

Adventures with GOD!

PEOPLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM ARE SALT AND LIGHT (B.2.WINTER.4)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 5:13-16
Key Verse	Matthew 5:16
Key Concept	If I am part of God's kingdom then I am like light in a dark world and salt in a world that needs flavor.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain why symbols of salt and light are so important 2. Sing a song that talks about being light in the world 3. Illustrate three situations in our lives that reflect Jesus to others

Life Application

People in God's kingdom seek to reflect Jesus in their lives. The children of the kingdom of God are asked to be obedient to God. We rejoice and are glad that we are part of God's kingdom and we obey in response to God's love for us. During the week the children will talk about the king (Jesus) with someone else and will think about ways to reflect Jesus to 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
Activity/Bible exploration	Food with salt and without salt, a candle or a flashlight	15 minutes
Drama		5 minutes
Activity	See instructions	15 minutes
Songs		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 5:13-16) 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: Light a candle (or use one that runs on batteries) and put it on a table. Then take out a salt shaker and shake some salt on the table. Ask, "What does the candle have to do with the salt?" Let them answer.

Bible exploration: Point to the mural on the wall that the kids did last week. Remind them that Jesus said some things that can be a little difficult to understand in his sermon. Read Matthew 5:13-16. Each time you read the word "salt" the children should act out that they are shaking salt from a saltshaker. When you mention that the salt has lost its flavor lead them in pretending to throw out the food. Every time you say the word "light" the children should raise up their pointer finger like they are holding up a candle. When you read that if we put it under a box, have the children cover the finger with their other hand. Make sure that you have the

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Bible reading well enough memorized that you can lead them in the actions, or ask one of the children to lead the others in the actions. Here is a summary:

“We are a part of God’s kingdom. We are blessed because we belong to the kingdom of God. This morning we are going to talk about something very important. Our king has given us a mission. It’s a very important mission. Our king asks us to be salt and light. What? Yes, you heard right. God asks us to be salt and light. Remember the story that we told when Jesus went up to the mountain to teach? Well there he was teaching about what the kingdom of God was all about. Jesus said, ‘Everyone who is a part of God’s kingdom should be salt in this world.’” (In this moment begin to pass out something like popcorn or baked potatoes that have no salt and then pass some others that have a little salt). “Which ones did you like more? Which ones had more flavor?”

“There are many people that have a life that is has no flavor, just like food without salt. They don’t feel loved and they don’t experience joy. But Jesus said that because of our joy that comes from being a part of God’s kingdom others can experience the joy that God brings too. It’s like adding salt to people’s lives.”

“What does it mean to be light in the world? What is Jesus talking about?” Dialogue with the children about what brings light to the darkness, what salt brings to flavorless food. “Jesus said that we should reflect his light to a world that is filled with darkness and bad things that happen.” Ask the children what things bring darkness to our world (war, hunger, abuse, etc). Light a candle or turn on a flashlight and let the children look at the reflection of the light in a mirror. “If we were to reflect the light of Jesus in the world, what would happen?”

Activity/Craft: There are several activities in the following pages that you can used. Some of the children could work on the activity that has to do with salt, while others can do the one that focuses on light. Continue to dialogue with them about the joy that is ours when we are part of God’s kingdom. Remind them that as Christians we not only talk about Jesus with others, but we reflect Jesus through our actions. Ask the children to mention situations where they can be like salt and lgiht in the world. For example, maybe they can reflect peace when someone wants to pick a fight with them, or forgiving someone that hurts their feelings, etc.

Songs: A good song to sing to end your time would be “This little light of mine.” Though there are others you can choose from. Talk about the mission that God has given us to be salt and light. Learn the verse together. If it’s possible give each child a small candle with a piece of paper that contains the Bible verse on it that they can take home.

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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?

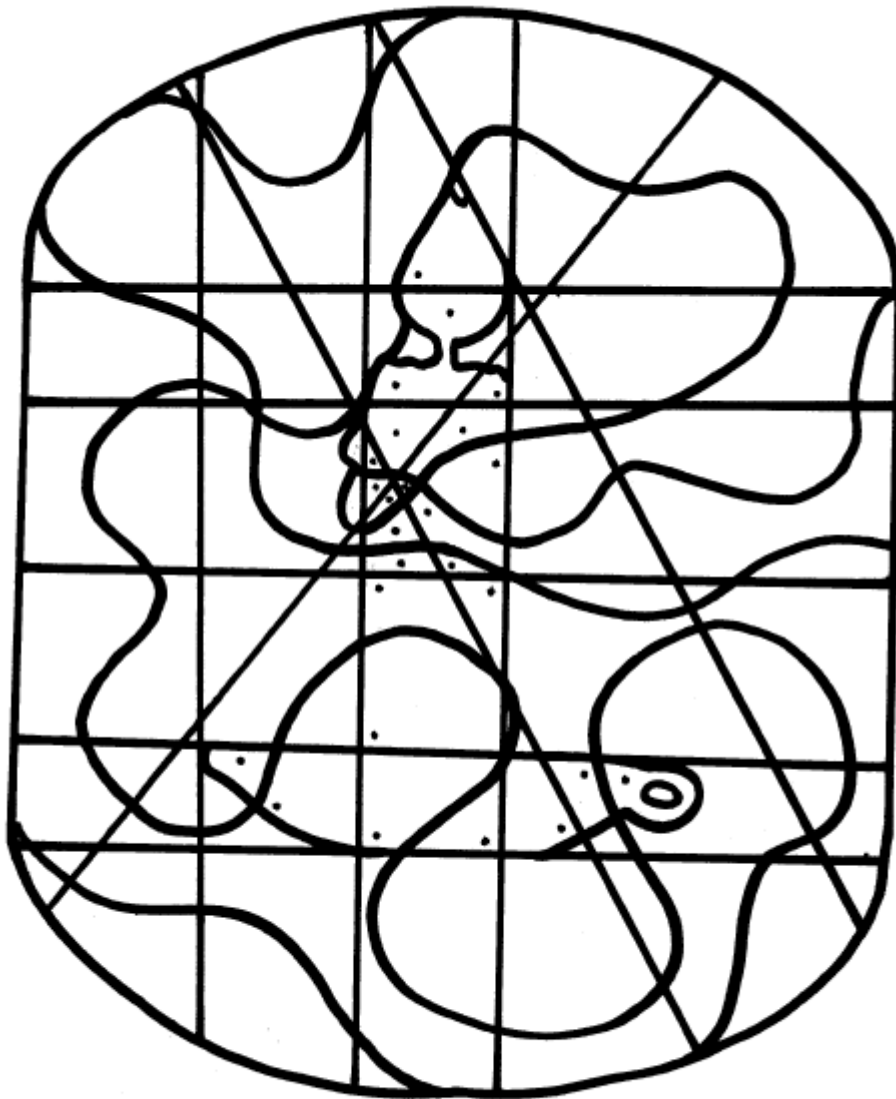
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, 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.

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ACTIVITY

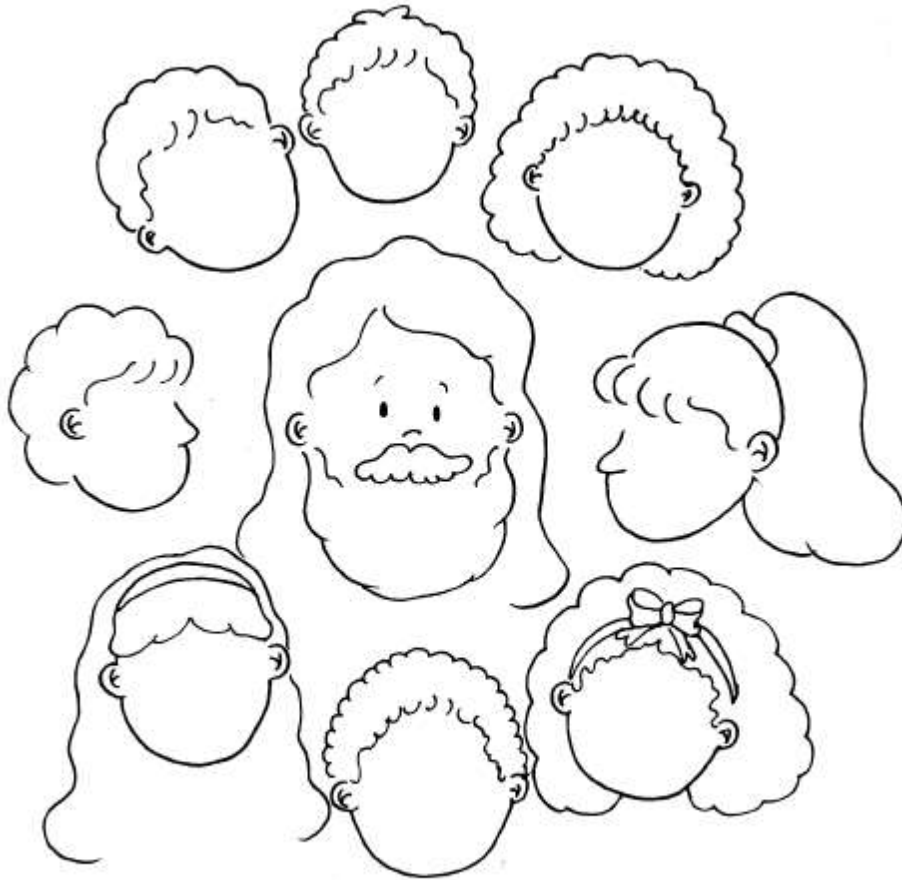
Color the parts of the picture that are marked with a dot.



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ACTIVITY

Draw in the faces of your friends and family that you want to reflect Jesus to.



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ACTIVITY

Be salt

Materials: salt, food coloring, pens, glue, paper plate, paper cup, newspaper

Instructions:

1. In each cup put the equivalent of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of salt.
2. Add a drop of food coloring and mix.
3. Have the children draw a self portrait in the middle of a paper plate and write the words, "I am the salt of the earth."
4. Around the edges of the plate add glue and then sprinkle on the colored salt.

