

Adventures with GOD!

THE GIFT OF THE POWER OF GOD IN OUR LIVES (C.3.WINTER.5)

Biblical Reference	Ephesians 4:4-16
Key Verse	Ephesians 4:16
Key Concept	God's church is strengthened when I put my spiritual gifts into action.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain the Key Verse in their own words2. Describe the difference between a spiritual gift and an ability or talent3. Create a poster that illustrates a spiritual gift

Life Application

The gifts that God has given us through the Holy Spirit are not to be used selfishly or to be kept to ourselves. They are for the benefit of all believers and are to be put to service in the church. God is at work in the lives of children, and as they get to know God and follow Christ they will come to discover their spiritual gifts. Through this lesson they will learn a little more about the variety of spiritual gifts.

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
Activity	Poster board, craft materials	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations, posters	15 minutes
Key Verse	Paper, crayons, hole puncher, yarn	10 minutes
Craft	Ornaments	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 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 Ephesians 4:4-16 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?

Activity: Based on what they've heard in Ephesians 4:4-16, have children make posters. Have them creatively respond to the question, "Why does God give us spiritual gifts and what are they?" Provide a variety of craft materials like colored paper, glitter, yarn, wrapping paper, old magazines, scissors, markers, glue, etc. They can work individually or in groups.

Bible exploration: When they are finished they will present their works of art to the class. Use this time to dialogue with the group and to reflect on the diverse talents and abilities that each child has. Encourage and build up the children.

Adventures with GOD!

Together look at the passage in Ephesians 4:4-16, and ask them what words or images catch their attention. What is Paul trying to emphasize as he repeats the word “one” over and over again? Then ask the question, “What the difference is between spiritual gifts and talents?” There is a list on page 5 that can guide this conversation. It is important to affirm that we all have talents and abilities, and those who have chosen to follow Jesus and give their lives to God receive spiritual gifts that are to be used to build up, encourage, and serve the church.

Give children a copy of the activity sheet on page 5 and allow them time to complete that individually or in groups.

Key Verse: Write the verse up on a white board, or on a piece of poster board. Read it together. Erase (or cover up) one word at a time, having the children continue to repeat the verse. Before they know it they will be saying the verse by memory!

Craft: Similar to last’s week’s craft, provide simple silhouettes of people to color/decorate. This time they will not simply decorate one person but three and join them together with glue. This represents the diversity of people and gifts that make up the church. They can write the reference for the Key Verse on the ornament.

There are extra coloring sheets available on pages 6-7 should you need additional activities.

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?



Adventures with 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

ACTIVITY SHEET

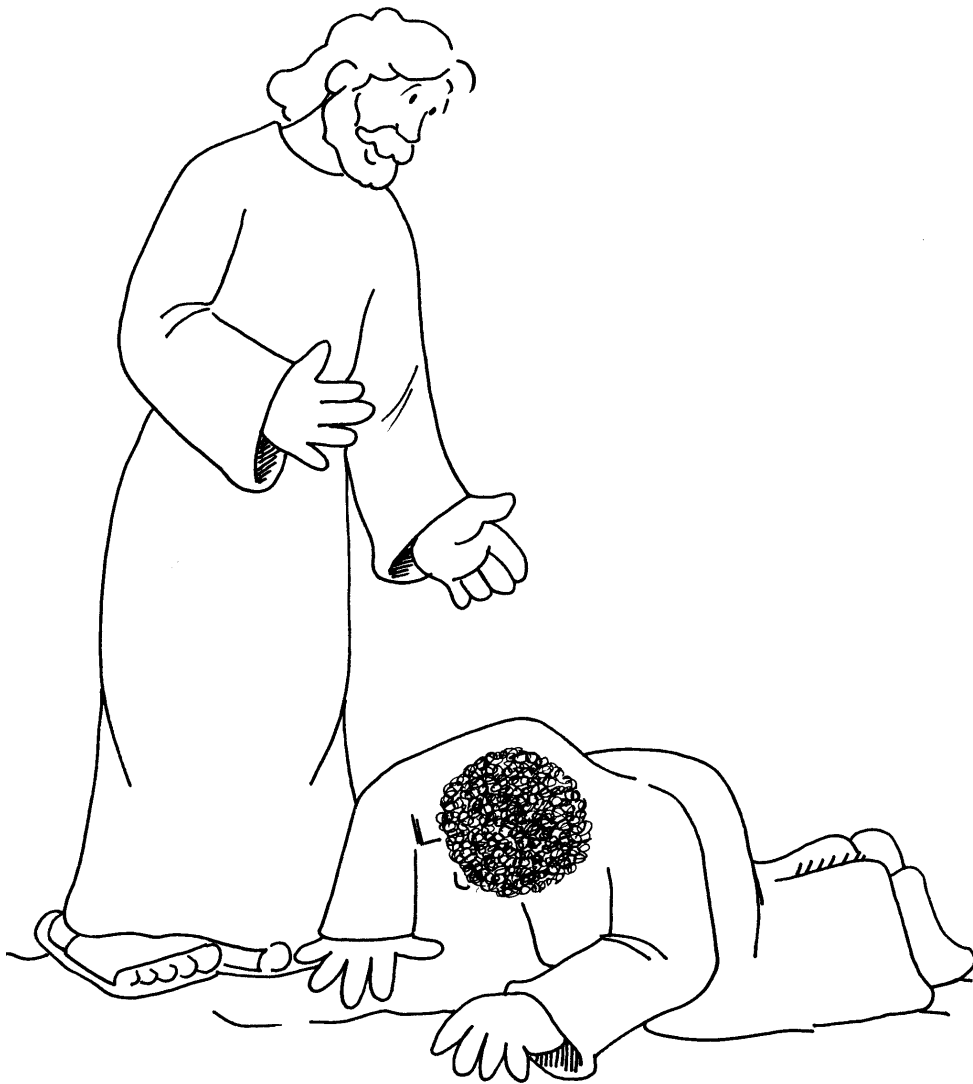
Place an X in the box to identify whether the action mentioned is a spiritual gift or an ability.

	Spiritual Gift	Ability
Teach from God's word		
Teach a foreign language		
Help others		
Cook		
Sweep		
Heal the sick		
Administer in the church		
Run a business		
Lead worship		
Paint		
Write stories		
Show hospitality		

Adventures with GOD!

Run		
Play soccer		

ILLUSTRATION



Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATION

