

Adventures with GOD!

PEOPLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM WILL RECEIVE A REWARD (B.2.WINTER.3)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 5:7-12
Key Verse	Matthew 5:12
Key Concept	I am a part of God's kingdom; I'm blessed because God is my king and I will receive a reward
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw a scene from the Bible story 2. Sing a song or express in another form the joy that comes from being a part of God's kingdom 3. Say the Bible verse by memory

Life Application

People in God's kingdom are blessed. Even in difficult moments we experience God's love and care and we are blessed. Another piece of really good news is that Jesus has promised that those who are a part of God's kingdom will be with him forever and will receive an amazing reward. Children love to receive rewards. Today and all through the week they will remember that there is a special reward waiting for them and that Jesus has promised that we will always be with him.

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
Activity	Trophies, ribbons	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Actor, mountain, Bible	15 minutes
Craft	Big pieces of paper, markers, crayons	10 minutes
Bible Verse	Reward, verse written out	5 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Celebration	Noise makers, snack, etc.	10 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Decoration: If you are able to get outside to a nearby hill that would be a great way to tell the story today. If it isn't possible to get outside, make a hill in your classroom using furniture and sheets. Make sure at least one part of the "mountain" is firm so someone can stand up there.

Today is a party kind of day, so if possible bring streamers, confetti, balloons.

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 5:7-12) 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?

Activity: Have on hand some type of award to show the kids. It can be a trophy or something similar. Talk with the children about how we win awards, when we give people rewards, etc. Today they will learn about a prize or reward that will last forever.

Adventures with GOD!

Bible exploration: Give each child a small piece of paper that says “blessed” and ask them to tape it on their shirt. As you hand them out, remind the children that they are each invited to be a part of the kingdom of God.

With anticipation, invite someone to come to your class today to play the role of Jesus. It should be someone who can really get into the role. Invite everyone to sit in a circle on the floor. When they are sitting, invite the guest (dressed as Jesus) to come in and sit on the mountain/hill. The person should begin by reciting the Bible verses from the story in Matthew 5:7-12. Allow for interaction with the children. Allow them to ask questions and allow the person (make sure he or she is prepared) to answer or ask them questions back. Be prepared as well to field some of the questions.

Activity/Craft: There are several activities in the following pages that you can use, or we suggest that you take big pieces of paper/poster board and have the children work in groups to draw/color/paint, scenes from the sermon on the mount. They can be hung on the wall to make a mural. Or continue making your graph that was started last week, filling in with information from Matthew 5:7-12.

Bible Verse: Have a prize ready that can be given away. The children can pass it along as they sit in a circle. Whoever has the prize in their hands should say the Bible verse by memory (Matthew 5:12). Pass the prize along until everyone has had a chance to say the Bible verse. Have the verse written for those who need extra help in memorization. In the end give everyone a prize.

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).

Adventures with GOD!

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?

Celebration: Spend time celebrating. We are blessed, we are joyful, because we are a part of God's kingdom. Have party favors available, sing songs that are appropriate and worship God. Have a special snack.

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!

ACTIVITY

Connect the dots and write the reason why the people are so happy.



Adventures with GOD!

ACTIVITY

Draw a picture of a scene from the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5:1-12)

