

Adventures with GOD!

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, THE SECRET HELPER OF JESUS (B.3.SPRING.12)

Biblical Reference	Luke 23:50-56
Key Verse	Luke 23:50
Key Concept	Jesus' helpers serve the kingdom in many different ways, even when Jesus is not physically present
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe the scene of what happened after Jesus was crucified2. Name some of the people that chose to do good and take care of Jesus' body3. Memorize the Key Verse and explain who Joseph was and why he is remembered in the Bible

Life Application

Jesus is the ultimate example of someone who served the humble and needy. While he was on the earth he was very attentive to the needs of the people and served them in love. In this lesson, children will see another example of someone who followed in Jesus' footsteps. There are always people in need whom we can serve; in this lesson, children can reflect upon the ways they can follow Jesus' example.

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		10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, time machine	10 minutes
Key Verse		10 minutes
Activity	See instructions	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 we read the Bible 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 Luke 23:50-56 twice 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: If possible, invite the class to take a walk outside of the classroom. It would be great if this walk could be done outdoors. Encourage children to be silent, and to simply listen to the sounds around them, pay attention to the smells and the different colors they see. Once you've taken the walk, invite children to share what they experienced with their senses. Today's Bible Exploration is based on a shorter story, but it requires us to use our imagination and senses.

Bible Exploration: You may choose to use the time machine this week and the sample dialogue is found on pages 5-6. Invite a child to come up and start the time machine. The visitor can



Adventures with GOD!

come out once the time machine is started. This week's visitor is Joseph of Arimathea. This is the story of when Joseph went to the Jewish leaders, who he was not in agreement with, and asked to have Jesus' body to bury. If possible, prepare the room in such a way that it is dark, like it would have been in the tomb. You may use candles or lamps for light.

After the dialogue, ask children what they are thinking and feeling. Help children imagine being with Joseph in the tomb. What would they have felt? What would they have been thinking? What would they have seen, heard, smelled? Help children imagine being the women in the story, what thoughts were going through their head?

Key Verse: Read the Key Verse together. Have children take turns saying the verse. Then ask questions about why the verse is important. Why is the story of Joseph important? Who did Joseph serve through his actions in this story? Why did it matter that he helped after Jesus died? Does Jesus still seek helpers, people to serve others in God's kingdom? What are we doing to serve others today?

Activity: Allow children time to catch up on the illustrations for the timeline, if they haven't been adding them each week. Also provide children the opportunity to think of one way that they want to show Jesus' love and serve someone during the week. Encourage children to draw a picture of how they want to follow the example of Jesus and Joseph in the coming week.

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. In the same way, 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

Adventures with GOD!

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Questions for Joseph

Joseph – (Enters with a candle in one hand and a white sheet in another hand, speaking softly.)
Oh, you surprised me. I didn't see you.

Question #1 – Who are you?

Joseph – I'm not surprised that you don't recognize me. I'm Joseph from the town of Arimathea. I don't want to sound stuck up, but I am a noble man. I am rich Jew and a leader in my synagogue. I have a lot of responsibility and people look up to me to make important decisions.

Question #2 – Why are you speaking so quietly?

Joseph – Today has been a dangerous day for those of us who love Jesus. Did you hear? They crucified Jesus on a cross today.

Question #3 – Where are the other disciples?

Joseph – Hiding. I've been following Jesus in secret because his disciples have lots of enemies. I always thought I could serve him better from my position within the Jewish community.

Question #4 – It's very late. What are you doing?

Joseph – Well, after Jesus died, I went immediately to Pilate to tell him and ask for Jesus' body. I wanted to prepare his body for burial. I was given permission, and sent word to get my tomb ready to receive the body of my Lord. I received the body when they took it down from the cross. My friend, Nicodemus, helped me. He was another one of Jesus' secret followers among the Jews. We wrapped his body in linen cloth, as is custom in our culture and religion. We took great care with his body, washing it and tending to the wounds from the beatings, the nails, and the sword. We did the best we could and then wrapped his body.

Question #5 – And what did you do with the body when it was ready to be buried?



Adventures with GOD!

Joseph – We took his body to the tomb, which was a small cave. We laid his body on a stone bed inside. The tomb was in a beautiful garden, and it was there that the women followers of Jesus saw us and the tomb where Jesus was laid.

Question #6 – How did you close the tomb?

Joseph – When it was ready, Pilate sent his guards to seal it. They rolled a rock in front of it, a huge stone. These guards then stood in front of the tomb, guarding it from robbers or rebel disciples. They made it impossible to get at that tomb.

Question #7 – What did you do next?

Joseph – We left the tomb with great sadness. It was so hard to believe that the one we thought was to be the Messiah was dead. I went on my way to my home and that's when I ran into you all. I need to get home. It's not safe to be out.