

# Adventures with GOD!

## INTRODUCTION: GOD'S FAMILY (C.2.Spring)

Lessons for children ages 9-11

**Goals for the trimester:** Through the Biblical story, recognize how the disciples of Jesus obeyed the grand commission that he gave them before his ascension. Identify the geographical locations where the apostles visited and shared the good news of Jesus. Discover that the commandment was not only given to the early church, but for all of God's family. Learn to be responsible to share the good news of Jesus with others.

### **Message for the teacher:**

Jesus gave his disciples a commission in Matthew 28:19. With this commission, the disciples embarked on an exciting journey of sharing the good news of Jesus with other people in other cities and towns. Many of them were persecuted or experienced hardship along the way. But, this did not stop them from sharing.

During this trimester the children will study the lives of the disciples and some of the important events in their lives. Geographically they will become familiar with the different areas that the gospel message spread to. It's important to have maps ready and available to show the children. It's exciting to see just where the apostles traveled and how they shared the message of Jesus with others. Even today there are people who have left their homes and have moved to other cities and countries to share God's love with others. This trimester the children will be motivated to pray for people who are serving God in other countries. If possible, use some of the different class sessions to bring in missionaries to share with the children; or have some video testimonies available. It is always such an encouragement for the children to know that by praying for people and giving offerings they are contributing to the great commission of Jesus. As a special project for this trimester, have your class "adopt" a missionary/missionary family. You can make a special offering each time you meet and designate it to go to a missionary/missionary family that your church supports. At the end of the trimester make a card to send to the missionaries, with a special prayer for them and their ministry.

Together throughout the trimester you will work together as a group to create a mural. You may choose to do this in a variety of different ways. Each week you can put up the illustrations associated with the lesson, or have a different child each week do a drawing or a representation of the story. Another idea is to create a big map and a timeline where each week you can record the different places the apostles preached and visited.

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The lessons in this trimester are focused on the great commission, so another activity to think about is praying for countries and communities where the gospel message has not yet been preached. Pray for the people who live there and pray that God would reveal the love of Jesus Christ to them. You never know if you a child who will one day choose to go and serve in another country.