

Adventures with GOD!

JOSHUA (B.2.FALL.3)

Biblical Reference	Joshua 3:14-17, 4:4-7, 4:9, 4:14-18
Key Verse	Psalms 78:52-53a
Key Concept	I can trust God in difficult times and happy times in life.
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 Israelites entering the promise land. 2. Build a monument of stories as a reminder of what God has done. 3. Give thanks to God for being faithful.

Life Application

After the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years (because they refused to enter it) Moses saw the Promised Land from a distance but died before crossing the Jordan River. God then called upon Joshua to lead the people into the river. God then called upon Joshua to lead the people into the Promised Land. The same land he had spied out 40 years earlier as a young man. The brave follower of this story is Joshua, but there are other brave followers who play an important role in history. They were the priests and all the people that listened, put their trust in God, and obeyed. All were heroes that day! This week the children will remember that God is looking for people (Adults and children) to trust Him, even in difficult times.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Paper, markers, crayons, scissors	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Stones, box, poles, two long lengths of ropes	10 minutes
Craft	Stones or beans, cardboard, glue, crayons, copies of Psalm 56	15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: In advance get two long strips of paper for diagonally split classroom. They draw on a large river that is on the length of two strips. When children are waiting for others arrive have them draw color and cut out fish. These can be put into the river during Bible Exploration.

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: Joshua 3:14-17, 4:4-7, 4:9, 4:14-18 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 Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond, prior to entering into the bible exploration.

Bible Exploration: Give 2 sets of 2 children each a long section of rope. Have them lay the rope across the classroom with one rope being the rear bank of the river Jordan and the other rope the far bank of the River Jordan. Have the class stand along the near bank. Those who made fish can place them in the river.

1. Explain: God promised the Israelites a country waiting on the other side of the Jordan River but they had to trust him to get there. Who did God select to lead them? (Joshua) How would you feel if were Joshua?
2. People decided to trust God, though it seemed absurd as they put their feet in the river. They had no boats and the River was wide & fast. Show expressions of how think the children felt. I wonder what they were thinking?

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3. The ark had to go ahead because there dwelled the "glory" of God. (The Ark was about 4 ½ x 2 ½ x 2 ½ feet in size. It was made of gold. It contained the stone tablets with the 10 commandments, Aaron's rod and a jar of manna. It represented the throne of God). A good way to illustrate the "ark" would get a cardboard box and attach two long poles, carried by four children. Let them act out by walking and standing in the middle of the River.

4. When people started to obey, God did a miracle and they crossed on dry land. Does this remind you of another story? (Crossing the Red Sea) Have children walk to the other side of the River. I wonder what the people were thinking?

5. After all have crossed except those carrying the Ark, have students take large stones or cardboard stones and place in the River near Ark. Ask: why did they do this? (To remember God stopped the river so they could cross).

Once you have told the story, ask them to do a drama. Help them think about how people felt at the river. They should think about all the things that maybe they thought while they were there. (Build a bridge? Swim? Wait to dry the river?) Let someone (Joshua) say what God asked of them. How would be the reaction? (Afraid? Confusion? Ira? Rebellion?).

Craft: Every child can build a small monument on a piece of cardboard using small stones. First cut out and glue the memory verse Psalms 56 onto the cardboard. Next, glue on 12 stones - These could also be cut out of construction paper. Cardboard may not support the weight of the small stones. You can also use beans or corn or construction paper. Recite the verse together and have children explain what the stones were for. (Remembering how God cared for he, kept his promise and stopped the river, so they could cross into the Promised Land).

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).

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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

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CRAFT

Glue this to the cardboard base for the monument.

"When I FEAR

I trust you.

I TRUST IN GOD

And

PRAISE HIS WORD;

I TRUST IN GOD

And I'm not afraid. "

Psalms 56:3, 4