

# Adventures with GOD!

## JESUS TALKED ABOUT A SPECIAL KINGDOM (B.2.WINTER.1)

Biblical Reference	Luke 4:42-44, 9:1-2
Key Verse	Luke 12:32
Key Concept	If I put my faith in Jesus Christ I am part of a special kingdom, the kingdom of God.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Define the word "kingdom"</li> <li>2. Write the human name for the "king of kings"</li> <li>3. Say the Bible verse by memory</li> </ol>

### Life Application

Children should know that they are a part of God's kingdom when they have believed in Jesus and given their lives to him. As a part of God's kingdom, they can experience the presence of God in their lives and they will experience joy in knowing they have a king that takes care of them. This week the children will invite others to hear about the kingdom of God.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible reading	Bible	5 minutes
Game	Crown	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Wood blocks or cardboard boxes, Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Bible Verse	Illustration	5 minutes
Craft	Paper or fabric	15 minutes
GROW Adventure	Review and snack	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

# Adventures with GOD!

## INSTRUCTIONS

**Decoration:** Hang in the room a big sign or banner (made of fabric) which reads, “The kingdom of God.” During the trimester the children will add illustrations to the sign, or to the walls of the classroom. For example, today they can write their names on the sheep that will be used during the story. After the story, invite the children to put their sheep up on the sign or another space in the classroom. This will be a visual reminder of what they are learning this trimester.

**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 Bible key verse for the day (Luke 4:42-44, 9:1-2) 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 verses?

**Game:** Today we are going to talk about the kingdom of God. Put a crown on the head of a child. Ask the children who uses crowns? Let them answer. Let the children try the crown on as you talk about what a king or queen is and what they do. Help them to understand the definition of “kingdom” as you start this trimester. Remind them that a kingdom always has a

# Adventures with GOD!

king or a queen. This person is the one in charge of the kingdom, and the people who are a part of the kingdom live under the king or queen's authority.

Now play: "The King or Queen." This game will help reinforce the idea that the king is the leader and people in the kingdom seek to follow the king. Divide the group in two teams and have each team choose a name. Also, choose a child to play the role of the "king" or "queen". This person will ask for something (for example, a Bible). The teams have to find the object and send a representative to give it to the king. The king can ask for things like for the team to recite a memory verse, sing a song, etc. You decide how long to play the game and if there should be a change of king/queen.

**Bible exploration:** Prior to the class, find different types of small boxes and wrap them in brown paper, or use wooden blocks (for houses). You should also find a big piece of fabric or paper that is the color green, the illustration of a castle, a king and guards. Put all of this on the floor.

To introduce the Bible reading for today, show the things that are on the floor. Show the castle for example. Ask them what it is and who lives there. Have an illustration of a crown and pull that out. Pull out some of the "houses" and ask them what is outside of the castle. Who rules and makes sure the people are safe who live in the kingdom? Show the crown, which represents the king. Ask the children questions. As you are talking, take out some blocks and build a wall around the castle and the houses. Explain that you have built a wall that will protect people who are inside. We can say that they are in the king's kingdom. Today we are going to learn about a very special kingdom – it's called the kingdom of God. The Bible says that God is the king above all kings and Jesus came to invite people to be a part of God's kingdom. Read Luke 4:42-44 and 9:1-2. Why does Jesus need to keep traveling to other towns? And what does Jesus ask his disciples to do?

The interesting thing about God's kingdom is that it's found throughout the world, because there are people of God's kingdom all around the world. Each person that has put their faith in Jesus Christ is part of the kingdom of God. We recognize others who are part of God's kingdom as we hear about and see their faith in Jesus. As King, God takes care of the people in the kingdom of God. God gives us love, care, and forgiveness.

**Bible Verse:** Make a visual aid to teach the verse, Luke 12:32. It could be crowns or another illustration that helps them to remember the words of the verse. Use the illustration of the castle found in the following pages if you choose.

# Adventures with GOD!

**Craft:** You could make puzzles with the illustration of the castle and the words of the verse that they can cut out and put together. It's important to talk about what the verse means, not just to memorize it. Have them write the verse on the castle, decorate the castle, and then cut out puzzle pieces. As they are working, you can walk around and ask them questions, having them respond with appropriate gestures. For example, "When I'm in school Jesus is with me because I'm part of God's kingdom and I feel (have them answer with a gesture)." "When I fight with my brothers and sisters Jesus is with me because I'm part of God's kingdom and I feel (answer with a gesture) and Jesus feels (answer with a gesture)."

## **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.

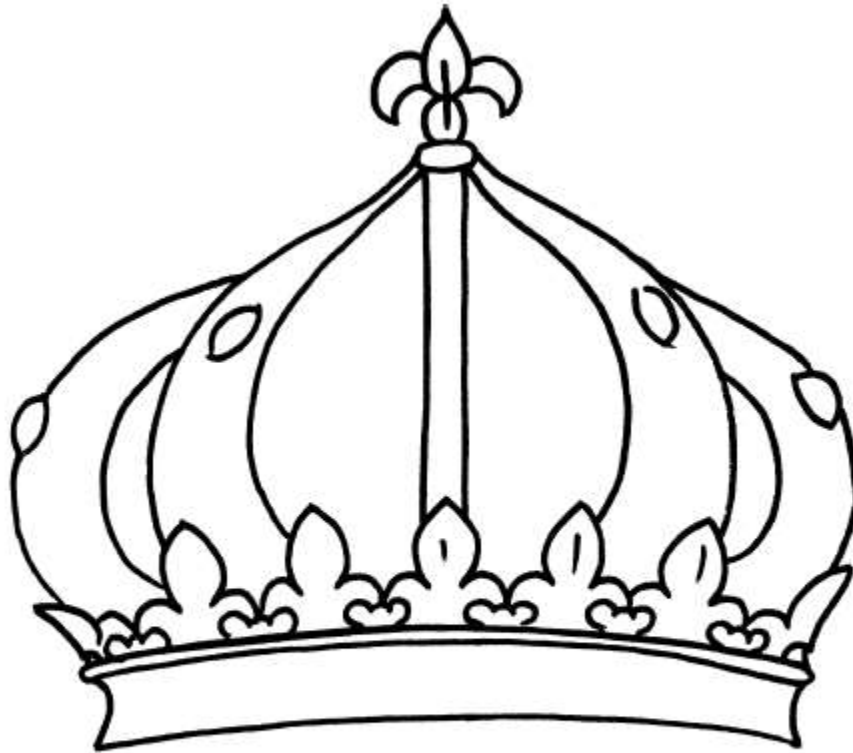
**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen.

# Adventures with GOD!

*Note: Today is the first lesson of the trimester. It would be a good idea to send a note home to the parents explaining the goals for the trimester and what you hope to achieve as a group. Remember that children's ministry is done best in partnership with parents. Invite them to come and visit a class, or to help lead an activity. Encourage them in the discipleship of their children.*

# Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATION



# Adventures with GOD!

## BIBLE VERSE

Use this illustration and enlarge it. Write the words of the Bible verse on it. Or, print it out on regular 8 ½ by 11 paper. Have the children write the Bible verse in it. Then have them cut it up to make a puzzle.

