

Adventures with GOD!

WAITING FOR THE PROMISE (B.2.SPRING.2)

Biblical Reference	Acts 1:12-17, 21-26
Key Verse	Acts 1:14
Key Concept	It's difficult to wait, but I trust in the promises of God and wait patiently.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Act out the story from Acts of the disciples waiting for the Holy Spirit. 2. Name the disciples and the others that were waiting for the promises of God to come true. 3. Explain how they can help one another in times when it's difficult to wait on God's promises.

Life Application

Waiting is a difficult part of life. Jesus' disciples (apostles) had to wait a long time for the fulfillment of the promise their friend, Jesus, had given them. There have been times in our lives when we have to wait for the fulfillment of God's promises. God wants us to wait patiently, trusting that God is faithful to the promises that have been made. God is faithful and we should not get weary as we wait. We can help support one another when it gets difficult and we want to give up.

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
Game	Dice, questions	10 minutes
Introduction		10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Craft	See options	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 (Acts 1:12-17, 21-26) 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?

Game: In the first trimester of the year, the children will have the opportunity to learn more about Jesus' disciples. The game that you will find in the following pages can be helpful in allowing them to review what they've previously learned about, as well as introduce the Bible story for today. Divide the class into teams and give them the instructions.

Introduction: As an introduction to the Bible story today, it would be good to do some role playing in order to illustrate what it's like to wait for something you really want to happen. You could act out a scene where a family is waiting for someone very special to come to visit, or for a new sibling to be born, or where a child is waiting to see their sports hero, or on a trip to the beach where they have to spend a long time driving in the car. Think of the scenario beforehand and have some volunteers help act it out. You can be the narrator.

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Then ask them to draw a picture of what their face looks like when they are waiting. How does it feel to wait for something you really want to happen? Identify the emotions and feelings involved.

Put up a calendar and count out 7 weeks, starting from today. Show them that the disciples had to wait 7 weeks before they saw the promise Jesus had given them fulfilled. Allow a volunteer to put an X in the space on the calendar that designates the current day of the week. You will continue to put an X on the calendar until you reach week 7.

Bible exploration: Using the illustration that is included, ask the children to tell you the name of the 12 apostles. Then show them an illustration of the upper room and explain that this was like the place where the 11 disciples (Judas was no longer with them) and other intimate friends of Jesus (maybe people like Mary, Martha, etc.), as well as Jesus' mother and Mary stayed after Jesus ascended into heaven. They were waiting for something very special, for something Jesus promised them would happen. Set up the scene. Maybe put pillows on the floor, have something to drink like water and some snacks (like grapes). Have them act out what they imagine the disciples talked about as they waited.

Ask them what a person can do to make the waiting bearable. Together read Acts 1:12-17. Use the illustrations available to talk about the disciples who waited together for the promise to be fulfilled. What do you think they did to pass the time? What do people do when they are together? (talk, eat, play games, etc.) The apostles and people gathered also spent time praying. Why would they have spent time praying? They probably shared stories of the times they spent together with Jesus. For example, maybe Mary shared about when the angel came to her to tell her that she would have a baby.

Then read Acts 1:21-26. What was one of the decisions they had to make as they waited? Who was Matthias? What was he chosen for?

In conclusion, we know that it is difficult to wait. It must have been difficult for the disciples to wait. But, God gave them each other and they could support each other and remind each other of God's promise. And so together they waited and waited. Next week we'll find out what happened when the promise was fulfilled.

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Craft: Allow them to choose from one of the options.

1. Write a poem or a song that reflects what it means for us to wait on God's promises.
2. Start a mural that you can add a scene on to each week. Put up a big long piece of paper or poster board and have some children draw a picture of the scene that was depicted in the Bible story today. Each Sunday they will add another scene.
3. Make a puzzle that has the memory verse (Acts 1:14) on it.

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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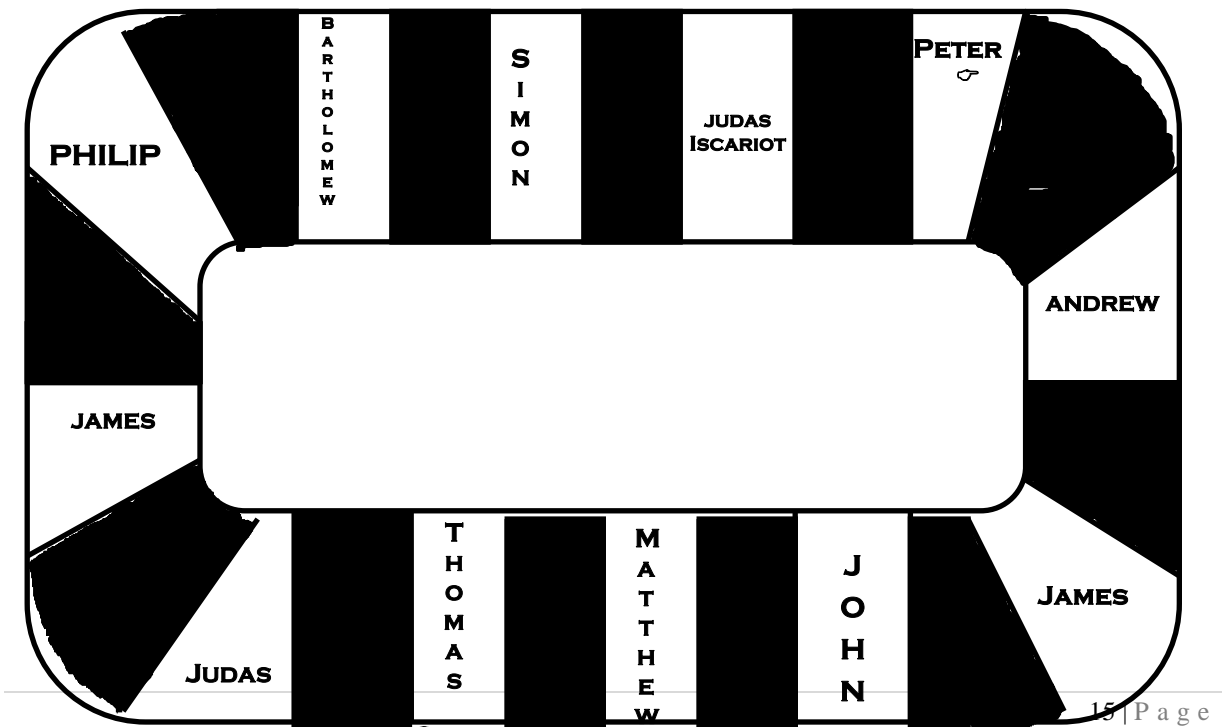
GAME

Materials: 2 teams, dice, 2 different playing pieces (for example two different coins, or two different colored circles, etc.), Question cards (four cards for each name)

How to play:

1. The teams put their player pieces on the space that says "Peter." A representative from each team roles the dice. The team that rolls the higher number goes first.
2. The first team roles the dice again and moves the number of spaces that the dice indicates. If they land on a space that has the name of one of the disciples, they should answer a question about that person's life. If they answer correctly they get another turn and keep the question card. If they don't answer correctly they lose their turn. If they roll the dice and land on the name of one of the disciples who's card they already have, then they roll the dice again and move to another space.
3. The team that gets the most amount of cards wins.

It would be helpful to look up some of the Bible passages that talk about these disciples, so that if they need help answering the question they know where to look (if they are having a hard time answering the questions).



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QUESTIONS FOR THE GAME

Make cards with the question and answer on one side and the name of the disciple on the other. The other team will have to read the question and see if the opposing team answers correctly.

Philip: What did I tell my brother after I talked with Jesus? (**Come and see Jesus**)
Philip: Who did I talk to about Jesus? (**With Bartholomew**)
Philip: Which brothers were from my home town? (**Peter and Andrew**)
Philip: What town am I from? (**Bethsaida**)

Matthew: After Jesus ascended I waited with the other disciples for what? (**the Holy Spirit**)
Matthew: The name of the first book in New Testament is named after me. What is it called? (**Matthew**)
Matthew: What was I doing when Jesus invited me to follow him (**collecting taxes**)
Matthew: What is another name I am called? (**Levi**)

Peter: How many times did Jesus tell me I need to forgive others? (**70 times 7**)
Peter: Jesus told me I would fish for what? (**people**)
Peter: What does my name mean? (**rock**)
Peter: I denied Jesus 3 times before I heard what? (**The rooster crow**)

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Bartholomew: Before I saw Jesus where did he see me sitting? (**under a tree**)

Bartholomew: What is my brother's name? (**Philip**)

Bartholomew: I told Jesus he was the _____ of God and the _____ of Israel
(**Son/king**)

Bartholomew: Who introduced me to Jesus? (**Philip**)

Thomas: I was ready to go visit Lazarus, but I thought something would happen to us. What was it? (**that we would be killed**)

Thomas: What did I want to do to make sure Jesus was who he said he was? (**put my fingers in his hands and his side**)

Thomas: Why wasn't I as convinced as the other disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead? (**I wasn't there when they saw him alive**)

Thomas: What nickname have people given me because I didn't believe right away that Jesus was alive. (**doubting Thomas**)

Andrew: Why did Jesus tell us that we needed to watch carefully for his return? (**Because no one knows when it will happen**)

Andrew: I saw Jesus give food to over 5000 people taking 5 of one thing and 2 of another. What were they? (**5 loaves of bread and 2 fish**)

Andrew: What was I doing when Jesus called me to follow him (**fishing**)

Andrew: Who is my brother? (**Peter**)

SIMON: What name did they give me that starts with a "Z"? (**The Zealot**)

SIMON: What is the name of the political group I was a part of? It starts with a "Z" (**The Zealots**)

SIMON: Another disciple had the same name as me but Jesus gave him a new name. Who was it? (**Peter**)

SIMON: I am not happy about the empire that is ruling over Israel. What empire is it? (**Roman**)

JUDAS: What did Jesus say the people who love him have to do? (**obey his commandments**)

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JUDAS: Who was my father? (**James**)

JUDAS: What other disciple had my same name? (**Judas Iscariot**)

JUDAS: Who was I with when we were waiting for the Holy Spirit? (**The other disciples**)



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James: What did Jesus call my brother and me? (**Sons of thunder**)

James: My brother and I were fishermen like some of the other disciples. Who were the other fishermen? (**Andrew and Peter**)

James: What was my brother's name? (**John**)

James: What sea did I fish in? (**Sea of Galilea**)

JUDAS ISCARIOT: Where did I lead the religious leaders to arrest Jesus (**The garden of Gethsemane**)

JUDAS ISCARIOT: What did the religious leaders give me to turn over Jesus?
(**30 pieces of silver**)

JUDAS ISCARIOT: How did I reveal who Jesus was? (**with a Kiss on the cheek**)

JUDAS ISCARIOT: What was my greatest weakness? (**Money**)

James: I shared my name with another disciple. What other disciples had the same names? (**Simon y Judas**)

James: Who was my father? (**Alphaeus – see Mark 3:18**)

James: My mother saw Jesus after he rose from the dead. What was it called when Jesus rose from the dead? (**the resurrection**)

James: Name two of the other disciples I was with waiting for the Holy Spirit to come (**any two of the disciples names**)

John: When Jesus was on the cross he asked me to take care of who?
(**His mother**)

John: What was my job before I met Jesus? (**fisherman**)

John: I wrote the last book of the New Testament. What is it? (**Revelation**)

John: What was my nickname? (**The disciple Jesus loved**)

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ILLUSTRATION

Who were Jesus' disciples? How many were there? What were their names?

