

# Adventures with GOD!

## MY FUTURE IS A GIFT FROM GOD (B.3.WINTER.10)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 45:4-13
Key Verse	Genesis 45:7
Key Concept	My future is a gift from God.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell the story of how Joseph explained the future plans God had for him.</li> <li>2. Say the Key Verse by memory</li> <li>3. Cut out a cross from a sheet of paper that will serve as a symbol of what God has done for their future.</li> </ol>

### Life Application

The future is a difficult concept for children to grasp. For many children, the future is what happens tomorrow, or next month, or next Christmas. Children know that in the future, they will be bigger, will know more about math, and how to write better. Our future is a gift from God. Part of the adventure of life is trusting God to see where God will lead us, and what will unfold. Today children will have the opportunity to thank God for is ahead, and for the ways they will continue to seek and serve God.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	Masks and dress-up clothes	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations, time line	10 minutes
Bible verse	See instructions	5 minutes
Activity	Activity sheet	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 at [CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god](http://CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god).

**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 Genesis 45:4-13 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 though the passage?

**Introduction:** Start time discussing the following questions: What do you think will happen tomorrow? Can anyone imagine what your life will be like in 10 years? What would you like to be when you are an adult? Consider providing some masks, wigs, glasses, fake moustaches, a tie, a suit coat, big pair of shoes, maybe a briefcase, a purse, a pair of work books, etc. Allow children time to dress up and imagine what it will be like to be an adult.

**Bible Exploration:** Review the different gifts from God children have learned about over the past few weeks. Take out the gift box and remove a slip of paper from inside that reads, "My future." God is so big and so good to give us so many gifts. One of the special gifts God has

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given us is the word of God – the Bible. In the Bible, we learn about God, about ourselves, and about the great love that Jesus. Jesus came and lived on earth, died on a cross, and was raised from the dead. Before Jesus came, God sent prophets, teachers, priests, and kings to guide people and lead them in God’s ways. Let’s look in the Old Testament in the book of Genesis, where we find the story of one of these important leaders. His name was Joseph. We looked a little at his life the other week, but this week we are going to see how God used his past to prepare him for the future.

Review a bit of the story with them (use illustration or symbols if possible):

- Joseph’s brothers hated him, sold him as a slave, and told his father that Joseph was eaten by a wild animal.
- Joseph spent time in prison for a crime he didn’t commit, because of Potiphar’s wife.
- God gave Joseph the gift of interpreting dreams to help important people understand their dreams, including the Pharaoh.
- Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of Egypt.
- There was a famine in the land, and Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt for food.
- Joseph saved his family.

Look at Genesis 45:4-13, why does Joseph tell his brother’s not to be scared or be distressed? What did he learn from God, even when he was in jail and far away from his family? God had a plan for Joseph. Even when Joseph could only see the present, God saw his future and knew that he would one day save his family.

Look at the outline together. You have talked about how God is with you in the past and the present, just like God was with Joseph, even when the present was very difficult and he had to suffer. God also showed Joseph that his future was a gift, and that God was with him, through may come. (Put the arrow up over the section of the timeline that represents the future.) We can be confident that God knows our future, and God cares about our future. God will be with us tomorrow, next month, next week. The future is a gift from God. How can we thank God for this gift? Spend time lifting up short simple prayers of thanksgiving.



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**Key Verse:** You will find a pattern for clouds on page 5 . Make one cloud for each word in the Bible verse (make them big). Tape up the words to the verse and have the children read it together a couple of times. Then take the clouds down, mix them up, and give them to the children to put in the correct order.

**Activity:** Activity Sheets with directions can be found on pages 7-8.

## **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. Give children 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).

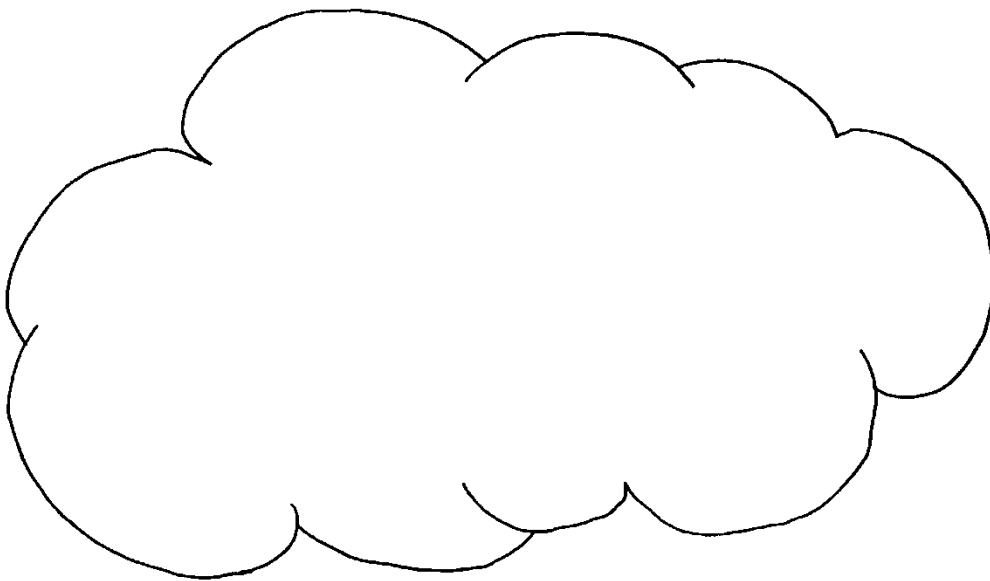
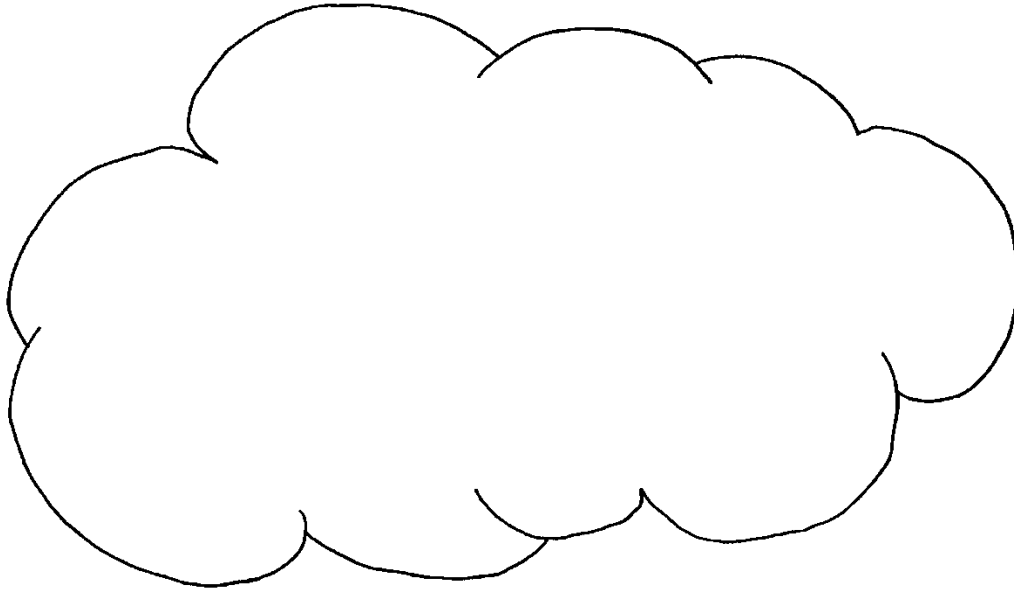
**W=Worship:** Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

**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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**PATTERN**



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## ILLUSTRATIONS

When I'm an adult I want to be.....



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## ACTIVITY SHEET 1



Sometimes when I think about the future I feel scared of...

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## ACTIVITY SHEET 2

When I think about the future I hope the following happens...

