

Adventures with GOD!

HELPERS FOR THE APOSTLES (B.2.SPRING.10)

Biblical Reference	Acts 6:1-7
Key Verse	Acts 6:4
Key Concept	God has given me a very important task.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name the helpers that were chosen by the apostles/disciples and tell what their job was. 2. Mention the qualities of the helpers. 3. Pray for the family of God, recognizing the task that God has given each one of us.

Life application

The lesson today shows us that each person in God's family is important and is invited to be a part of God's misión. The Apostles had their jobs, but they began to see that they needed support and help. Every day people were putting their faith in Jesus and the family of God was growing. So, they appointed helpers. In our churches today, everyone has an important role. What we do may differ, but we all have an important task to do according to the gifts God has given us. WE need each other. We are a part of God's family, the body of Christ, together.

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	Commands	10 minutes
Introduction	Illustrations	5 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Craft	Box and figures	10 minutes
Bible verse	Puzzle	5 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 6:1-7) 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: To illustrate the importance of working in a team, this game will give them an opportunity to work as a team. Each person will have a role to play. They will see that they need each other to accomplish the goal. The game consists in forming rows (2 or 3 or 4 depending on the size of the group). Each row is a team. The first child in each team has to cross the room to where you are, to receive a command/instructions. That person then has to take the instructions back to the team. The instructions can be something like make a pyramid, act out a Bible verse, sing a song and have everyone play a different instrument, carry a person to the other side of the room, etc. Get creative.

Introduction: Get them talking about the game, about the experience of working as a team. What would have happened if one person didn't want to participate or if they didn't have all the people they needed to carry out the instruction. Have them think about the different types of teams that exist. Bring in pictures of teams (soccer teams, basketball teams, etc.) Ask, "What does a team do? Who leads a team? What happens if everyone in the team tries to do the same thing?"

Bible exploration: Today the story focuses on the disciples and the team that was created to help share the good news of Jesus. The apostles had been given a task from God. What was it? Remind them of the story from the previous week. While the apostles were called to preach about Jesus, there were other responsibilities that God's family had to take care of. Remember how God's family

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took care of one another, helped the poor and provided for those in need? The church needed helpers to make sure that these important ministries didn't get forgotten. The apostles simply couldn't do it all. And they didn't have to, because God had given each person different gifts to use to serve the family of God. So, they chose helpers (servants/deacons), Read the story found in Acts 6:1-7. Review the details of the story with the children. Why were helpers chosen? Who was chosen to help? (use the figures provided in the following pages) How did this make everyone feel? And so the disciples and the newly chosen helpers, were able to support each other and together tell people about Jesus and continue taking care of people in need.

In what ways is the church like a team? What happens if we don't all contribute something? What are the ways that we form part of the team?

Craft: In the following pages you will find a suggested craft. This can also be used as a game to help the children learn the names of the helpers (deacons) that were chosen in Acts 6.

Bible verse: Write out the verse on a big piece of poster board. Cut out pieces, like a puzzle. Give out the puzzle pieces and have them put together the puzzle and read the verse in unison.

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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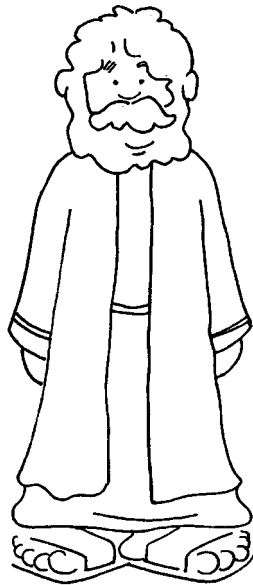
CRAFT AND GAME

THE HELPERS

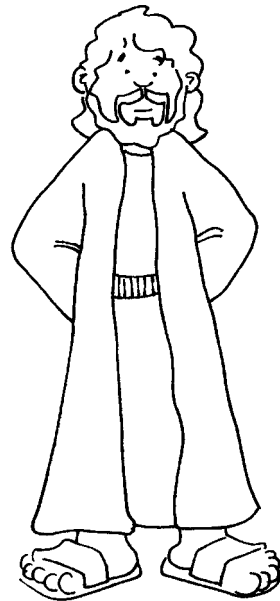
Materiales: a small box, the figures of the helpers, scissors, crayons.

Elaboración: Color and cut out the helpers, with their names. Form a little tab with their names. Cut small slits in the top of a box and slide the tabs with the helpers names in each one of the slits.

Game: The leader removes one of the helpers while the others close their eyes. Each team then has to guess which helper was removed. One by one they will choose a helper to remove. If they guessed correctly they get a point. Play the game a few times.

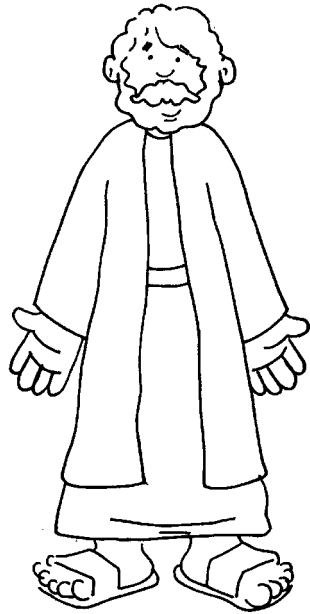


Parmenas

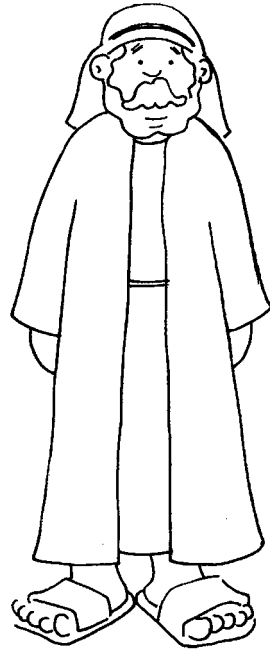


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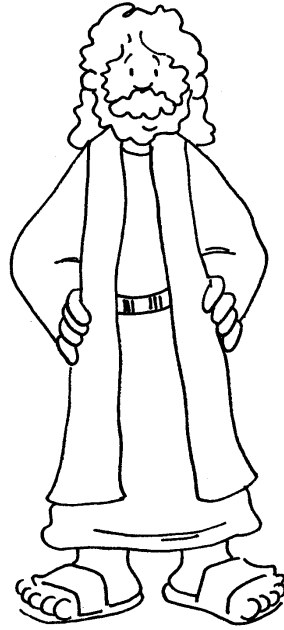
Nicolaus



Timon

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HELPERS CONTINUED



Philip



Prochorus



Stephen

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