

# Adventures with GOD!

## THE SON OF GOD (B.1.SPRING.1)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 21:33-46
Key Verse	John 15:5
Key Concept	God loves me and that's why God announced the coming of Jesus as a gift for my life.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain what the evil workers did in the parable</li> <li>2. Give thanks to God for sending Jesus</li> <li>3. Explain what it means to be branches united to the vine that is Jesus</li> </ol>

### Life Application

Many times Jesus used stories related with events and objects in everyday life to teach important concepts about God's kingdom. It's interesting to see how God tries to get our attention so that we too can be part of God's kingdom. Jesus came because the other servants of God (prophets) were rejected when they announced his coming. This week the children will think about different ways they can serve in God's kingdom.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Decoration		5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Craft	Paper, crayons, scissors, glue	10 minutes
Bible Story	Bible, visual aid	15 minutes
Prayer and song		10 minutes
Craft	Paper strips, straws, glue, markers	20 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Decoration:** In the center of the room, place plant or some dry branches; this will represent the wood beam that Jesus was crucified on. It will also be the place where you hang the symbols each week (found in the introduction). If it's possible put it up on a chair or table (symbolizing Golgotha). Each week you will place a symbol on the branches, which represent the important last events in Jesus' life here on earth. Today the symbol will be grapes. Make the symbol in advance and ask a child to hang it on a branch (maybe during prayer time).

**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 Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this story? 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 story?

**Craft:** When the children arrive, they can begin by coloring the sheet with grapes and writing the verse for the day at the bottom of the page. If some of the children finish early, they can make a puzzle out of the sheet they've colored. They can then take it apart and put it together and learn the Bible verse. If possible, have some contact paper available so that you can make the puzzle pieces last longer.

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**Introduction:** Using the picture of the grapes (or real grapes), explain some of the words in the Bible verse that may be difficult for the children. You can also introduce the theme for the trimester – The son of God.

**Bible Story:** Each week a different “disciple” will be telling the Bible story from his point of view. This week’s narrator will be Judas (not Iscariot). It would be great to involve someone from the congregation to play this role, dressing up in costume and everything. He could begin by saying something like, “One time when we were walking with our friend Jesus, he began to tell us a story. I love stories, especially the ones Jesus would tell. His stories had important lessons for us. Sometimes I didn’t understand exactly what he was saying and the other disciples would have to explain it to me. Peter always had an answer even though sometimes Jesus said it was the wrong one. But, in this occasion Jesus began to tell us something interesting about a rich owner of a vineyard....”

Important aspects of the story are:

1. The story itself – the details (people and what happened)
2. What the story means (who was the owner of the vineyard, who was the vine, who were the servants)?
3. Why did Jesus tell the story?

Judas can use the same figures or illustration of grapes that the children colored, to tell the story.

**Prayer and song:** Encourage the children to pray out loud, using short phrases. Set an example for them, praying something like, “Father God, thank you for sending Jesus into the world. My friends what to thank you for many other things.” Then the children can pray and give thanks. If there is a child who doesn’t want to pray out loud, allow them to pray silently and create that space for them.

A simple song that can follow the prayer can be one that talks about God sending Jesus or about Jesus’ coming. One simple song is “God is so good.” Each week you could add another verse (God loves me, Jesus died for me, etc)

“God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, God’s so good to me...”

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**Craft:** The children will make a scroll and each week they will add another phrase to the scroll. These are phrases that Jesus used to tell who he was. They start with the words, "I am..." Today they will write the words "I am the vine." Follow the instructions given in the introduction to the trimester.

## **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).

**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. Today the children can give thanks to God for the guidance and directions that we have been given in the Bible, by our leaders and our parents. Before praying, reflect for a few minutes on the advantage that we have today to have the word of God which gives us direction. Remind them that we are all given the decision to choose the path that follows God. We each have to choose. 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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SYMBOL

Grapes

