

Adventures with GOD!

EHUD, THE LIBERATING HERO (C.3.FALL.8)

Biblical Reference	Judges 3:12-21, 24-28
Key Verse	Judges 3:28
Key Concept	God has given me abilities and gifts to use in order to participate in God's mission.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the situation that the people of God found themselves in and why they had fallen into the hands of their enemies 2. Give their opinion on the tactic used by Ehod to free the people of Israel 3. Say the Bible memory verse

LIFE APPLICATION:

God invites us to participate in God's mission in the world. God has given us each special gifts and abilities that can be used for the good of God's kingdom and for serving others. At the same time it's important to recognize that sometimes God asks us to do something that goes beyond our abilities and strength. It is then that God's power and glory is revealed as God uses us for a special purpose. Many times in God's kingdom it doesn't depend on our strength or talent, but on the fact that God is at work through us.

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
Activity		10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustration, props	15 minutes
Game		5 minutes
Project or activity	See instructions	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 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 (Judges 3:12-21) 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?

Activity: This activity will help the children to think about their own lives, in relation to the characteristics of a hero that they see in Ehud. See the instructions in the following pages.

Bible exploration: The story of Ehud may be one that the children have never heard before. It's not a pretty story in some sense of the word, but it does help us to see how God responds to his people and how God uses an ordinary person to free his people. Review together what happened in the first part of the story Judges 3:12-21, and then read together 24-18 or tell the story in your own words, to see how the story ends. Have some props available like a homemade sword. Then dialogue with the children about the story and their reactions to it.

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For example,

- What part of the story did they find the hardest to hear?
- Was there something in the story that shocked them or made them angry?
- What part of the story made them want to celebrate?
- Why do they think that the Bible tells us that Ehud was left-handed?
- What do they think about the tactic that Ehud used? He didn't really play by the rules of the game?

The story of Ehud is one that makes us think. It is a story of how God used one man to free the people of Israel. Ehud used to his advantage the fact that he was left-handed as part of his tactic to free the people. On a white board, or using poster board, have the children help you describe each of the aspects of the story:

THE PROBLEM

**The people of God were oppressed
by the Moabites and King Eglon**

He was left-handed

EHUD'S SPECIAL CHARACTERISTIC

THE PLAN

**Get rid of the King, in order to free
the Israelites**

THE VICTORY

**God gave them victory and they
were freed**

THE CONSEQUENCE

There was peace

Then ask them if anyone would share the situation that they wrote about in the opening activity. Or dialogue about some of the following situations and how they could seek God and make a plan of action to confront the situations. How might God want to use them to bring peace or to help others?:

A CLASSMATE WHO HAS NO FRIENDS AT SCHOOL

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A CLASSMATE WHO HAS NO ONE TO SIT WITH AT LUNCH
TWO FRIENDS WHO ARE FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER
THE TEACHER IS DOWN AND SEEMS SAD
YOUR FATHER HAS A LOT OF WORK TO DO AROUND THE HOUSE

Game: Use the game included in the following pages to review the story.

Project: Spend time working on the project for the trimester.

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.

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GAME TIC-TAC-TOE

Make a giant tic-tac-toe board on the floor. Divide the group into two teams. One team will be the X and one team will be the O, they may put their letter on one of the empty spaces if they answer the question correctly. The first team to get three in a row wins.

Questions:

Why did God allow the king of Moab to have more power than the Israelites? (v.12)

How many years did King Eglon rule over Israel? (vs.14-15)

Who was the left-handed man that God sent to save his people? (vs.15)

Why did Ehud go to see the King? (vs.15-17)

When they were alone, what did Ehud say that upset the king? (vs.20)

How did Ehud respond? (vs. 21)

While the servants of the King waited for him to come out of the room, what did Ehud do? (vv.26-27)

Who told Ehud that they would have victory over their enemies? (vs.28)

What happened for the next 80 years? (vs.30)

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ACTIVITY SHEET

Ehud made a plan to free the Israelites from the King of Moab. God gave them the victory. God uses us in simple ways each day to help or serve someone else in God's name. How can God use you? Consider the following:

1. THE PROBLEM: *What problem are you aware of right now?*
2. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTIC/GIFT: *What special characteristic, gift, ability has God given you that you could use to confront the problema or situation?*
3. THE PLAN: *What steps do you think God would want you to take to be a part of the solution to the problem?*
4. THE VICTORY: *Who will you put your trust in and who will give you the courage and wisdom to put the plan in action?*
5. CONSEQUENCES: *What could some of the possible consequences be?*

Make a plan to help others. Think of someone who you know is going through a difficult situation (a family member, friend, classmate). What has God given you to help them? How does God want to use you to show love? (EX. Your grandma is sick, your friend is getting back grades at school, your friends are fighting).

TRUE HERO OF THE FAITH: _____
(YOUR NAME)

1. THE PROBLEM:

2. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTIC: _____

3. THE PLAN: _____

4. THE VICTORY: _____

5. CONSEQUENCES: _____

