

Adventures with GOD!

PEOPLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR DEEDS (B.2.WINTER.12)

Biblical Reference	Luke 13:6-9
Key Verse	Matthew 7:20
Key Concept	I am part of God's kingdom and people will know that because of my actions and the way that I live.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Act out the Bible passage, Luke 13:6-9 2. Say the Bible verse by memory 3. Draw a tree with fruit

Life Application

We all at some point have interacted with nature. Children have seen trees, leaves, flowers, etc. So, today we will talk about trees that give fruit. We will talk about how God expects those of us who are a part of God's kingdom to be like trees that grow fruit. It is through our actions, the fruit we bear, that people will recognize that we are a part of God's kingdom.

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
Game		10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, two hats, and a crown made out of leaves	10 minutes
Bible verse	Bible	10 minutes
Craft	Illustration, glue, crayons, pencil, green and red paper	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 (Luke 13:6-9) 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?

Game: Together play a game called "Fruit basket upset." It's a way to get the time started and for children to interact with each other in a fun, friendly way. Have everyone sit in a circle, if possible with chairs facing inwards. You, the teacher, will stand in the middle and give each child a name of a fruit (apple, pear, banana, mango, etc.) Try to only have a few fruit and have them repeated twice. Then you will begin to say what fruits you want to put in your basket. So you say, "I want apples in my basket." And all the children who are apples will join you in the center. Then you can say one or two more fruit. Then you will say, "Oh no, the basket broke. Fruit basket upset!!" and all of the children in the middle have to run back to the circle and find

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a seat, including the leader. The person who doesn't make it to a seat in time becomes the next leader.

Bible exploration: Tell the parable found in Luke 13:6-9. Use lots of movement, imitating the two people in the parable. You can use different hats to represent different people, and you can use a crown of leaves to represent the fig tree. Then, invite a few of the students to come and act out the story. Afterwards ask why they thought Jesus told this story and what it has to do with our lives. Talk about how we are like the fig tree. Our father God is the owner of the world and Jesus is in charge of taking care of it. And we are told to produce good fruit. Ask what good fruit looks like? Who produces the good fruit?

Bible verse: Memorize Matthew 7:20. Have the children say it to one another and talk about what actions show that we are a part of God's kingdom.

Craft: It's important to remember that the moment we work on crafts is also a time for dialogue and conversation around the Bible story. It's an opportunity to ask them questions about the lesson and about their lives. Before you have them make the craft. Have one ready to show them and talk about how our actions in God's kingdom are like fruit and people know we are a part of God's kingdom because we produce good fruit (love, peace, patience, kindness, etc). Then, hand out the drawing found in the following pages; one for each child. Ask them to color the trunk and add fruit to the tree. While they are working continue to talk about what it looks like in our lives to produce good fruit.

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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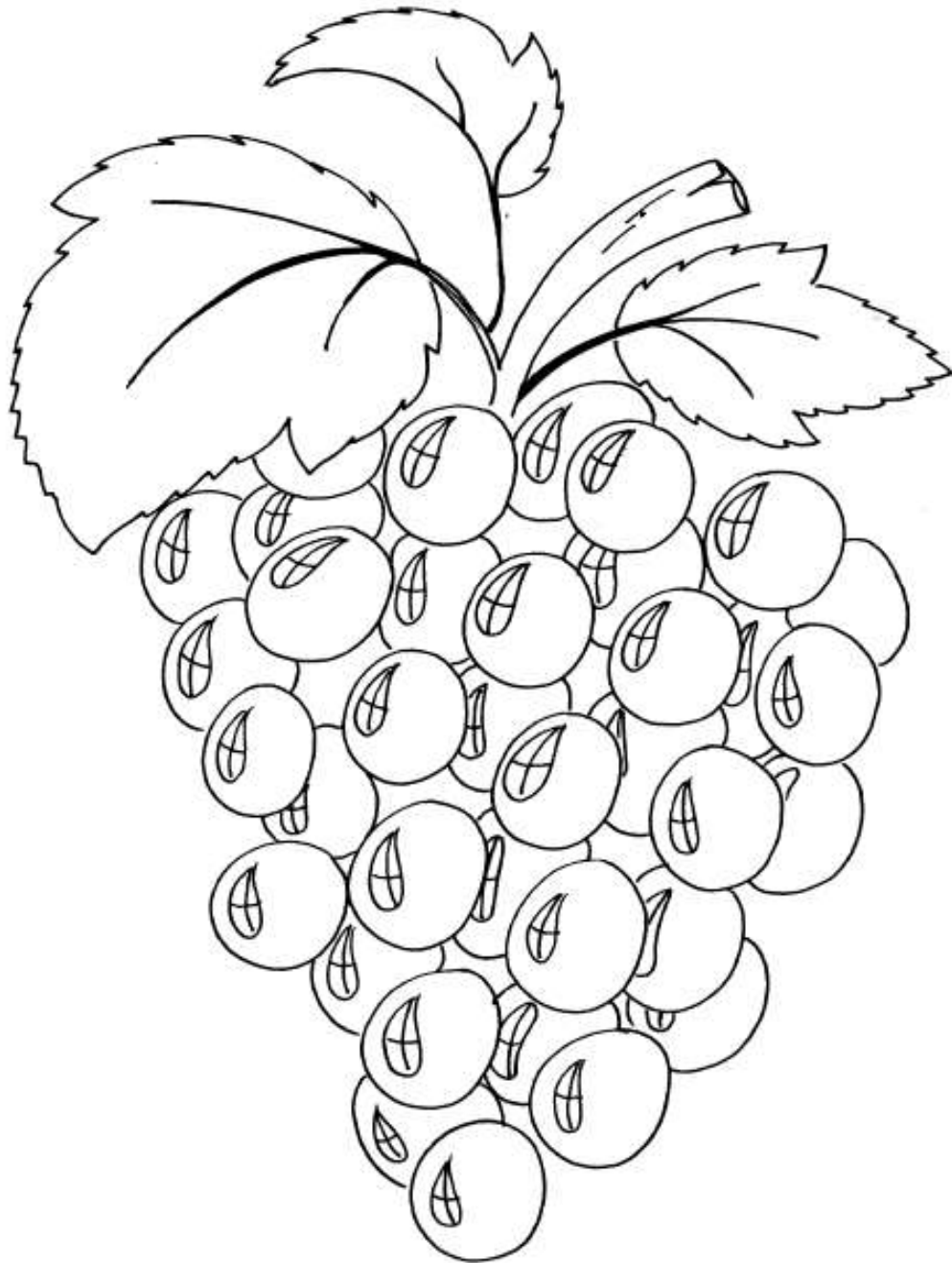
W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

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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ILLUSTRATION

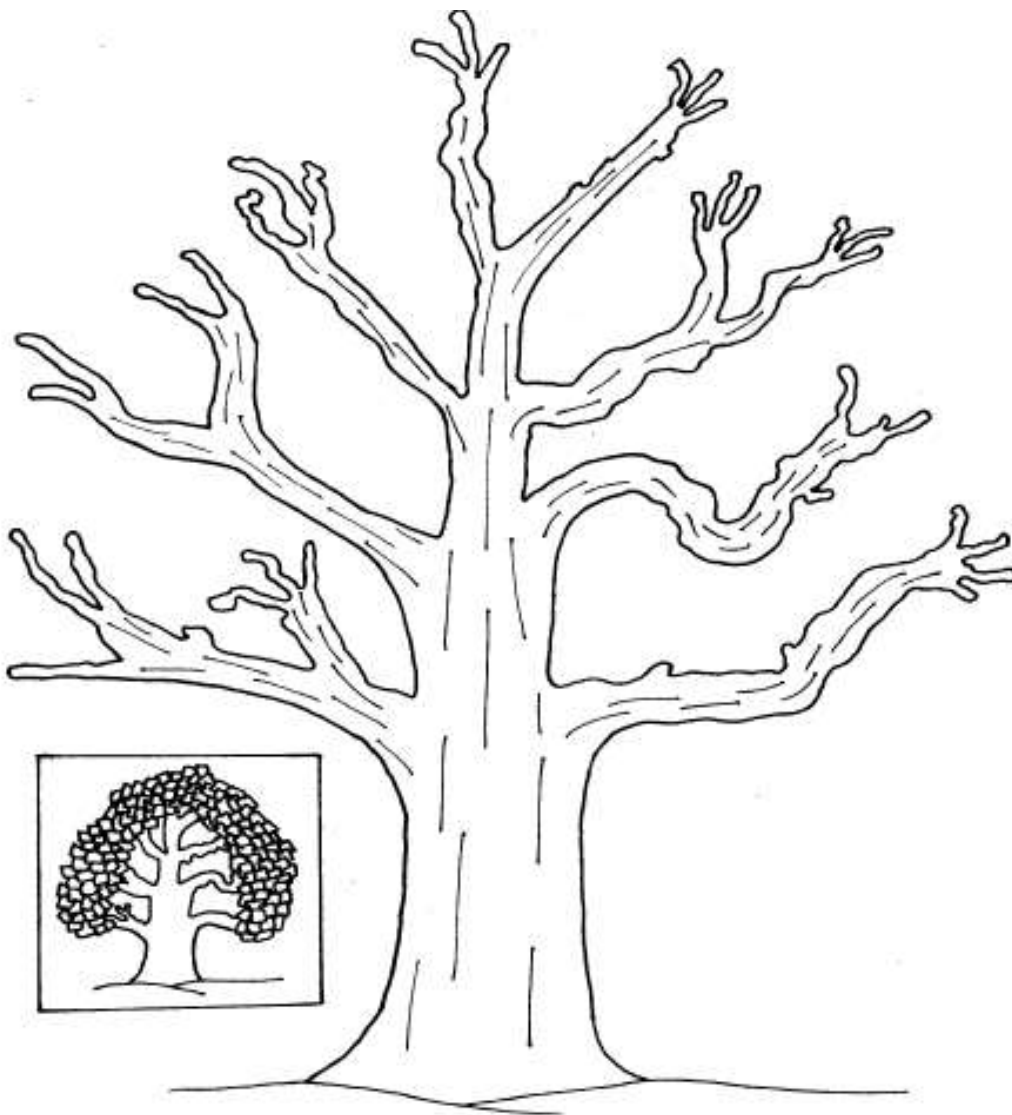


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CRAFT

Materials: illustration, green paper, pens, glue, crayons, red paper

Instructions: Each child will receive the illustration below. The children can color the trunk and then give them green and red paper that they can rip up to make leaves and fruit. Provide glue so they can put the leaves and fruit on the tree. If there is space below they can write out the Bible verse.



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ILLUSTRATION

