

Adventures with GOD!

THE SECOND PERSECUTION (C.2.SPRING.8)

Biblical Reference	Acts 12:1-24
Key Verse	Acts 12:24
Key Concept	God is with me in the trials and difficult circumstances.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the story of Peter's rescue. 2. Give examples of God's power and presence in the midst of trials 3. Say the Bible verse by memory and say what it means to them

Life Application

From the very beginning, God's church has been persecuted. This has not prevented the gospel from being preached. More and more people are coming to put their faith in Jesus. This week's Bible story focuses on the persecution of the church in Jerusalem and the imprisonment of Peter. While both of these circumstances were extremely difficult, the church grew and learned to pray, and they saw God act in new and powerful ways.

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		10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bibles	10 minutes
Activity	See instructions	15 minutes
Craft	Note cards, aluminum paper, pens, glue	10 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 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 12:1-24 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?

Introduction: Using the model given in the following pages, make a big drawing of concentric circles. Make copies of the model given and hand one copy out to each child. Give them instructions and while they are working on their sheets, you will be working on the big drawing. This will be a point of reference as they finish.

Bible exploration: The lesson for today is found in Acts 12:1-24. Sit together and begin with an introduction. Who was Herod? Why was he persecuting the church? Read the story together and talk about what was happening to the church and what happened to Peter. Note: the church was going through a difficult time and Peter was imprisoned. But, once again God showed himself to be more powerful than the human authorities. The church came together in prayer and learned to trust God. Ask wondering questions: I wonder how Peter felt as he waited in the prison? I wonder what the Christians were feeling as they prayed for Peter? I wonder how the Christians responded when Peter showed up at their door and they realized that their prayers had been answered.



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Is God with us only in the good times? How do we know God is with us even in the difficult times? Spend time praying together and thanking God that he is with you even in difficult times.

Activity: “News Update” – Give each child a copy of the activity sheet. They will write up a news article based on the questions given. The Bible story is broken up into three segments: Acts 12:1-23, Acts 9:1-9 and Acts 9:23-25. Have the children break up into three groups and each group can prepare one of the news stories. If there is time have one person in the group share their news story with the rest of the children.

Craft: If there is time you can do the craft found in 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

NOTE: If children haven't brought a picture, remind them that they will need it for next week.

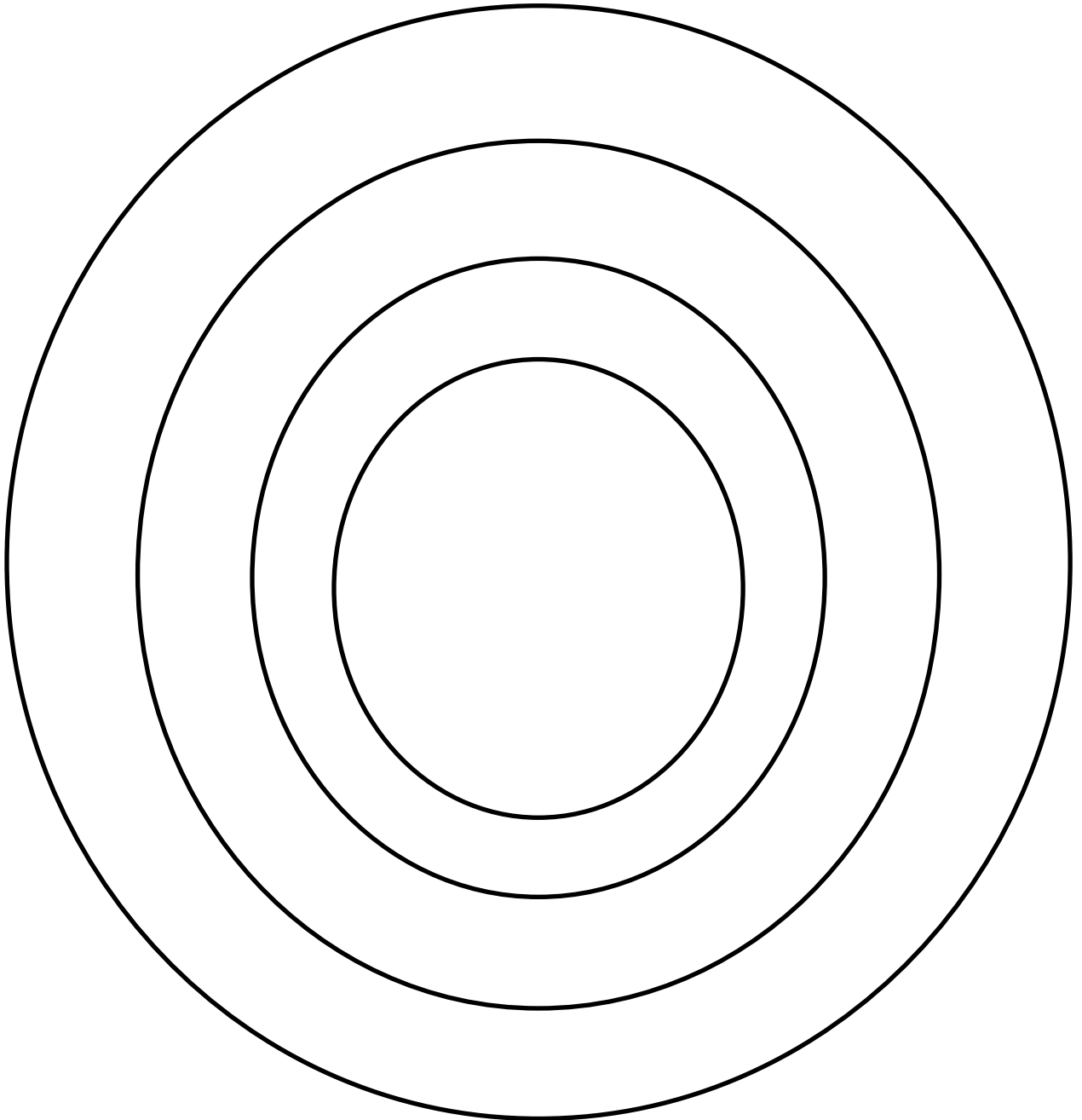


Adventures with GOD!

ACTIVITY SHEET 1

ACTS 1:8

This is a review. Write the names of the places that Jesus said his disciples would be witnesses in (according to Acts 1:8) If possible, in each circle, write some of the events that took place in each of these places, which led to the gospel message being shared.



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ACTIVITY SHEET 2

Acts 12:1-23, Acts 9:1-9 and Acts 9:23-25

BREAKING NEWS

PRISON BREAK

WHO? _____

WHAT? _____

WHERE? _____

WHEN? _____

WHY? _____

HOW? _____

A miraculous escape

WHO? _____

WHAT? _____

WHERE? _____

WHEN? _____

WHY? _____

HOW? _____

A changed life

WHO? _____

WHAT? _____

WHERE? _____

WHEN? _____

WHY? _____

HOW? _____



Adventures with GOD!

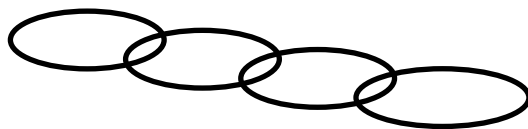
CRAFT

PETER'S FREEDOM

Materials: note cards, aluminum foil, glue, pens or markers.

- Instructions:
1. Give each child a note card and have them write the Bible memory verse on it.
 2. Using aluminum foil, have them make something that represents chains (representing the chains that held Peter and God's power to break them)
 3. Glue the chains on the card as a reminder of God's power to free Peter.

Acts 12: 24



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ILLUSTRATION

THE CHURCH PRAYING FOR PETER

