

# Adventures with GOD!

## THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH AND THEIR PRAISE TO GOD (B.3.FALL.4)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 12:6-9
Key Verse	Psalm 43:4
Key Concept	My faith is expressed in my praise to God
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell how and why Abraham praised God</li> <li>2. Make an altar that symbolizes and helps them remember the way Abraham praised God</li> <li>3. Name the different ways we praise God</li> </ol>

### LIFE APPLICATION

According to the Old Testament, people like Abraham and other followers of God many times made special altars. An altar is a table made of stones where Abraham and his descendents would sacrifice animals as a way of praising God. This was one of the ways Abraham thanked God for God's faithfulness. We don't make altar or sacrifice animals today, because of Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. But we do show our worship to God through the sacrifice of our desires, our time, our will. This week reflect on how God wants our praise and what that looks like today as we give God our hearts and lives.

### 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	Small stones	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bibles and illustrations	10 minutes
Activity	Activity sheets	10 minutes
Craft	Stones, glue, modeling clay	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 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 (Genesis 12:6-9) 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:** Before the class time, find several different stones (not huge, but not small). When you begin the introduction, begin to pass the stones around to the children. Ask them what they could do with the stones. How could the stone be used for negative and positive? (ex. Break a window, hurt an animal, decorate a garden, serve as a paper weight, etc.)

**Bible exploration:** Together read the story in Genesis 12:6-9. Ask a few volunteers to act it out as you read. Various times throughout this Scripture, we read that Abraham and Sarah made altars to worship God. Ask them if they know what an altar is. Then explain what it is and what it is used for. Find an illustration or used the one found in this lesson. An altar was a symbol of faith and praise to God for Abraham and Sarah. It also showed others that Abraham recognized the place of God in his life, as well as God's authority and power. Abraham built the altar with his hands. It was a work of worship to God and it allowed Abraham to recognize in a public way who God was.

# Adventures with GOD!

Ask the children to name the qualities of God that they have experienced, heard or observed: majesty, power, greatness, love, mercy, goodness, patience, compassion, etc. This would be a good time to sing a song or two in worship to God, praising God for who God is.

Abraham probably would have used bigger stones. You can imagine that with every stone he put on the altar, he was giving thanks to God for who God was and what God had done. Ask the students to bring the stones to the center of the class and put them together in a pile to make an altar. As they put the stone in the pile they can say a word of thanks to God or praise God.

Explain that the altar was not just significant because of the way it was built, but because of how it was used. They would make altars to sacrifice animals as an act of worship to God. For them it was a symbol. What is a symbol? It's something that represents something else. For example, the symbol of the cross is a symbol of Christ's death. The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The animal to be sacrificed was a symbol of trust in God that God would provide everything they needed for their lives. In giving this animal in sacrifice they were recognizing that God was God and that they needed to show God their love and praise. It was a symbol of salvation for them.

We do not sacrifice animals today, but how do we show our love and praise to God? What do we sacrifice to God? (our time, our desire.) Read Romans 12, where Paul says that we should offer our bodies as living sacrifices. God wants all of us. God wants us to love and follow him. Hebrews 13:15-16 says that God wants sacrifice of praise. Every day we learn more and more what it means to follow God and praise God in everything we do.

**Activity:** Give each child a piece of paper where they will draw or use words to express what they want to do to praise God. Help them brain storm and think of practical ways they show that they love God. Have them write the verse Psalm 43:4 on their drawing. Or you can use the activity sheet that is included in the following pages with the Bible verse on it.

**Craft:** Make an altar. With modeling clay or with small rocks, help them build an altar, like what is seen in the illustration. This serves as a reminder of the story, as well as God's faithfulness and Abraham's faith and praise. Also, ask a volunteer to draw a picture of an altar on the map, next to the place labeled, "Bethel."

## **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).

# Adventures with GOD!

**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!

ILLUSTRATION  
ABRAHAM AT BETHEL

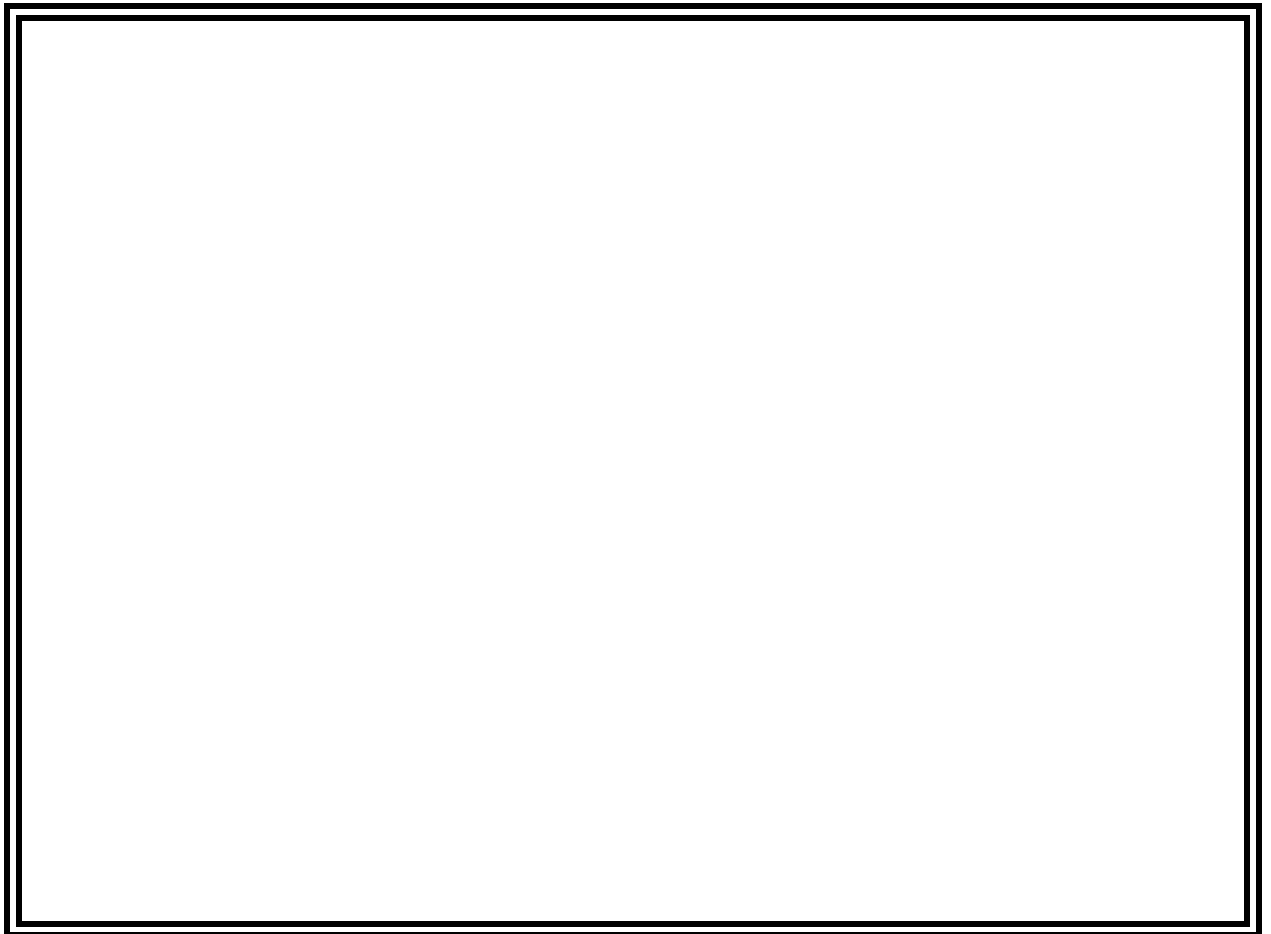


# Adventures with GOD!

## ACTIVITY SHEET

### PRAISE GOD

In Hebrews 13:15-16 we read about the sacrifices of praise that please God. "Let us offer it as the fruit of lips that say they believe in him. Don't forget to do good. Don't forget to share with others. God is pleased with those kinds of offerings." (Hebrews 13:15-16) Draw or write words that describe the ways you want to praise God.



# Adventures with GOD!

## ACTIVITY SHEET 2

PSALM 43:4

Connect the dots in numerical order and you will find something that will help you write remember the words of verse.

