

# Adventures with GOD!

## LIFE IN THE FAMILY OF GOD (B.2.SPRING.6)

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Biblical Reference     | Acts 2:42-47   |
| Key Verse              | Acts 4:42  |
| Key Concept            | As part of God's family, I can share what I have with others.  |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name three things the first Christians did together</li> <li>2. Give examples of how the family of God today, the church, shows unity</li> <li>3. Help someone else in their group</li> </ol> |

### LIFE APPLICATION

Today's class is a continuation of last week's. The idea this week is to focus on the things the first Christians did, which showed their unity to God and to each other. As a part of the family of God we are a part of a community and our participation is important. We are called to unity in our actions, our thoughts, our worship. What are things that we do that help us to remain unified? Together you will look again at the text in Acts to see those specific actions that the first Christians took to grow in unity.

### 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  |
| Introduction      | Calendar   | 5 minutes  |
| Bible exploration | Bible, illustrations   | 10 minutes |
| Activity          | String/yarn/ribbon   | 10 minutes |
| Craft             | Card stock, scissors, glue, cards, colored paper, coloring crayons | 15 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 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?

**Introduction:** Mark off another week in the calendar. Count how many weeks are left before you reach the 7 week mark. Talk to them about whether or not it's seemed like a long time to wait.

Then invite them to play a game. Have them stand up and be ready for you to call out a number. When you call out a number they have to get in groups of that many people. For example, if you say "three" they have to get into groups of three. Do it a couple of times and for the last one, say the exact number of children that there are in your group, to make one big group.

**Bible Story:** Begin by asking a question. Why did you come to church today? Who did you see when you arrived? What have you done together since you arrived? Guide a conversation about the reasons why we come together and what we do when we come together. When we have put our faith in Jesus, we are part of God's family. The church is God's family and God wants the church to be united.

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Review Acts 2:42-47. Ask questions about what the first Christians did when they were together. They:

- Were taught by the apostles
- They shared what they had with others
- They ate together
- They prayed together
- They worshipped God together

What can we learn from the first Christians? How do we show our love for one another? How can we share with one another?

**Activity:** In the country of Thailand, there is a beautiful custom that people share together. They join the hands of friends together with a rope/string, as a symbol of unity and friendship. Today you can do something similar. Ask them to hold hands and then using a string/yarn/ribbon, tie (loosely) the wrists of the children together. Make sure the strings are long (one for each pair of hands). Sing a song together or pray for one another. Have the child say a prayer for the child on his or her right.

**Craft:** Each child will have the opportunity to make a book mark. Make enough copies, one for each child. This will help them to remember that we are part of God's united family. Cut out strips of card stock, and then after they decorate and cut out the book mark they can glue it on the card stock. As a symbol of friendship and unity they can give their book mark to another child in the group.

As they work, have them talk about the different ways we show our love to each other and have them brainstorm other ways we can help one another.

Learn the memory verse together.

## **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.

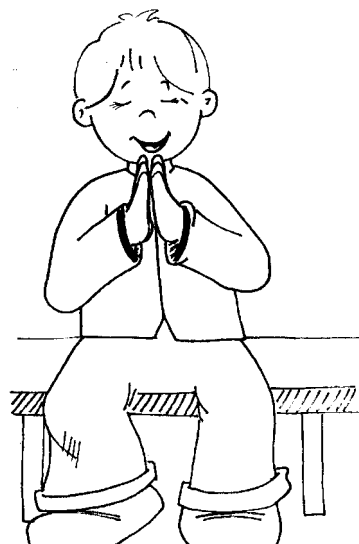
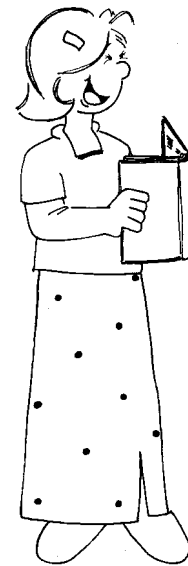
**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen.



# Adventures with GOD!

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Things we do together as a church



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Things we do together as a church



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## CRAFT

### BOOK MARK

Materials: Card stock, Copy of the verse, Coloring crayons, Glue, Scissors, Hole punch, Yarn/ribbon

- Instructions:
1. Cut out the book mark with the Bible verse. The teacher will give each child a piece of card stock.
  2. Glue the Bible verse on the card stock.
  3. Decorate the book mark
  4. Punch a hole in the top and string a piece of ribbon or yarn for decoration.

