

Adventures with GOD!

PEOPLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM TREAT OTHERS WITH LOVE (B.2.WINTER.11)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 7:7-12, Summary of the story of Joseph in Genesis Ch.37 and 45.
Key Verse	Matthew 7:12A
Key Concept	I am part of God's kingdom and I know that my king asks his followers to have a different attitude.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain what it means to do unto others as you would want them to do unto you 2. Tell how Joseph treated his brothers after they had treated him so cruelly 3. Pray to God asking for help to treat others as we want to be treated

Life Application

King Jesus is the greatest example we have of love and forgiveness. Jesus wants us to live with the same attitudes that he did, showing love, compassion and forgiveness to others. He wants us to be a reflection of who he is and who the father is. We love because God first loved us. How we treat other reflects who God is.

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		10 minutes
Prayer		5 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations	15 minutes
Craft	Card stock, scissors, crayons, etc.	10 minutes
Bible verse	Little candy and pieces of paper	5 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 7:7-12) 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: Have them take turns acting out scenes of ways the Bible says we should treat each other. Have them work in teams to come up with a scene, or have some written out previously and give it one to each team to act out.

Prayer: Today we remember that our heavenly father showed us through the person of Jesus how we should live and how we should treat other people with love and compassion. God does not want us to be selfish. God wants us to treat others in a way that we hope to be treated by them. If we haven't loved others, will they give us love back? Spend some time reflecting with the children on the ways God wants us to treat others. Then pray that God would show us how to live like Jesus showed us to.

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Bible exploration: You have just read Jesus words in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:7-12. Now, give a tangible example of someone who responded with love in a very difficult situation. You can use the story of Joseph, who was treated very cruelly by his brothers, and then returned their cruelty with love and forgiveness (Genesis 37:3-4, 19-24, 28; Genesis 45:3-11). Read different passages of the story together. It is a long story, but the idea is to help them see how Joseph's brother's treated him and how he in turn showed them love and helped them. Have different illustrations of the story, etc. Or use a children's Bible. Talk about what would have happened if Joseph would have treated his brothers in the same way he treated them. What would have happened with his family? They would have gone hungry. But, thankfully Joseph acted with love and compassion and his family was able to survive the great famine in the land.

Craft: Put out craft materials – card stock, scissors, glue, markers, etc. Allow them to make a card or a picture for someone that they want to show love to. Or use the pattern in the following pages to color, cut out and write a note in.

Bible verse: Before class, have the words of the Bible verse written on little strips of paper with a piece of candy taped to them or a sticker on them. Hide them under the chairs in the classroom, or around the classroom in various places. Have the Bible verse written on a white board or a big piece of poster board. When the time is ready, ask the children to find the words and then help them to put it together in the right order (according to what they see in the example verse.) Once they've put it together, have them read it together.

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

This is another option that you can have out for the children to use. They can decorate it and write a note inside to give to someone they choose.

