

Adventures with GOD!

THE DISCIPLES AFTER THE ASCENSION (B.1.SPRING.13)

Biblical Reference	Acts 1:12-26
Key Verse	Acts 1:22
Key Concept	Even though Jesus is sitting on the throne next to his father in heaven, I can follow him and be a part of his mission.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name the disciple that took Judas's place and explain how he was chosen 2. Comment on the commission that Jesus gave the disciples 3. Express how they can participate in Jesus' mission in the world

Life Application

Each time we read the Bible we have to understand that God wants to use our lives to show others his love. The children in your class not only need to understand the Bible stories, but apply them to their lives. Today they will learn about Matthias, who was chosen to replace Judas and joined the other disciples, giving testimony to Jesus' resurrection. They will learn that they too can be a part of Jesus' mission in the world.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Straws, pieces of paper, names	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Review	Illustration, scrolls, Bible	10 minutes
Bible story	Bible, illustration	10 minutes
Activity	Paper, crayons, scissors, glue, straws	10 minutes
Presentation	Music, verses, crafts, tree/branches, symbols	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: The focus of the class today is the election of Matthias as the new disciple. At the same time you will talk about how we are all disciples when we've put our faith in Jesus and decide to follow him. We have been chosen to participate in God's mission in the world, the same commission Jesus gave his disciples. The story of how they chose Matthias is very interesting and there are a number of things you can do to prepare to hear the story.

When the children arrive, each child can receive the name of one of the disciples (write it on tape and put it on their backs). The other children can give them clues about the name on their back until each child can guess who they are. If there are a lot of children in your class, include names like Mary Magdalene, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, etc. Play until each child has guessed the name on their back. Or if this is too difficult select and copy the following pictures from the previews lessons: cross, tomb, and fish. Jesus used these instead of the names of disciples.

Then, invite them to sit down as they are going to elect certain people. You can do it in different ways to show them how people are elected. For example, you can have a bunch of strips of paper cut up and have them each pick one and the person who picks the longest strip is chosen. You can do the same with straws. You can roll dice. You can think of a number or animal and have each person guess. Do it a couple of different ways and then talk about the ways that we elect people in government, for example.

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)

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Review: If it's possible take them to a different space, or part of the room to do the review. Repeat the Bible verses, songs, ask them about the symbols on the tree/branches, etc.

Bible Story: Today's disciple is a surprise, because they haven't heard about this disciple before. His name is Matthias and he was elected by the 11 disciples to replace Judas. Read the story ahead of time and think about how his character should be portrayed. He can share that he was with Jesus from the beginning and that he participated with Jesus in his ministry. He saw miracles, listened to teachings, saw Jesus after the resurrection, etc. Matthias can talk about the tension he felt as he was being elected. Focus on the following:

1. Jesus gave his followers a mission, to share the good news with the world and make disciples
2. The disciples felt they needed to replace Judas with someone who had been a part of Jesus' followers
3. Matthias was elected in a very interesting way
4. God was directing the election of Matthias
5. We have the same commission that Jesus' first disciples had
6. God has chosen us

Craft: You can use this time to make one of the crafts from the previous lessons that you haven't had the opportunity to make.

Presentation: Today it would be interesting to do a presentation for another class or for the parents. The children can share in fun ways what they've learned, using the tree/symbols, the scrolls, sharing Bible verses and songs, etc.

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).

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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