Their names were Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (have the children repeat the names).

Jesus visited them often and loved to be in his friends' home. Sometimes he would have lunch with them and stay with them when he was passing through.

One day something very sad happened. Lazarus, Jesus' friend, got sick. He died. Mary and Martha were very sad. When Jesus came to see them he cried with them. But then Jesus did a miracle. He went to Lazarus's tomb and called, "Lazarus!" and Lazarus came out of the tomb alive.

Jesus loved his friends very much and he was very sad when his friend had died. How amazing that he gave him life again. Jesus was a good friend of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus and he is our special friend too.

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A.1.SPRING.12

One day our best friend, Jesus, was in the countryside with his friends when some people came to see him. The people wanted to hear him and see a miracle. There were also a lot of children that came. They wanted to get close to Jesus too. They wanted to be close because Jesus was a very kind and good person.

Jesus saw them and said, "You are my friends. I love you. You can be with me when you want. No one can stop you because I want to be with you."

Jesus is our best friend. We can be with him when we pray, when we're playing, when we're eating or when we're sleeping. Even though we can't see him, he is there.

Jesus love us!