

Adventures with GOD!

PEOPLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM SEEK GOD (B.2.WINTER.9)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 6:25-34
Key Verse	Matthew 6:33
Key Concept	I am part of God's kingdom and I know that when I seek God and God's kingdom first, God takes care of the rest.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw two examples that describe Jesus in the story 2. Identify what God wants us to seek first and say the Bible verse by memory 3. Define the phrase "trust in God"

Life Application

When our lives are focused on God and doing God's will, we don't need to worry about other aspects of life. The king says that we are more important than the birds and the flowers of the field, both of which God takes care of and provides for. It's for that reason we trust God to provide for our needs. This week the children will give thanks for God's care and provision.

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
Review	Symbols	5 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, Puppet, stuffed animal	10 minutes
Bible verse	A cord/string, pieces of paper, paper clips	10 minutes
Craft or puzzle	Crayons, paper	10 minutes
Game	Bags, illustrations	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 6:25-34) 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?

Review: We are coming to the last few lessons of the trimester, that's why it would be a good time to do a little review at the beginning of each week. During the review, point to the symbols that have been placed on the mural, asking what they mean. You can also review Bible verses.

Bible exploration: Invite the children to sit in a circle on the floor. Sit with them. If it's possible bring a stuffed animal. Ask them how they take care of their pets if they have one. Help them think about the things that an animal needs: food, shelter, a bath, going out for walks, etc. Hold the stuffed animal in your arms as you talk about the care and love that animals need. Then take out a doll or a puppet and introduce him or her to the class. Hold the puppet and talk about how important people are too, and how much God loves people, even more than plants and animals. Then open your Bible to Matthew 6:25-34 and explain that Jesus made a

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comparison between the king and us. The king (God) knows what we need, like a parent knows what's best for his or her child. Jesus said the only thing we need to do is ask and God will take care of us. Jesus says we need to be close to God and seek God first; always seek to do what God asks of us. How can we be close to God? Praising God, loving Jesus, acting in the ways God asks us to act. Jesus says when we focus on God, God will take care of the rest – clothes, food, care, etc.

Bible verse: String a piece of yarn from one end of the room to another. Hang it low enough so the kids can reach it. In advance, or have the children help you, to cut out pieces of clothes from the illustrations provided in the following pages and on each piece of clothing write a word or two of the Bible verse. Have them repeat the verse after you and hang in on the line in the correct order. You can use paper clips or clothes pins to hang it.

Craft or puzzle: Give each child a picture of Jesus with his arms open. The children can draw a picture or write something that is worrying them. This is a reminder that God cares for us and will take care of us. Then, they can color the picture.

Or, before the class, prepare a puzzle that has an image of birds, flowers, and humans. Take some old magazines and cut out images. Then glue them on thick paper or poster board. You can cover the whole thing in contact paper, so it stays together better. Then, cut out the different parts of the puzzle. The children can take turns working together to put the puzzle together. Have it on the floor or on a low table. As they put it together, explain that Jesus said something else in the Sermon on the Mount that they will learn about today.

Game: You need 2 or 4 teams, each team with a bag with illustrations of small clothing, food, toys, etc. You or a helper will be the king and the teams will be the people of the kingdom. The king will say, "Oh, my people are so hungry (cold, etc.). I need some food (clothes, etc.) to give them." The team that gets there the quickest with what you need will get a point. Finish until all of the items in the bag have been used. When the game has finished asked them how we can help the king (God), when the people in God's kingdom have needs. What are the ways that we can help others?

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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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ILLUSTRATION



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ILLUSTRATIONS FOR BIBLE VERSE

