

Growing in Grace & Gratitude – October 2020

Adaptations for Online Learning

These adaptations assume you have purchased *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* for the age level specified below and are using these in conjunction with that age level's guide. These adaptations are written with the understanding that you have access to a weekly video chat with the age level you are working with.

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- Use the "Coloring" option 2 from "Welcome and Guided Play."
- Play "Celebrate Joy" from "Transitioning to Story Time." Instead of pairing children with a partner, allow each child to take a turn making a silly face while the rest of the group tries to keep a serious face. See if they can get everyone to laugh.
- Use the "Hearing the Story" option.
- Play the "Miriam Says" game.
- Use the prayer from "Loving and Serving God" to close your time together.

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Invite the children to share one glad thing and one sad thing from their week.
- Open a blank document on your computer and share your screen. Ask the children to share what they know about Moses from the time he was born until he leads the Hebrew people out of Egypt. Write their responses on the list. Then put the items in order using copy and paste or simply highlighting and dragging the phrases around. You can also do this in a spreadsheet.
- Use the "Hearing the Story" section and consider sharing your screen and reading from a website such as Bible Gateway for the Bible story.
- Use "Reflecting on God's Grace" activity.
- Use "Claiming God's Grace" activity.
- Close by calling each child by name and saying, "Rejoice! God is always with you. Go in grace to love and serve the Lord."

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Sunday, October 11, 2020

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- Ask children to share about who lives with them and makes up their family. Discuss how the children and their families do things that God likes.
- Play the Following the Leader game, but instead of standing in a circle, just do things right where you are.
- For “Loving God,” have children repeat the movement but not the words.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as written.
- Ask children to think about their neighbors and discuss who their neighbors are. Encourage the children to select one of their neighbors and draw a picture for them. It could be a picture of the neighbor, the neighbor’s home, or something they like to do with their neighbor. Then encourage children to share that picture with their neighbor.
- Send each child with a blessing, such as “(Name), may the grace of God go with you.”

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Have the children write their name on a piece of paper and decorate it, creating a sign.
- Use the “popcorn” prayer from the “Praying” section.
- Open a document on your computer and write the numbers 1-4 and 5-10 in two columns. Share your screen with the children so that they can help you make list of the Ten Commandments. Honor suggestions that don’t fit as one of the Ten Commandments by writing them at the bottom of the page.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as written.
- Use the “Claiming God’s Grace” section as written.
- Have children draw a stick figure of a person on the back of the sign they made earlier. Ask the children to draw arrows to the body part you are talking about. Then ask them to write down their answers to the prompts in “Celebrating God’s Grace” section.
- Use the first paragraph of instructions from “Offering God’s Grace” and skip the second part.
- Use the prayer from the “Loving and Serving God” section to close your time together.

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Sunday, October 18, 2020

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- Ask the children to share with you a time when someone has been kind of them and then when they have been kind to someone else.
- Use the poem “We Are God’s Family.”
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section and encourage the children to do the suggested motions during the second reading.
- Sing the “This Is the Way We Make Our Bread” song and have the children do the motions with you.
- Invite the children to take turns saying something they are thankful for as your prayer today. As the children leave, bless them: “(Name), be kind to others. The grace of God is with you.”

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Talk about gleaning as mentioned in the “Welcoming and Preparing” section.
- Use the “Praying” section as written.
- Use the “Preparing to Hear the Story” section; if SCM 7a is not available to you, skip that section.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as written.
- Use the reflection and engage questions from the “Reflecting on God’s Grace” section.
- For the “Claiming God’s Grace” activity, instead of using newsprint, write on a document and share your screen so that everyone can see what you are typing.
- Ask the children to share ideas of how they could offer friendship to others. Have each child pick one of those suggestions to do this week.
- Close with the prayer from the end of the session.

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Sunday, October 25, 2020

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- For the “Welcoming and Guided Play” section, have children find three big things and three small things in the room and then share them with the group.
- Using the “Jump and Shout” and “I Am Brave” poems, encourage children to do the motions but not say the words.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as written.
- Ask the children to draw a picture of themselves standing next to Goliath. Ask them, “how much taller would Goliath be than you?” You can also use the wondering questions from “Coloring Page” while the children are creating their picture.
- Bless each child using the blessings at the end of the session.

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Encourage children to measure something in the room that might be ten feet long, such as the length of a couch, bed, or other furniture. You can also measure up to a shelf or just on the wall in general. Use the questions and paragraph about David as a shepherd boy from the “Preparing to Hear the Story” section.
- Read the story from a Bible or share the biblical text on your screen and let someone read it while the others follow along. Sites like Bible Gateway provide multiple translations of the Bible; the New Revised Standard Version is the translation used by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- Remind children of the item they measured in the beginning and ask them to wonder what it would be like to see someone as tall as their item.
- Read the story again or listen to the story audio. Invite the children to make the facial expressions they think match the emotions found in the story when you pause after the sentences listed in the “Hearing the Story” section.
- Use the reflection questions from the “Reflecting on God’s Grace” section.
- Read *Bruno’s Hat* or *What in the World Is Wrong with Gisbert?* as suggested in the curriculum in the “Claiming God’s Grace” section.
- Close with the blessing suggested at the end of the session in the curriculum.