

Adventures with GOD!

MINISTRY IN SAMARIA (C.1.Spring.9)

Biblical Reference	John 4:28-42
Key Verse	John 4:41-42
Key Concept	I receive God's salvation when I declare for myself that I believe in Jesus.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the story of the Samaritan woman and how she influenced the people in her town 2. Explain the significance of John 4:42 for our lives today (each person has to believe, not just because someone else has said so, but because he or she has encountered Jesus) 3. Evaluate the methods and results that Jesus used in Samaria.

Life Application

It's not sufficient for a person to know about Jesus through others or because they have the habit of reading the Bible. It's necessary that each person experience this precious change that comes with knowing Jesus personally. To experience this, each person needs to believe and confess with his or her mouth that Jesus is Lord. Knowing him is more than just a head thing; it's involves our hearts and lives. At the end of the class the children will have the opportunity to express what they know about Jesus and how he has influenced their lives.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Review	Illustrations	15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Review	Illustrations	15 minutes
Bible story	Bibles, white board, illustrations	15 minutes
Reflect		15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Review: Using the five drawings found in the following pages, spend some time reviewing. Each drawing has an error. The children should guess what it is and explain why it doesn't fit in the drawing. You can do this activity individually. Each child should have a paper and a pen. They can write what they see in each picture that is incorrect. Or you can make it into a group activity of three or four kids. The important part of this activity is that when they finish they can remember a little about what the illustration shows and what it has to do with the previous class sessions. Ask: Do you ever feel like you don't fit in? How do you think Jesus feels about you?

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?

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Bible Story: The Bible story today is very interesting because it talks about the concrete results of the conversation that Jesus had with the Samaritan woman (which they learned about last week). Samaritans felt left out. But Jesus welcomes them. Tell the story in the form of a drama or let the children read it in their Bibles and then act it out. They can include what they learned last week in the drama. After hearing the story, make a list (based on what the children say) of the people in the story. Then talk about the symbols that Jesus used with them:

Why is food important?

Why did Jesus use this illustration?

Study verses 34-38. The children can share their ideas with the others in the class.

Finally talk about the results of Jesus' ministry in Samaria. Emphasize verse 42.

Reflect: During the conclusion, reflect on the significance of the words in the Bible verse, emphasizing the need that each person has to recognize and believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of the world. It's not enough to believe because someone else says it's true, but we must believe for ourselves. Ask them to share how Jesus has influenced their lives, in their own words. Spend time praying.

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?

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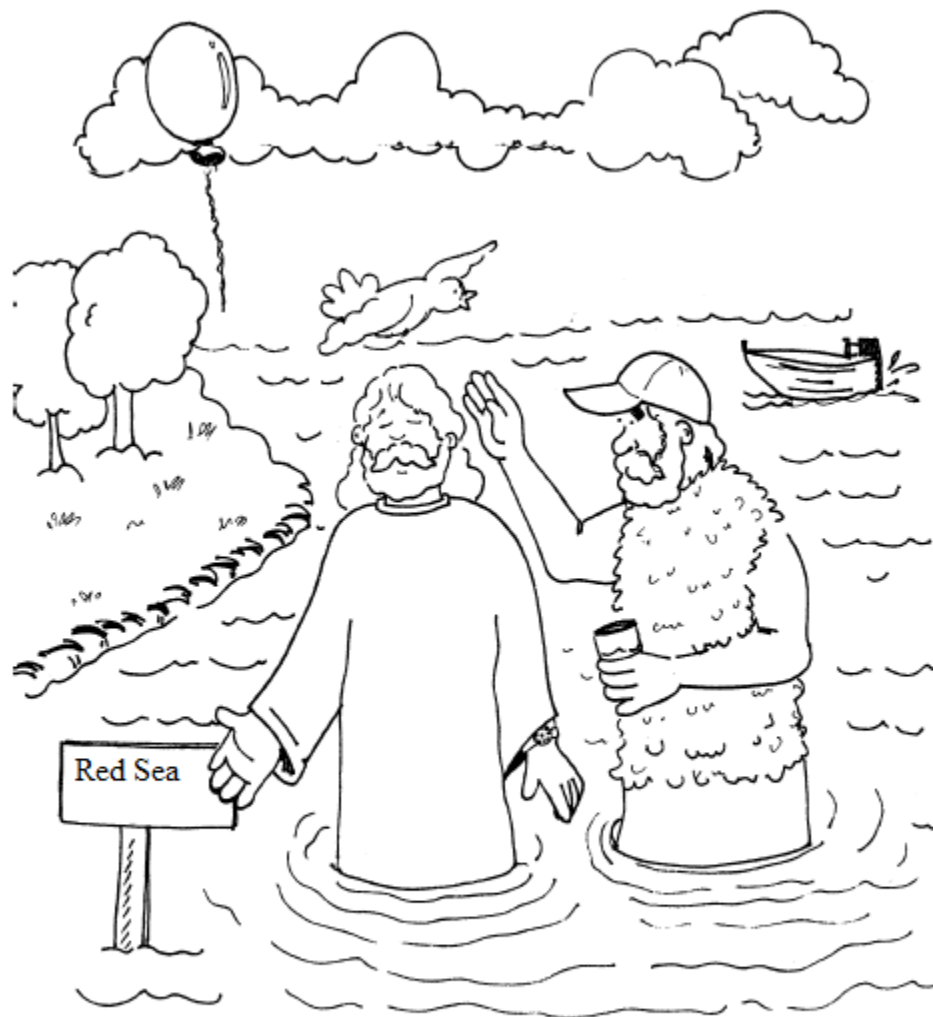
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, 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

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REVIEW

Find what's not right about this picture



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Find what's wrong with this picture



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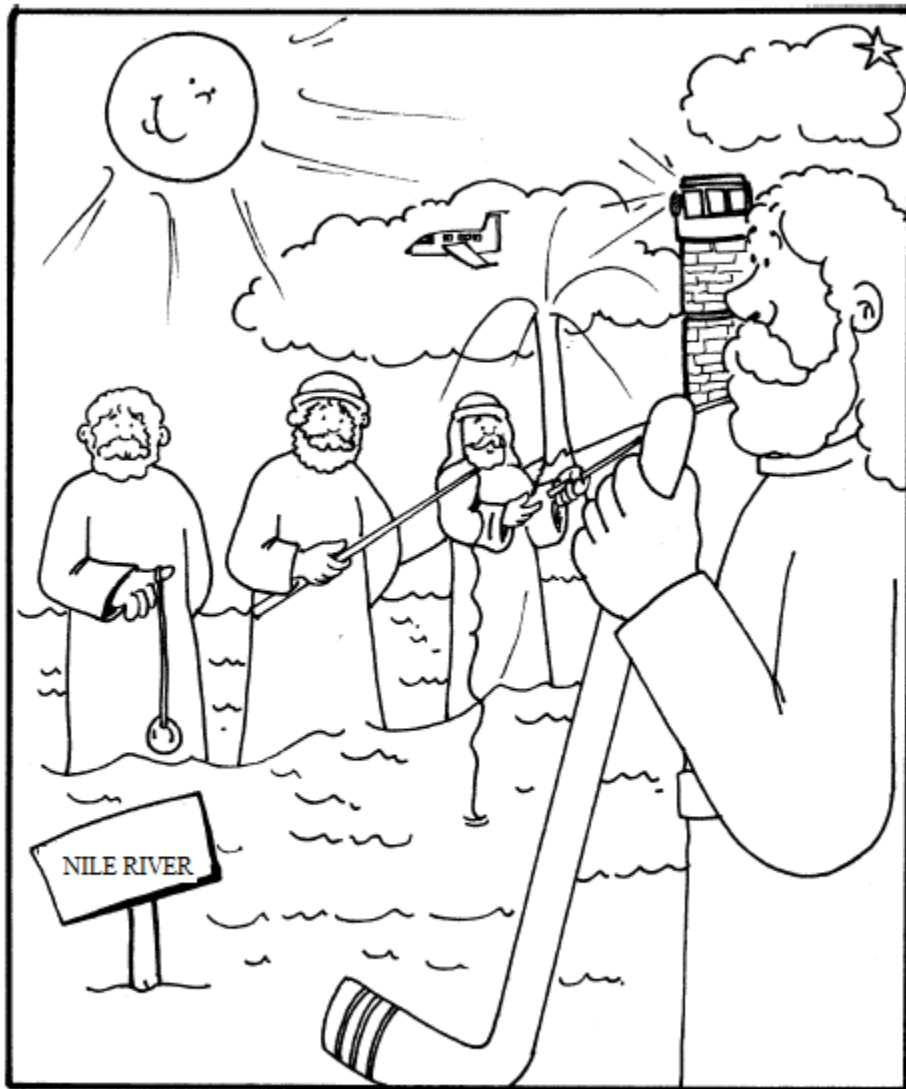
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