

Adventures with GOD!

REIGN AND FALL OF JERUSALEM (C.2.WINTER.13)

Biblical Reference	2 Kings 24:18-19, 25:1-30, 2 Chronicles 36:11-21
Key Verse	2 Chronicles 36:15-16
Key Concept	God expects us to hear His Word to receive the blessing and not the disaster.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Express that is better to obey God and his commandments. 2. Pray for the leaders of your country for them to hear the voice of God 3. Make a verbal commitment to obey God this week.

Life Application

God in His infinite love for us has given us the opportunity to listen and obey His Word. His commandments are written for everyone, and we have the choice to listen and obey, but if we refuse God's love and refuse to listen and obey God, we will live an unfilled life. Children will learn through this lesson that following God results in God's overflowing blessings in their lives.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Review	See instructions	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bibles	10 minutes
Craft	Poster board, construction paper, beads, stickers, stapler, tape, crown worksheet	15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Review: Take time to review each of the take-home sheets the children have worked on over the last 12 weeks. It will help them to see the scope of their spiritual journey with God. They can take the folders home this week.

Make a quick and short overview of the life of King Josiah and the important things he did, especially in loving God above all things and how he taught the people to do the same.

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 that 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 Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this story? 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 though the story?

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Bible Exploration: After Josiah, the last of Judah's Kings, Jehohaz, Jehoiakim and Zedekiah did not follow God. They did evil things. Although God had sent messengers, prophets to remind them of his love the kings and people would not listen. They did not seek God when the Babylonians came and so Jerusalem and all Judah were destroyed.

Read 2 Chronicles 36:11-14

1. Reflect: Even though God is always with us and loves us, why do you think it's so easy to forget God is with us and to ignore God's love?
2. Explain: What might help us remember? Zedekiah and the priests not only forgot God they rejected God. They rejected God's love and did things that hurt others. They never asked for forgiveness. They never repented.
3. Sometimes when we hurt others what can we do to show God we love him and accept his love? (Ask for forgiveness and repent)

Read 2 Kings 25:8-12, look at illustration "The people of Judah exiled".

1. What are your thoughts about this story? How does it make you feel?
2. What do you think was going through the minds of the people?

Explain: Sometimes bad things happen because people don't follow God and hurt others. Since the people had rejected God, their city was destroyed. However, sometimes there are people who love God but whose cities are destroyed because the people who come to destroy it don't accept God's love, don't follow God and instead hurt others.

3. What would happen if everyone accepted God's love and followed God's direction?
4. How will you follow God this week?

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Craft: In advance collect poster board or construction paper and cut to make crowns (see picture below). You can also provide beads or stickers for decorating. Tell children to use their imagination. A few suggestions have been provided on the following pages. Explain: All of us have a choice to accept or reject God's love and to accept and reject God's direction. Today we will be making crowns. There are two types of crowns: crowns that focus on us and crowns that focus on God – crowns we make for ourselves or crowns we wear to show we belong to God. Read 2 Timothy 4:8.

Explain: We have been reading stories of many kings most of whom wore crowns to show how great they were. They even thought they were greater than God. Today we are making crowns that we will wear to show we love God and belong to God and want to follow God because we are a part of God's Kingdom.

Emphasizing that Jesus is to be our King and Lord, which we should love God with all our heart, all our soul and with all our strength, invite to give thanks to God for everything you have learned during this quarter. Give thanks mainly to Jesus Christ, the King of our lives.

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?

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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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CRAFT - CROWNS

2 Timothy 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge will award to me on that day and not only to me but also to all who have longed for Jesus coming.

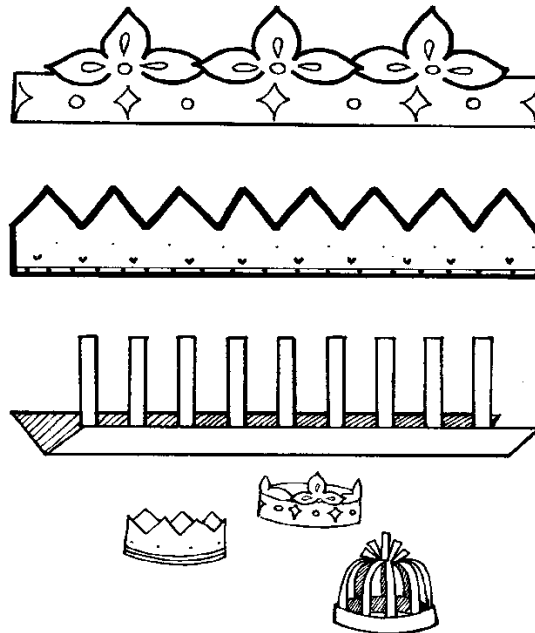
Materials: construction paper, glue, tape, colored sequins beads, plastic buttons, elastic scissors, cardboard, paint

Preparation:

Crown # 1: Cut a strip of cardboard for its flexibility can be molded easily. Make it long enough to fit around the head and also power to make binding. Apply paint and paste some decorative "jewels". Then paste cardboard on the back side with adhesive tape.

Crown # 2: Cut a cardboard zigzag along its length. Paint and paste some bottle caps or buttons.

Crown# 3: Double fold a narrow strip of cardboard over their entire length. Cut strips of purple paper and paste them into the fold. A cardboard for the back and attach the paper strips by means of an elastic band in the middle.



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ILLUSTRATION

THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH EXILED

