

Adventures with GOD!

THE GIFT OF GOD IN OUR LIVES (C.3.WINTER.1)

Biblical Reference	John 14:15-27, Acts 2:1-13
Key Verse	Acts 1:8
Key Concept	The presence of God's Spirit is real in my life.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain who the Holy Spirit is 2. Name what the Holy Spirit does in our lives 3. Memorize the Key Verse

Life Application

As Christians we worship a triune God – one God in three persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. The fact that God wants a relationship with us and that God has sent his Spirit to be with us is a priceless gift. Many times we speak with children about God the Father and God the Son, but we don't spend much time talking about the Holy Spirit. Children will have the opportunity to see how the triune God is at work in the world and in their lives. This week they will focus on the gift of God's Spirit and will learn what God's word tells us about the Holy Spirit.

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	Bible, markers, poster board	15 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, illustrations, markers, paper	10 minutes
Game	See instructions	10 minutes
Craft	Paper, crayons, scissors, 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 at 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 John 14:15-27 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 passage?

Introduction: Before class, if possible, decorate the room with pictures of gifts. Gift wrap a shoe box (wrap the lid separately so that it can be removed without unwrapping it). Ask the children what they think is going to happen during their time together. Ask them to name some of the gifts that come from God. Then, take out the gift wrapped box and open it, revealing a piece of paper with the words "Holy Spirit." Ask them, "Who is the Holy Spirit?" Allow them to share their ideas and answers. Then, invite them to help you with a little investigation on the Holy Spirit. On pages 5-8 you will find the instructions for this investigation, which they can do in partners or in groups. Each group should make a poster with the information they find.

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Bible Exploration: After the investigation, ask the children again, “Who is the Holy Spirit?” “What have we learned about the Holy Spirit?” Ask them to open their Bibles to Acts 2:1-13. Read the story together. If the children read well, go around the circle, with each person reading a verse out loud. After you’ve read the Bible passage, ask them what symbols or images are used to describe the Holy Spirit (wind, tongue of fire). Ask them why they think these are the images that are used.

Have on hand a small electric fan, or even a handheld paper fan. Turn on the fan or wave the hand-held fan until they can feel the air. Ask them what they feel. Ask them if they can see it. We can feel the wind and it affects the things it touches, but we can’t see it. Like the wind, we can’t see the Holy Spirit, but it affects us, it changes us, and it gives us power to live our Christian lives.

One of the big questions that theologians, and Christians in general, have discussed is what is the relationship between God the Father and the Holy Spirit? As Christians we believe that there is only one God, but the Bible tells us that God is known as Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit. They are each in relationship, much like a family. But there is not one greater or more powerful. We only worship one God, but we recognize that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and they function in collaboration and unity.

Ask, “What does the Holy Spirit do? What is the role of the Holy Spirit?” Ask them to think back to their investigations and to the Bible passages they’ve read today. The Holy Spirit lives in those who have put their faith in Jesus and guide them in the ways of God.

Provide a light snack for the children as a way to celebrate this eternal life that is a gift from God. Pray together giving thanks for such a great gift and asking for courage to share the news of this great gift with others.

Game: Using the illustrations on page 9, have the children create a “memory” game. Print out or copy enough of the illustrations to make several game sets so the children can play in groups. Allow them time to color and cut out the symbols, and then glue each symbol on an index card.

Craft: Using the illustration on page 10, color/decorate a dove which symbolizes the Holy Spirit. As they make the craft, teach them the Key Verse, and have them say it to their classmates.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

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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? 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. The candle 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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TEAM 1

The teacher will provide your group with a Bible and with poster board and markers. You will read the following Bible passages together and answer the question, “Who is the Holy Spirit?” Put your answers on the poster board using words and/or drawings.

Zechariah 4:6

Matthew 12:28

John 6:63

John 14:26

Romans 8:11, 16, 26

2 Corinthians 3:6

1 Peter 3:18

2 Peter 1:21

1 John 5:

INVESTIGATION

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TEAM 2

Answer the following question, “How does the Holy Spirit act in the Old Testament, and how does the Holy Spirit act in the New Testament?” Use the poster board to illustrate your answer. Below are some Scripture passages that will help you with your investigation.

Old Testament

New Testament

Scripture passages:

Numbers 11:25

Numbers 24:2

Judges 3:10

Judges 6:34

Judges 14:6

1 Samuel 10:10

1 Samuel 16:13

1 Samuel 19:20

Lucas 24:49

Acts 2:38

Acts 8:17

Acts 10:44

Acts 19:6

INVESTIGATION

TEAM 3

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Read the following Scripture passages and answer the following questions, “How do we receive the Holy Spirit? How can we be full of the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do?” Use the poster board to present your findings to the rest of the group.

Joel 2:28

Matthew 3:11

Luke 24:49

Acts 1:8

Acts 2:8

Acts 2:38

Romans 8:16

Galatians 4:6

1 John 3:24

INVESTIGATION

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TEAM 4

In the Bible verses below, investigate the names, titles, and images used for the Holy Spirit. Share your findings using the poster board and markers provided.

John 14:16

Hebrews 9:14

Psalm 51:12

Ephesians 1:13

Lucas 1:35

Romans 8:15

1 Peter 1:11

Isaiah 11:2

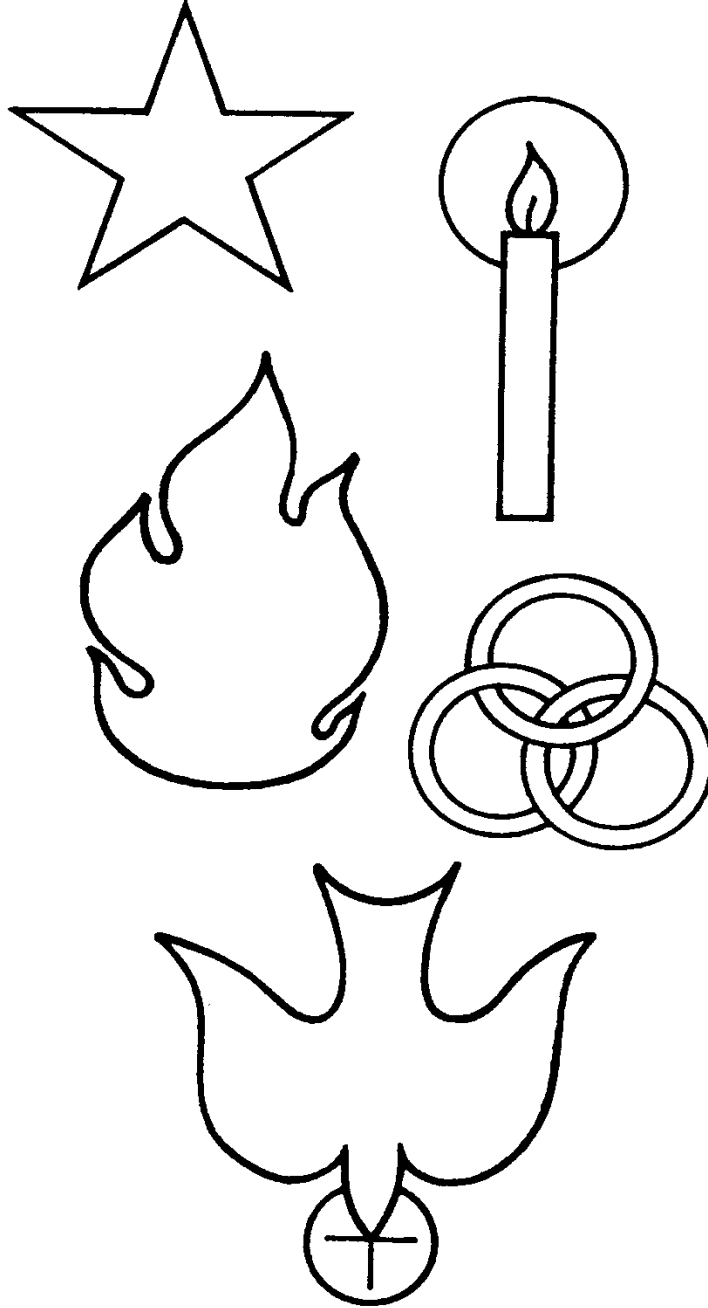
Zechariah 12:10

ILLUSTRATIONS

MEMORY GAME

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Use the following symbols during the Bible Exploration and for the memory game.



ILLUSTRATION

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Give each child a copy to color. Decorate with glitter, scraps of paper, etc. Punch a hole in the wing and loop a ribbon through it so it can be hung.

