

Adventures with GOD!

ELISHA AND THE SYRIAN (C.2.FALL.11)

Biblical Reference	2 Kings 6:8-23
Key Verse	Psalms 121:7-8
Key Concept	God cares about me and watches over me.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Express what they feel when they think about God's care for us. 2. Identify what God's care looked like during the war with the Syrians. 3. Say today's memory verse and explain its meaning today.

Life Application

God cares about our safety and welfare. God takes care of us all the time and everywhere. Whatever happens in life we can be sure that God is there watching over us with his mighty hand. We entrust our fears, dangers, joys and sorrows to God. This week is a reminder for the children that God cares about them and watches over them in all circumstances.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Craft	Large paper, crayons	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Verse	Game	10 minutes
Activity	Booklets, pencils, bibles	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

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 biblical reference for the day (2 Kings 6:8-23) 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 through the story?

Craft: Hang a large sheet of paper on the wall, with the title "GOD IS watching over us". Be ready with magazines and crayons. Have the children make a collage (mural) putting up images and drawing illustrations that illustrates what the title says. They can then discuss what they have put on the collage to start the time of Bible exploration.

Bible Exploration: Tell the Bible story dramatically (2 Kings 6:8-23). In advance find illustrations or pictures to help tell the story. Help them to imagine the frustration felt by the Syrians when their plans were discovered. Emphasize the protection that God gave to his people, both visible and invisible. How did God take care of them? Help them to notice how God miraculously won the victory without bloodshed. Note the goodness that the Israelites showed their prisoners. Talk of the ways we see God's care in our lives. How do they feel when they hear this story and think of God's care for them?

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Verse: Use one of the activities in the appendix, or create your own, to teach the verses. Talk about what this verse means to them.

Activity: Continue adding information to their booklets:

Tasks: 2 Kings 6:12

Miracle: 2 Kings 6:18

Problems: 2 Kings 6:8, 13-14

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?

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.