

Adventures with GOD!

INTRODUCTION: GOD'S LOVE (A.1.Spring)

LESSONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-5

GOALS FOR THE TRIMESTER:

Help children foster a relationship with God. Experience the love of God, manifest in their bodies, families, friends, church, and the Savior that God has given us. Respond to God's love and demonstrate it to others.

MESSAGE TO THE TEACHER:

How can a child between the ages of 3 and 5 come to experience the love of God? In this trimester the children in your class will see concrete demonstrations of God's love: their bodies that God made, their families, their friends, the church, and their best friend, Jesus. Children at this age need to be able to touch, feel, see, and hear the love of God. During this trimester they will have this opportunity.

God has given us a very big responsibility and at the same time a very big opportunity to serve as teachers. The responsibility we have is to demonstrate love to the children in our class. All that we do and say should be motivated by love. Love is the reason we take the extra time to prepare for our lessons, for example. 2 Corinthians 3:3 says, "You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." (TNIV)

God has given us the opportunity to be instruments used to show God's love to these children. The truth of the lessons this semester will be shown not in what we say, but the love we demonstrate. We show love when we take time to prepare for the class, in prayer for each of the children, and when we show them love through kind words and kind acts. Through your love, the Holy Spirit will touch the lives of the children and they will experience God's love.

For the lessons in this trimester we've added some optional activities. Choose the activities that are most appropriate for you and children, the time you have available, etc. As teacher, you know how the children in your class will engage best in God's word. Some children may need more help than others; other kids may just need some guidance and will be able to realize the activities on their own. The important thing is to be sensitive to the needs, abilities, and likes of each child.

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In the appendix you will find Bible stories. That are written in a way that's easy to understand. Read them beforehand and then, with your Bible open, tell the story to the children using your own words. Also, remember who you're telling the story too. Most kids this age won't sit more than 5 minutes at a time, so keep that in mind as you teach the lesson.

Note: Children 3-5 years old can't color images that are too small or too detailed. They need large, simple images. It's important to enlarge some of the examples/patterns you're given in the lessons.