

# Adventures with GOD!

## LIFE IN THE FAMILY OF GOD (B.2.SPRING.5)

Biblical Reference	Acts 2:42-47
Key Verse	John 1:12
Key Concept	As I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I have the awesome privilege of being a part of the family of God.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain how one becomes part of God's family</li> <li>2. Give examples of the ways it is a privilege to be a part of God's family</li> <li>3. Give thanks to God for the privilege of being a part of God's family</li> </ol>

### LIFE APPLICATION

Being a part of God's family is a huge privilege. To be a child of God is a privilege given to those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ and believe in the sacrifice that he made for their sins on the cross. For those children who have put their faith in Christ, this is an important time to learn about the rights and responsibilities they have as members of God's family. Today during the class, they will have the opportunity to explore what it means to be a part of this family.

### 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
Craft	Crayons, paper, playdoh/modeling clay, pencils	10 minutes
Bible Verse	Illustration	5 minutes
Bible exploration	Costumes/dress up clothes for the people in the drama, Bible, snack, instruments for worship	15 minutes
Craft	Activity sheets, crayons, scissors	10 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute



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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Note:** As the focus this week is on the family, it would be good to have some pictures or drawings of different types of families. Put these pictures up at eye-level so the children can see them when they arrive.

**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 2:42-47) 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?

**Craft:** On one or two tables have different materials available so the children can make a picture or use playdoh/modeling clay to make a representation of their family. Have paper, scissors, coloring crayons, playdoh/modeling clay, etc. available on the table. Help them to write the names of the people in their family.

**Bible Verse:** Write the verse for today on a large piece of paper, with an illustration of a family. Or make a giant puzzle and have them put it together. Explain that we are all members of a family, but that God has invited us to be a part of God's family too. It's a very special invitation and it's open to anyone who puts their faith in Jesus, who wants to follow Jesus as a disciple, believing that Jesus died and rose from the grave saving us from our sins and showing us what the kingdom of God is like.

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**Bible exploration:** Sit down again with the calendar and mark off another week. You are getting closer to the 7 weeks. Remind the children that this is how long the first believers waited for the Holy Spirit.

The Bible has a lot of amazing stories, like the one for today, which tells of the first Christians who began to meet together and who shared everything they had so that no one had any need. The Bible story for today is found in Acts 2:43-47. If possible invite some of the youth to come and act it out, or involve the children in the drama. Have costumes available (which can be as simple as bed sheets, scarves, etc.) and try to create the ambience for the story.

Remember that after the Holy Spirit came, even more people came to believe in Jesus and decided to become a follower of Jesus. So, they joined the other believers and were part of the family of God. What did the family of God do together?

- They prayed together, men and women and children
- They shared what they had. They helped people who had physical needs.
- They ate together
- They praised God together

Have a snack available to pass out and invite all the children to come and experience what it was like for the first believers. Sing a song together. Lift up prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God. Pray for each others needs.

Together think of a drawing you can do for the mural that will show what life was like for the people in God's family in the first church. Ask a few volunteers to work on the mural.

**Craft:** Give them illustrations in order to make a picture which represents their biological family or the family they live with, and another picture of the family of God that they are a part of. There are lots of different images of people that the children can choose from. They should color them, cut them out and glue them on the two different backdrops (a house, a church). Have them write the names of the people in the two families. Make sure they include themselves in the family portrait.

## **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).



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**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?

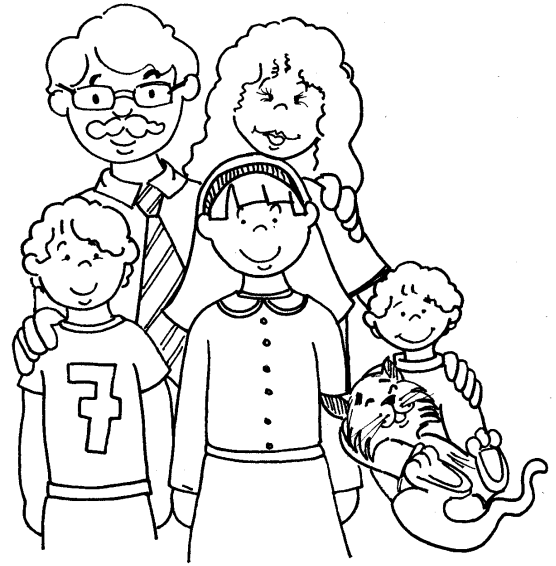
**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, 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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## CRAFT 1

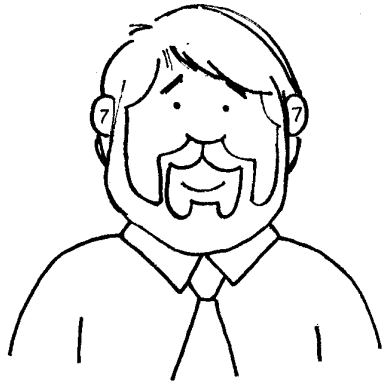
Put the members of your family in the house.



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## FIGURES

Figures that can be used to represent the people in their family



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## CRAFT 2

Model of a church. Put the people who make of the family of God inside.





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## FIGURES

People who can be used in the illustration of the child's family or in the family of God.

