

Adventures with GOD!

PEOPLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM DON'T JUDGE OTHERS (B.2.WINTER.10)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 7:1-6, Numbers 12
Key Verse	Matthew 7:1,2
Key Concept	I am part of God's kingdom and I know only God can judge another person because only God is perfect and just.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw examples of situations in which they should leave judging up to the only perfect Judge – God 2. Explain what it means to judge others 3. Say the Bible verse by memory

Life Application

Sometimes in the Christian life the things God asks of us seem too hard. The children in your group, as other children and adults, are familiar with criticism. They have heard it, they have had it aimed at them, and they have used it against others. The focus of this class is to learn about God, who is the only perfect and just judge. We tend to easily judge and criticize others, but that is not what God wants from us. We want to help children love others, not hurt them by criticizing their friends, siblings and others.

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
Drama	Puppets	5 minutes
Bible exploration	Illustrations, figures	10 minutes
Game	Fish	10 minutes
Craft	See instructions	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 so 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 (Matthew 7:1-6) 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?

Drama: Plan to use the drama found in the following pages. Use puppets or simply draw faces on your finger tips and tell the story using your hand. You can draw faces on the fingers of the children too, and then they can act out the story as well.

Bible exploration: "Today Jesus asks us to do something difficult, just as we heard from Peter in the drama. But, don't worry. We all know that Jesus promises to be with us always and help us even with the things that are difficult." As the teacher, create some anticipation for what the story will be about, and what it means for them.

"Today we will hear the story of three siblings and how God was very upset because they were always criticizing and judging each other." Tell the story of Moses, Aaron and Miriam that's found in Numbers 12. Summarize it in your own words. Create or find figures that you can use to tell the story, or have them act it out. Ask questions like, "Why was God angry at Miriam and

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Aaron?" "Who were they criticizing?" "Who are the people that we shouldn't judge? Who is the only one who is perfect and can judge in a just way?"

Game: The instructions for the game are found in the following pages. The children will fish and there are hurtful/criticizing fish and there are kind/encouraging fish. When they fish and get two kind/encouraging fish, they can mention something kind they would say to another person. If they get two hurtful/criticizing fish they should mention something they should avoid saying to others.

Craft: Invite the children to draw, or to use playdoh, to create a situation in which it would be easy for them to judge another person. Have them explain the situation and how people in God's kingdom should respond.

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?

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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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DRAMA

Use hand puppets or finger puppets to act out a dialogue similar to the one below. Or invite two of the children to act it out.

Puppet 1: John: Hi Peter! How are you?

Puppet 2: Peter: I'm good, just a little worried.

John: Why are you worried?

Peter: Imagine that the king now has a very important mission for us, but it's almost impossible.

John: Oh wow! What's the mission?

Peter: I don't know John. It's really hard and I don't know if we'll be able to do it.

John: Come on Peter, you know that any missions that Jesus has given us have always been difficult, but we've always been able to follow through because Jesus doesn't forget about us, because he's always with us and helps us. I'm not scared because I know Jesus is with his. So tell me about the mission.

Peter: Well...but it's just so hard.

John: Come on, tell me!

Peter: Ok, I have found instructions in Matthew 7:1-6 where Jesus tells us that we shouldn't judge and criticize other people.

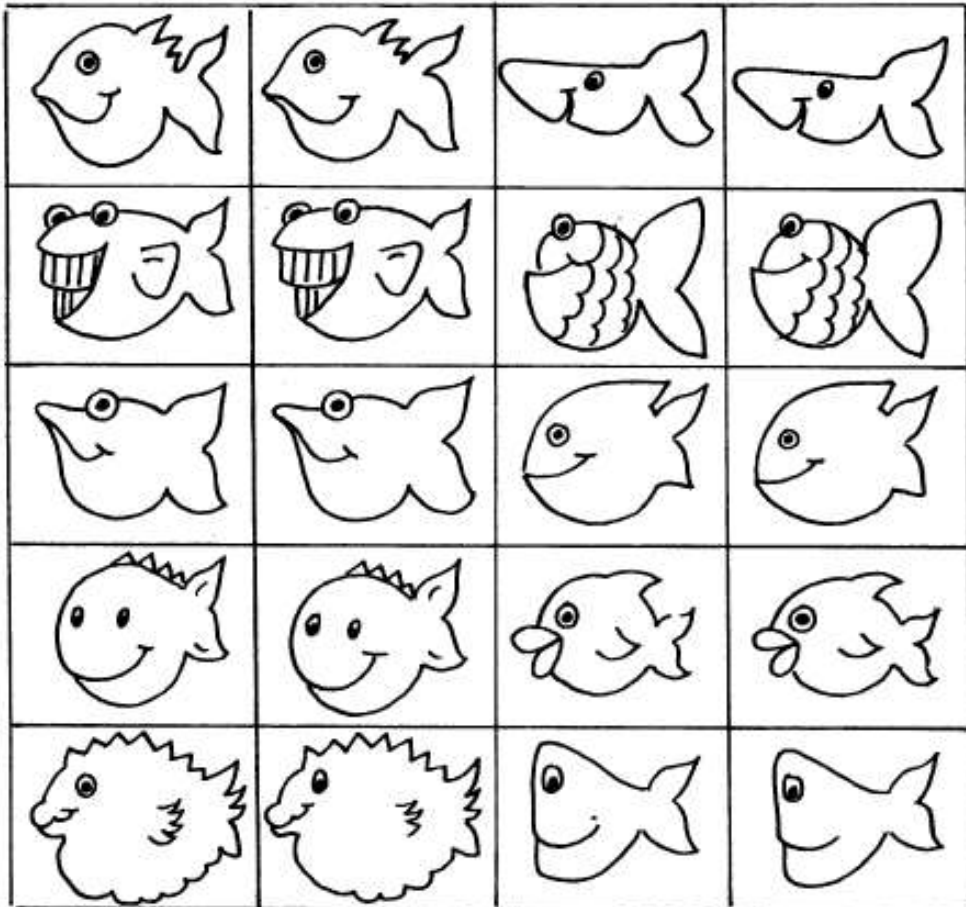
John: Wow, you're right. That is a hard mission. I think we need a little more information. Maybe the story today will help us understand better how to follow through with the mission.

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GAME

Fishing

Have the students work in pairs or teams to color and cut out the fish. In order to play the game, line up the fish in rows and have the image of the fish facing down. Each child takes a turn turning over two fish. If they are the same, follow the instructions given above. If they are different the child doesn't say anything but turns them back over and it is the next players turn. If the child has gotten a pair and can tell whether they are kind/encouraging fish or hurtful/criticizing fish they can keep the pair. On the first page you will find the images of the kind/encouraging fish. On the following page you will find the hurtful/criticizing fish.



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