

Adventures with GOD!

JESUS HEALS A CHILD (C.1.Spring.10)

Biblical Reference	John 4:46-54
Key Verse	John 20:30-31
Key Concept	The miracles that Jesus performed were signs of his authority over things that God had created and were done to help people believe in him.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Answer the question: Why did Jesus perform miracles? 2. Give a quick summary of the events that happened in the first year of Jesus' ministry 3. Compare the people who believed in Jesus: Why did they believe? What was the result of their faith?

Life Application: Again we see Jesus moved with compassion for a person who is suffering. It's interesting to see in the previous story that the people of the town believed in Jesus simply because of what he said. Now, in his own town, Jesus had to do miracles for the people to believe in him. The children in your class might be able to relate to the fact that sometimes we want something concrete (a miracle) to base our faith on. True faith is a faith that believes that Jesus is God not just for what he does. Jesus keeps asking, "If you don't see signs and miracles, won't you believe?"

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Poster board, pens, old magazines, glue, scissors, worksheets, symbols, Bible	20 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible story	A helper, Bible, map, questions, white board or poster board, markers	20 minutes
Conclusion	White board, Bible verse, timeline of Jesus' ministry, new symbol	20 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

Adventures with GOD!

INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: As an introduction to the class today, the children will do one or two activities. They can make a collage using symbols or images from old magazines that express something about Jesus' first year of ministry or the everyday miracles of God in nature. Make sure to have enough magazines or news papers that they can cut up. You can also use illustrations from this curriculum that you've used in past lessons.

If they want they can also color the worksheet that is in the following page. Also, as you've been talking about salvation over the past couple of weeks, invite them to draw a representation of God's salvation. Give them poster board and markers. Talk about everyday miracles from God. Our life, cuts that heal, Gods creation – trees, animals, water, mountains, stars.

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

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? 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?

Adventures with GOD!

Bible Story: On a map, show them the route that Jesus took to get to Galilee after Samaria. Help them remember that Jesus always traveled by foot and that's why he had so much time to talk with his disciples as they traveled. It was a great time for him to teach them things that they would later teach others. Invite them to go outside of the classroom and take a walk, either around the church or outside.

It would be great to tell them today's story as you're on your walk. It might be difficult for some children to hear, so you could stop in one place to rest and tell them the story there. Talk about how sometimes it was difficult and frustrating to have their trips interrupted by someone asking for help. Imagine what Jesus must have felt when this official came up to him to ask him to heal his son. Ask:

Why did the official ask Jesus for help? (maybe he had heard about Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine, since this happened in Galilee)

Was Jesus so famous just from the one miracle he did?

Why didn't Jesus go with the man to heal his son?

What must Jesus have felt as he listened to the child's father?

Why did Jesus choose to heal that child and not other children?

When did the father believe?

Why did Jesus perform the miracle?

If it's not easy to ask the questions as you walk, ask them when you get back to the classroom and when everyone is sitting down.

Conclusion: During this part you can add a symbol to the timeline, pray, memorize.

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)

Adventures with GOD!

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. 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!

ILLUSTRATION

The official asks Jesus for help

