

Adventures with GOD!

JESUS WITH HIS DISCIPLES (B.1.SPRING.11)

Biblical Reference	John 20:24-29, 21:1-14
Key Verse	John 20:29, Revelation 1:17
Key Concept	I can't see Jesus, but I know that he lives and that he's given me eternal life.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain why we can believe in the resurrection 2. Tell the Bible story 3. Explain why Jesus said that those who believe in him without seeing him are blessed

Life Application

Many people saw Jesus after he was raised from the dead. He talked with his disciples, he walked with them and Thomas touched him. Knowing this evidence, the children can feel sure that Jesus is alive and that he fulfills his promises. The story today will help them have faith in Jesus as their faithful friend.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Decoration	Pictures of Fish, poles, bait	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Craft	Paper, crayons, scissors, glue	10 minutes
Bible Story	Bible, illustration	10 minutes
Craft	Scrolls, pens, markers	5 minutes
Game		10 minutes
Drama		15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

Adventures with GOD!

INSTRUCTIONS

Decoration: If it's possible, find a few things that you need to go fishing (poles, bait, etc.) and pictures of fish. Decorate the space with these things.

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)

Craft: As they arrive they will see the decoration and begin to ask what it's all about. Don't answer questions, just ask them to color the symbol of the fish and write the verse on it. Spend time learning the verse with them.

Bible Story: Thomas is the disciple who will tell the story of when Jesus appeared to his friends on different occasions. The most exciting part is when Thomas says he doesn't believe in the resurrection if he can't touch the wounds in Jesus' feet and hands and touch the spot where the sword pierced his side. Poor Thomas, when the moment of truth came what must he have felt? The person who plays the role of Thomas should do so with much feeling and create a sense of drama. The children should feel what it was like for the disciples to see their friend who had just died three days before. There are various stories of when Jesus appeared to his friends that Thomas can tell. He can also help them think about what it was like when Jesus appeared to 500 people at one time. The important thing is that Thomas encourages the children to believe in Jesus, even if they can't see him. (The stories of the appearance of Jesus to his friends are found in Matthew 28:24-29, John 21:1-14, 1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

Craft: Add the following phrase to the scroll: "I am the first and the last."

Adventures with GOD!

Drama: After they've heard the story of Thomas, divide the class into two or three groups. Each group can come up with a drama of one of the stories they've heard today about Jesus appearing to his friends. It would be great to have some props and costumes available (sheets, towels, scarves, etc.)

Game: In the following pages you will find instructions for a game called "fishing".

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

Adventures with GOD!

CRAFT

Fish

After the resurrection Jesus went to the beach and waited for his friends when they were fishing. Jesus made breakfast while he was waiting. Jesus prepared fish to eat. It was the best breakfast the disciples had ever had.

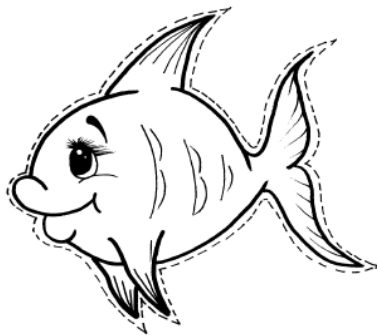
Materials: 20 or more fish cut out of colored paper, markers, magnets, pens, paper clips, big sheet (blue), thread/yarn

Instructions:

1. Put a paper clip on each fish.
2. Write the names of the 12 disciples on each fish as well as others like Mary Magdalene, Martha, Lazarus, John the Baptist, Herod, Pilate, pharisees, the young rich man, etc.
3. Cut long pieces of thread/yarn to make a fishing line. Attach one end to a pen/pencil and the other end to a magnet.
4. Put a large sheet or piece of paper on the floor and disperse the fish on top of it.

How to play:

1. Each child should have a fishing line (or share one with another person) and a plastic bag.
2. They can fish, keeping only those people who were friends with Jesus. The others have to be thrown back in the water.
3. The game continues until all of the fish with the names of Jesus' friends have been caught.



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SYMBOL

Fish



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ILLUSTRATION



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