

2.2 GOD THE FATHER

Topic: Learning About God

Subtopic: God the Father

1A. God the Creator and Father

Class: Standard II (2nd Grade)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** When asked who God is, students will say God is our Father.

Attitude: Students will develop a loving relationship with God as their Father.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse Exercise Book

Exercise Book

Props to act out the Prodigal Son story (optional) snack foods like ground nuts, mandazis or bananas with tea or soda

References: Luke 15:11-32

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse:

"God is love." I John 4:8

Teacher Activities

Introduction:

1. How do you celebrate when something special happens in your home—a visitor comes to see you, for example?

Bible Story:

2. Jesus told a story about a loving father and his son. Tell the Bible story from Luke 15:11-32

Suggested Discussion

Questions

3. Do you think the father in this story was a good father? Why?
4. Do you think of God as a loving Father?
5. What are some ways we know God is a loving Father?
6. Who do you think the father in this story Jesus told represents?

Application:

7. How can we know God is our loving heavenly Father?

Evaluation:

8. If God is our loving heavenly Father, how can we help others to know His love?

Student Activities

Introduction:

1. Maybe Mother fixes a special meal and invites guests. Listen for other responses.

Bible Story:

2. Students listen to the story of the Prodigal Son.

Possible Answers to

Questions

3. The father let him go but kept watching for the son to return. He ran to greet the son. He celebrated his return with a feast.
4. Listen for children to respond. Expect them to say that God is a loving Father.
5. He created the world for us to enjoy. We can talk with Him. He cares about us. He loves us.
6. Yes, the father in this story represents God.

Application:

7. Because God is love, we can know love. Our memory verse tells us "God is love." Memorize this verse together.

Evaluation:

8. We can experience God's love when we are lonely or afraid because He is always with us. Then we can love others like God loves us.

Extension Activities:

1. *Memory Verse:* Have children memorize the memory verse: “God is love.” I John 4:8 and then write it in their Memory Verse Exercise book.
2. In their other exercise book, have them write on the second page: “Learning About God”. Underneath, have them write “God is Father, followed with God is Love.” Then have them draw a picture about the father in the story they have heard today.
3. *Act out the story of the Prodigal Son:* Be prepared with the necessary props such as tattered and dirty clothes then clean clothes and be ready to celebrate with a feast. This can be done while you are telling the story.
4. *Have a Celebration:* If possible, have the children gather around tables and serve a simple food that they may not get everyday [groundnuts, mandazis, bananas and something to drink like tea or soda]. As you enjoy this treat together, remember that that was one way the father welcomed his son home. Make it a celebrative moment because God welcomes us into His family when we come to Him.
5. American children like to have parties so you might want to decorate with balloons and serve a snack the children would enjoy like cookies and kool-aid. As you partake together, remember that the Father welcomed His son back when the son had gone astray. God rejoices when we come to Him

Notes for Teacher

Highlights for the Bible Story

Interact with the children as you tell this wonderful story of the Prodigal Son. For example, when you tell the part about the son being so hungry he was willing to care for someone’s pigs, ask them if they know what a pig is or if they have pigs at their home. In case they are unfamiliar with pigs, explain that they are animals smaller than a cow. They like to get dirty in the mud. They will eat almost anything but they especially like maize. When they get so big, they are usually slaughtered for meat for people to eat. Put a little thrill in the story by asking them if they know what happened when the son decided to go back home. Then tell how the father saw him long before he reached home and he ran to meet him and welcome him home.

1. A father had two sons. The younger one didn’t like to work. He asked his father for his share of the family money that would normally be his later in life.
2. His father gave it to him and the son ran away thinking the money would last a long time.
3. He spent the money foolishly and was soon without. Food was scarce because of a famine. He began searching for work and ended up taking care of someone’s pigs.
4. The son suddenly remembered that his father provided for his workers and here he was starving. He made up his mind to go home—not to be recognized as his father’s son but as one of his hired workers.
5. The father saw him coming when he was still a long way from home. He ran to him and welcomed him home. He celebrated his return because he loved him very much!

Key Points

God allows us to make our choices but He hopes we will choose Him and His ways. God loves us even when we make wrong choices and He welcomes us back. Another characteristic of God is that He is our Heavenly Father and He loves us.

Teacher Evaluation

Are the children happy to think of God as their father? How will you help a child who may not have an earthly father or whose father may not be involved in his/her life? Have you been able to let them see that God wants them to know Him as their father and that He is a good and loving Father?