

# Adventures with GOD!

## GIFTS, GIFTS, GIFTS (C.3.WINTER.3)

Biblical Reference	Luke 1:26-38
Key Verse	Matthew 1:23
Key Concept	God has given me many good gifts that are to be shared with others and used for the good of others, including the good news of Jesus.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Say the Key Verse</li> <li>2. Explain why the birth of Jesus is a wonderful gift</li> <li>3. Name gifts they have received from God and how they are to use them for the good of others.</li> </ol>

### Life Application

As we continue to talk about God's good gifts, this lesson will focus on the gift of Jesus Christ. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior – the gift of Emmanuel, God with us. Through this lesson children will focus on the gift that is Jesus and the other gifts that God has given that are to be shared with others.

### 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	See instructions	5 minutes
Key Verse	Cards, songs	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Craft	Little boxes, wrapping paper, scissors, tape, ribbon	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 John Luke 1:26-28 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:** For today's lesson have a variety of wrapped gifts on display. Ask the children why we love to get gifts and why Christmas and birthdays are special to us. Review the gifts of God that you've learned about so far. Then, again, take out the gift wrapped shoe box and open it. Take out an image or an actual figure from a nativity scene of Jesus in the manger. Ask them, "What is God's greatest gift that we celebrate at Christmas? Why is Jesus' coming to earth a gift? Does anyone know what the name, 'Emmanuel,' means?" The Bible verse for today talks about the fact that Jesus is God with us – Emmanuel.

**Key Verse:** Before class, hide cards (cut out in the shape of gifts) that have the words of the Bible verse on them. Have children find them and then look up the Bible reference (Matthew

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1:23) and put the words in order. Read the Bible verse together several times. Then, if there is time, spend time singing a few Christmas hymns/songs that talk about Jesus' birth.

**Bible Exploration:** Ask two volunteers to act out the Bible passage (Luke 1:26-38). Then talk about the emotions that Mary must have felt, what must have been going through her mind, and what her response was in the end. What was the promise of the angel? Mary received God's gift, and as a result Jesus was born, and we are able to know him and follow him. Together make a list of the ways that Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection are a gift to us. For example, because of Jesus we can know God and receive forgiveness for our sins, etc. Have children talk in groups about how we share the gift of Jesus with others. They can present their ideas to the rest of the group through a skit.

**Craft:** Children will make an ornament that represents the special gift of Jesus. Make sure you have enough small boxes for each child. Allow them to wrap their gifts, decorate them with ribbon, etc. Provide wrapping paper, scissors, tape, ribbon, and little cards where they can write the word "Jesus" and attach it to the gift. If possible, offer the children a special snack during this time – Christmas cookies, cake, or whatever else comes to mind – to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

## **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? 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

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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