

Adventures with GOD!

PEOPLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM GIVE WITH JOY (B.2.WINTER.6)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 6:1-4
Key Verse	2 Corinthians 9:7
Key Concept	I am a part of God's kingdom and with a joyful spirit I should share the things that I have.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give another child a gift 2. Explain how we can give joyfully 3. Say the Bible verse by memory

Life Application

All of us who are part of God's kingdom know that there is nothing that gives more joy than obeying our king. In the previous classes we've learned about how people in God's kingdom live. How God loves us and instructs us to love others. Now the children will talk about the joy of giving. They will make a plan of how they can give to those who are less fortunate throughout the week. The idea isn't just to give, but to give out of love and with joy.

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	Symbols, gift box	10 minutes
Game	Gifts	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Cup, jar, bowls, illustrations, Bible	15 minutes
Activity	Paper and crayons	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 6:1-4) 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: On a table, where the children can see, put out some symbols that you've been using throughout the trimester: a castle, band-aid, a tambourine, a heart, a salt shaker, a candle, and a gift box.

Allow the children to look at and touch the symbols and talk about the kingdom of God and the role that people have in the kingdom of God. Make sure to wrap up a box to look like a gift, even though they won't know what it symbolizes yet. Let them know that it represents something the people in God's kingdom can do and we will talk about it a little later. Create some anticipation.

Game: Before the class, prepare enough gifts so that there is one for each child. The gift can be anything from a piece of candy, to pretty rocks, to a flower, etc. Put them on a table,

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unwrapped so the children can see. Ask a child to go up and take what he or she most likes. Once he or she has chosen, tell that child that they can give it to another child. The child who then gets the gift will go up and pick another one and give that one to someone else. Do this until everyone has a gift. Remember we are going to be talking about giving with joy.

Bible exploration: To begin, have a cup with a picture of a person taped to it. Tell them that the cup represents our life. Also have a jar with the picture of a gift taped to it. Explain that it contains the gifts that we receive from Jesus, as people of God's kingdom. Make sure to have it filled with water. Put the cup in a bowl and begin to pour in the water. As the cup is filled it will overflow into the bowl. Have that bowl placed in an even bigger bowl so that when it begins to overflow from the bowl it will go into the bowl below. Tell them that the bowls represent the people around us. This waterfall helps us remember all the things that Jesus does for those who are a part of God's kingdom. At the same time, we are to share the gifts we receive with others. Try to emphasize how much material things we have, including our clothes, our parents, friends, food, etc. We have so much and God wants us to share with others.

Read the Scripture for today found in Matthew 6:1-4 and teach them the Bible verse: 2 Corinthians 9:7

How should people in God's kingdom act towards others? When we give should we make a big deal about it? Why should we give to other people, especially those who are in need? And what should be our attitude as we give? (grumpy, frustrated, or joyful)

Activity: This is a time to help them think about the gifts that they have received from God and how they can give to others. Give them paper, crayons or colored pencils and ask them to draw three things that they would like to give to others this week, as a way of showing Jesus' love and God's kingdom. Help them remember it doesn't always have to be something material. We can give our time (making a card for a friend, helping with the housework). We can give our love (a big hug for our dad). The important thing is that we give with joy and love. It isn't always easy, but we can do it with God's help.

Help the children to think about ways that they can help others who are in need. For example, the children could share a basket of toys with other children that don't have many toys. They could buy a shirt for another child. They can visit a person who is sick and needs prayer; they could read to them. Use your creativity and the creativity of the children to think about what needs exist in their context. Use a big piece of poster board or paper to write their ideas down.

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As they are working on their activity, ask a few people to hand out the snack. Ask them, "What should our attitude be as we give and as we receive?" Gratitude!

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.