

Adventures with GOD!

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE SPREADS (C.2.SPRING.4)

Biblical Reference	Acts 8:4-40
Key Verse	2 Timothy 4:2
Key Concept	God wants to use me as a messenger to share the good news of Jesus with others.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell how the gospel spread to Samaria 2. Describe Phillip and how he shared the gospel 3. Make a list of the ways God used the disciples to share the good news

Life application:

As the disciples followed Jesus' instructions to go and share the good news, they began in Jerusalem and little by little they were able to share it in other cities as well. Even today the gospel is being shared in new places. God continues to use people to share the good news of Jesus with others. We are a part of God's mission.

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
Investigation		10 minutes
Mural		10 minutes
Bible exploration	Illustration and Bibles	15 minutes
Game	Bingo	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



Adventures with GOD!

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 that 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 Acts 8:4-13 twice 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 though the story?

Investigation: Today's Bible story talks about the spread of the gospel to Samaria. Help them to understand a little bit more about the context of Samaria and it's relationship with the Jews. Use the questions that you will find in the following pages and use John 4 as a reference. Make a sign to hang up with the information that the children collect.

Mural: As you add to your mural today, include something to represent the spread of the gospel to Samaria.

Bible exploration: Today the children will work in teams to investigate how the gospel spread to other cities, besides Jerusalem. As we saw last week, Christians were being persecuted and some of them had to leave Jerusalem and go to other cities. So, now the gospel was being shared not only in Jerusalem and Judea, but also in Samaria. The Holy Spirit was with the disciples as they shared the good news of Jesus. Acts 8 talks about how God used the disciples to spread the news about Jesus.



Adventures with GOD!

Divide the children into 3 groups and give each group a portion of Acts 8.

Group 1: Acts 8:4-13 (Philip in Samaria)

Group 2: Acts 8:14-25 (Peter and John)

Group 3: Acts 8:26-40 (Philip and the Eunuch)

Give them time to read the Scripture assigned to them, and then act out the story in that passage. Or if they prefer they can create a presentation, emphasizing the basic facts of the story: who, what, where, when, how.

It is important to talk about the fact that God used people who listened to God, who were obedient, who loved God and were willing to go and share the good news with others. What does God require of us? What happens when we feel intimidated or scared? Why is it important to remember that the mission is God's and we are invited to participate?

Game: To review the lesson from today and yesterday, play a game of bingo. See the instructions on the following pages.

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



Adventures with GOD!

INFORMATION SHEET

SAMARIA

1. Where was Samaria? (locate it on a map).
2. What important place was found in Samaria?
(John 4:6)
3. How did the Jews treat the Samaritans?
4. Why was there friction between the Jews and Samaritans?
(John 4:19-20)
5. How did Jesus treat the Samaritans? (John 4:39-41)



Adventures with GOD!

GAME

BINGO

Give every child a blank game board. On the board, have the following terms written for the children to choose which ones to put on their board and in what order. Give them time to write the words on their board. Have game pieces so that they can mark the names/words you call. You can use dried beans or M&Ms.

Ahead of time, have the names/words written on strips of paper and put them in a hat. Draw one at a time. The first child who gets 5 in a row wins.

Names/words for the game:

Baptize
Christians
Scattered
Holy Spirit
Stephen
Philip
Saul
Ethiopian
Great Commission
Gamaliel
Languages
Jerusalem
Judea
Power
Miracles
Peter
Preaching
Jesus
John
High Priest
Mary
Prophecy
Samaria
Healing
Sharing
Breaking bread
Stoning



Adventures with GOD!

GAME BINGO BOARD

