

Adventures with GOD!

INTRODUCTION: THE FAMILY OF GOD (B.2.SPRING)

LESSONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 6-8

GOAL FOR THE TRIMESTER:

Learn about the beginning of the Christian church and the story of the first disciples. Feel a part of the local church and the global church – the body of Christ. Recognize that as part of the body they have responsibilities and rights.

MESSAGE FOR THE TEACHER:

The history of the early church in its first years after Pentecost is a fascinating story for children. It's filled with stories of God's miracles and supernatural acts. As they learn about what God did 2000 years ago in the lives of the first believer, they will come to understand that it is the same God that loves them and invites them into the family of believers today.

What can we learn from the story of the early church? Read the book of Acts and what is your conclusion? In Acts we see the faith and passion of the first believers and the Spirit of God who equipped them and gave them a spirit of evangelism and mission. It is the same Spirit who guides our churches and believers of Jesus Christ today.

Even children can capture God's vision and passion for their lives and they are prompted to share the good news of God's love with others. They can understand that God wants them to be a part of the family of God. They will learn to pray for those who are not yet following Jesus Christ, as well as identify on a map areas of the world where missionaries are sharing God's word and love, as well as where people still have not heard the good news of salvation in Christ. They will learn to give their offerings to support the mission of God around the world and to have eyes that see the world as God sees it.

As teachers we must also be certain of the message that the book of Acts has for us. What is God's plan and desire for people? Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and understanding as you prepare to share with the children. Read the book of Acts with listening ears, ready for what the Spirit will teach you. Place yourself in the story to imagine what the first Christians must have felt, saw, and done as they shared God's good news with others. You may even want to use the symbol that early Christians used to identify themselves – the symbol of the fish – and put it up in your classroom. A craft idea is to make bracelets or book marks with the symbol of the early Christians.

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This trimester we will help children to understand that they are part of a local church; a part of the global church that extends back to the time of the first Christians. They are a part of the continuing story of Acts. An idea for decorating the room is to make a chain that has the name of the people in the early churches, and include their names and the names of other people in their churches.

