

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- Ask each child to show and tell about a nativity set they have at home, even if it is just an ornament or picture. Or have each child share about a nativity set they have seen in public that they liked.
- Have the children do the motions along with you as you sing the song from “God’s Family” activity; and don’t have the children sing with you.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as written.
- Use the “Saying Yes!” activity, but instead of changing places, have the child who was called simply pick the next person to participate in the game.
- Be sure to talk about Advent, and if you have an Advent wreath, light or turn on the first and second candles on it.
- Use the blessing at the end of the lesson to close.

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Have each child write the word *YES!* on a piece of paper and decorate it. Help younger children spell the word if needed. Or if they have access to a printer, you can have them print and color GN 1.
- Use “Praying” and the “Preparing to Hear the Story” sections as written.
- As you read the story in the “Hearing the Story” section, have the kids hold up their YES! Pictures, facing their screens, when Gabriel says that nothing is impossible for God.
- Use the “Reflecting on God’s Grace” section as written.
- “Celebrating God’s Grace” has a music video that children can dance to. If children are reluctant to dance, ask them if they could write or draw a way they could say yes to God instead.
- Use the prayer from “Praying God’s Grace,” but instead of having the children write in sand, have them write on a piece of paper as you read each prompt. They might want to choose a special color to write with for this exercise.
- If you can’t print and distribute the cards from GN 2 ahead of time, work with the children to create a list of things they could say yes to this week. Ask them to pick one of the things on the list and try saying yes to it this week.
- Remember to talk about Advent and light the first and second candles on the Advent wreath in the “Loving and Serving God” section.
- Close with the prayer and blessing as written at the end of the session.

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- Invite each child to draw a picture that makes them feel joyful. Be sure to share the pictures each child has created.
- Instead of having the children sing along with the “Transitioning to Story Time” songs, ask them to do the motions while you sing.
- Using “Hearing the Story” section as written.
- For “Turn That Frown Upside Down,” instead of using GN 2, ask the children to make a face that would describe how you might feel in each situation.
- Skip gathering in a circle in the “Rejoicing Circle” activity, and instead invite the children to share a time they felt joy. They can also act out what that joy felt like to them with a movement or a facial expression.
- Make sure to talk about Advent and light the first three candles on your Advent wreath.
- Bless each child with the blessing at the end of the session to close.

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Open with the “Praying” section, and have the children do the motions as you read the prayer aloud.
- As you prepare to hear the story, ask each child to share one piece of good news they heard this week. It could be something small, such as getting a package in the mail, or something bigger, such as being excited about Christmas coming.
- Read the story from the Bible as mentioned in the “Hearing the Story” section. Discuss the story using the wondering questions in the “Reflecting God’s Grace” section. Skip the singing of “Praise God, Praise God.”
- Instead of listening to music while you color the music-notes pictures in “Claiming God’s Grace,” have children share their favorite Christmas song. If parents or caregivers are able to print GN 1, children can color this while discussing songs; if not, just share which song is each child’s favorite.
- If parents or caregivers are able to print, have them print GN 3. Ask children to create their “Mission Possible” plan for the week using the instructions from the “Extra Activity.” Alternatively, you could choose seven missions as a class, and email the list as an attachment to the parents or caregivers with instructions in the email that parents and caregivers are not to read the attachment but only to show it to their child or children.
- Be sure to talk about Advent and light three candles on the Advent wreath.
- Close with the litany and bless each child with the blessing found at the end of the session.

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- Ask children to share about their favorite Christmas book or movie. Is there a book they read every year or a movie they like to watch that is about Christmas?
- Read the “Hands Go Up” poem aloud while the children do the motions with you.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as written.
- If parents or caregivers are able to print, send them GN 1 and ask them to print it. Encourage the children to color the sheet. Ask parents or caregivers to help their child cut out each character. The children can have fun creating nativity scenes with their characters. Optional: have children glue each character to a toilet paper tube or popsicle stick to turn them into puppets.
- Sing the “Bethlehem Song” and encourage the children to do the motions with you.
- Talk about this season of Advent, and light four candles on your Advent wreath.
- Close with the prayer and blessing found at the end of the session.

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Open with the prayer from the “Praying” section.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as written.
- Ask the wondering questions from the “Reflecting on God’s Grace” section.
- Instead of playing music and passing around a nativity character in “Celebrating God’s Grace,” ask each child to share “If I had been there with the shepherds, I would have...” They can finish the sentence with words, a movement, or a facial expression.
- Use the “Praying God’s Grace” section as written.
- Talk about Advent and light four candles on the Advent wreath.
- Close with the echo prayer at the end of the session.

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- Use the “Reading Signs” option from the “Welcome and Guided Play section.”
- Have the children do only the motions for the “Follow Me” activity while you say the words aloud.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as written.
- If parents or caregivers are able to print, send them GN 4 and GN 6 and ask them to print them for use with activities “Making Gift Coupons” and “Coloring Page” respectively. Instead of cutting out the coupons, have children, parents, or caregivers cross off or check off each coupon as it is used.
- Use the litany and blessing found in the “Loving and Serving God” section to close.

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Open with the “Praying” section.
- Use the “Preparing to Hear the Story,” “Hearing the Story,” and “Reflecting on God’s Grace” sections as written.
- If parents or caregivers are able to print, send them GN 1 and ask them to print it for use with the “Praying God’s Grace” section. Have children color the star and cut it out if they wish and then hang each star somewhere in their home. Maybe they can put it on a mirror or hang it in their bedroom.
- For “Offering God’s Grace” section, email the Epiphany cookies recipe to parents and caregivers and encourage them to make the cookies at some point during the week if possible or even on Epiphany.
- Read *Home by Another Way* by Barbara Brown Taylor.
- Close with the blessing found at the end of the session.