

Adventures with GOD!

INTRODUCTION: THE SON OF GOD (B.1. SPRING)

LESSONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 6- 8

GOAL FOR THE TRIMESTER:

Help children foster a relationship with God. To study Jesus' last days on earth, beginning with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and concluding with his ascension into heaven. To learn the chronological order of the last events of Jesus' life on earth and what they mean for our lives.

MESSAGE FOR THE TEACHER:

One of the most difficult things about the Christian life, especially for children is that so much of it seems mysterious. A child can come to church and hear his or her teacher talk about "grace," "sanctification," "repentance," etc. A child most likely will not even understand some of the language we use in our churches. They aren't words that are used at home, at school, or when he or she plays with friends. For that reason, this trimester you will have the challenge of helping children to grasp some important concepts in the Christian life, without using language that they don't understand. You will spend time teaching them about Biblical events that as humans many times we only can understand through faith. How can a small child understand such things. Here are two suggestions:

1. While you are preparing the material for each lesson ask yourself if you understand the words and language that you are using. If you don't understand it the children won't either. Take the time necessary to look up words and find simple ways of explaining these often miraculous, mysterious events. For example, instead of talking about the ascension, you can talk about Jesus going up from the earth to the heavens on a cloud.
2. Use examples and activities to explain difficult concepts. For example, a small child won't understand complex concepts like the Trinity. We need to break it down into words that are easier to understand, for example referring to God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Maybe talking about how water takes on three forms (liquid, ice, and vapor) can help them grasp the idea of God who is one, but three persons.

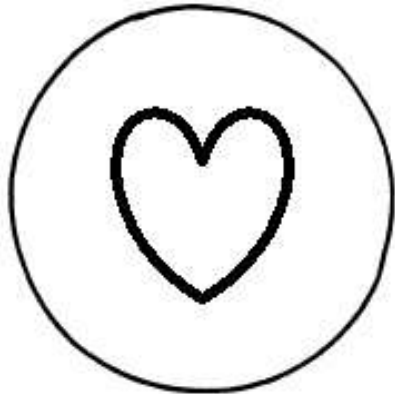
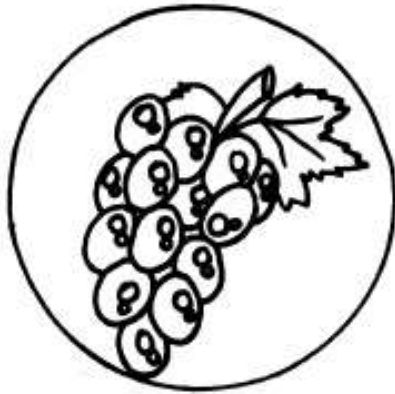
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To help teach these complicated concepts, you will need sufficient time to prepare for each class. Teaching the word of God is not something that is simply done by reading a lesson on the night before and repeating it on Sunday morning. Let the lesson become a reality for you, part of your own life, in this way you will be able to better communicate the concepts and truths presented in the lesson. Ask for wisdom from the Holy Spirit. Prayer is a vital resource and we need God to guide us and speak through us as we minister with children.

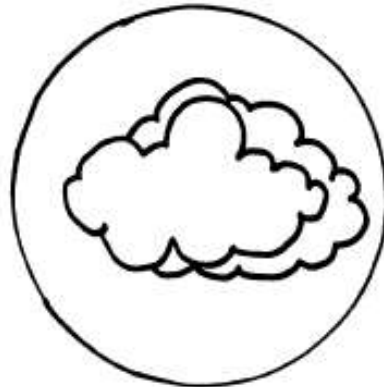
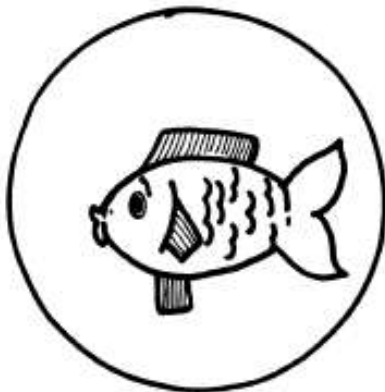
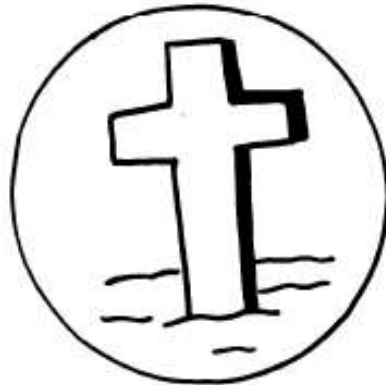
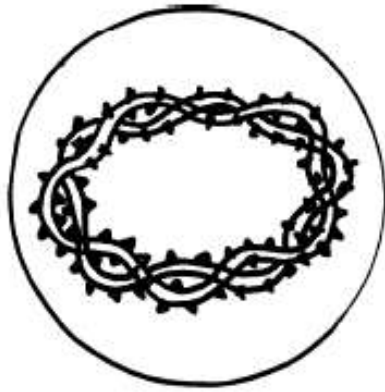
Spring Session Weekly Project: In the center of the room, place a small tree or some dry branches; this will represent the wood beam that Jesus was crucified on. Each week you will place a symbol on the branches, which represent the important last events in Jesus' life here on earth (found below). If it's possible put it up on a chair or table (symbolizing Golgotha).

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SYMBOLS FOR THE TRIMESTER



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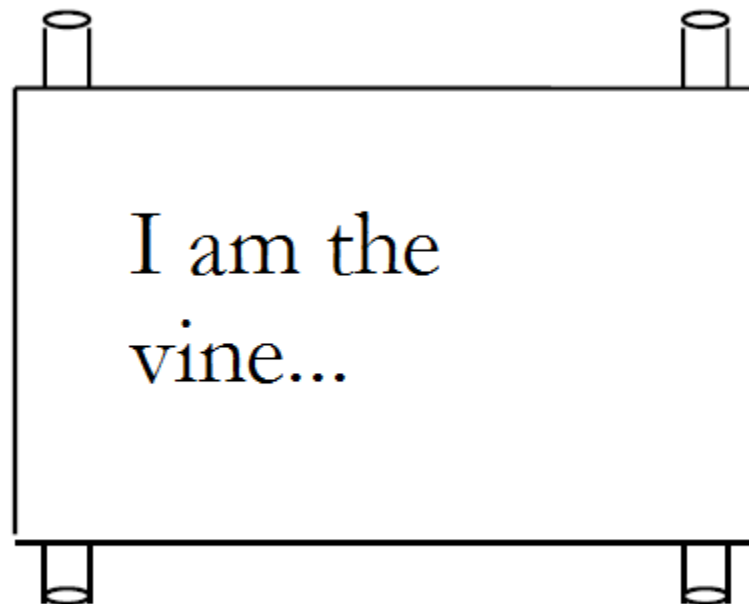
CRAFT FOR THE TRIMESTER

“I am” scrolls

Materials: 2 straws, 1 long sheet of white paper (14 x 120 cm), marker or pen, glue

Instructions:

1. To make the long strip of paper you will need to cut some pieces of paper and tape or glue them together.
2. Glue the ends of the strip of paper to the straws (one on each end).
3. Each week the children will add a phrase to the scroll. The first week they will write, “I am the vine...”



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ILLUSTRATION

Scroll

