



Sunday, January 3, 2021

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- For the “Welcoming and Guided Play” section, have children create a blanket fort or just sit under a blanket to make a temple. Then have children share about trips they have taken with their families and how they got ready for those trips. Explain that Jesus took a trip to a temple far away from his home in today’s story. Encourage children to listen to today’s Bible story from their temple.
- Use the “He Grew and Grew” and “Hearing the story” sections as written.
- Consider taking a virtual visit to the sanctuary instead of a physical one as suggested in the “Visit the Sanctuary” section.
- Use the “Loving God” section as written.
- Optional: ask parents or caregivers to print GN 1 ahead of time for children to color during the session.
- Close with the litany and blessing found at the end of the session.

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Begin with the “Praying” section.
- Use the “Preparing to Hear the Story” section as written.
- Instead of having the children act out the story the second time through in the “Hearing the Story” section, listen to the story audio instead <http://bit.ly/38D27EW>.
- Use the “Reflecting on God’s Grace” section as written.
- In the “Claiming God’s Grace” section, consider taking a virtual tour of the sanctuary instead of a physical one.
- For the “Celebrating God’s Grace” section, instead of writing things down on newsprint, create a document file and share your screen so that the children can see the words you type as they share the things they like aloud.
- In the “Praying God’s Grace” section, look up images for “boy Jesus at the temple,” share your screen, and show the different images to the children as you discuss each image as suggested in the section.
- Close with the blessings found at the end of the session.



Sunday, January 10, 2021

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- If your children can move their streaming device, have them take their device into the bathroom or kitchen and set it safely off to the side while they use the sink to do some water play. If this is not an option, consider sharing stories of when children have done something with water, such as visiting the ocean or a lake, walking to a stream near their home, going on a water ride, or playing with water balloons.
- For the “All of Me” activity, ask children to do the motions after you say each line.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” and the “Baptism Water” sections as written.
- Ask each child to find a baby doll, an action figure, or a stuffed animal in their home. Once each child has a toy, have them pretend to baptize their toy in make-believe water or with real water in the sink if possible. They can pretend the toy is Jesus.
- Close with the blessing found at the end of the session.

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Use the “Praying” and “Preparing to Hear the Story” sections as written.
- Read the story from Mark 1:1–15.
- Before you read the story from SCM 6, ask the children to come up with a motion for water. Then tell the children that every time they hear the word *water* or *river* in this story, they will do that motion.
- Optional: Invite your pastor to the video chat to talk about baptism using the information found in the “Claiming God’s Grace” section. If not, you can skip this activity.
- Instead of using watercolor paints in the “Praying with God’s Grace” section, invite the children to draw a picture of the Jordan River using any supplies they have at home. Try to find some good music to play as the children draw their picture.
- Optional: if parents or caregivers can print GN 3 ahead of time, you can use the “Extra Activity” section.
- Close with the prayer found at the end of the session.



Sunday, January 17, 2021

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- For the “Welcoming and Guided Play” section, consider playing Follow the Leader more like you would Simon Says without moving around the room but simply staying in place and doing different motions and movements. Instead of drawing a mural about good news, ask the children to share good news that they have heard recently or just what is news that would be considered good.
- In the “Jesus Calls the Fishermen” section, you can skip putting blue cloth on the floor and focus on the action of the net. Pantomime the action of throwing the net and encourage the children to join you. They may need to step back from their screen so that they don’t accidentally hit it. You can pretend to cast and haul in the net together as a group.
- For the “Hands Go Up” section, you can have the children just do the motions instead of repeating the words after you.
- Use the “Teaching and Learning” and “Jesus Prayed, and So Can We” sections as written.
- Close with the blessing found at the end of the session.

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Begin your session with the “Praying” section. Hold up the props for each section of the prayer in front of your screen as you read the prayer so that the children can look at each of the objects while you pray instead of having the children pick up these objects.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as written.
- Explain to the children that these words *Teach*, *Invite*, *Heal*, *Pray*, and *Proclaim* describe the model of ministry that Jesus used. Invite the children to share what people do to express each of those words. Then name people in your congregation who do a good job of living out each of those words.
- Use the “Praying God’s Grace” section as written.
- For the “Offering God’s Grace” section, either have the children trace their own hand or ask a parent or caregiver for help tracing their hand.
- Conclude the session with the blessing found at the end of the session.



Sunday, January 24, 2021

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- For the “Welcome and Guided Play” section, ask children to share the names of four of their friends. Ask the children to share ways that they have helped their friends in the past.
- Ask each child to draw a picture of their four friends helping each other in some way.
- During the “Hearing the Story” section, give each child a number, as the session instructs, but instead of pointing to groups of children with the same number, hold up your fingers with the number to indicate whose turn it is to speak.
- If possible, email GN 2 ahead of time to parents or caregivers and have them print it for the children to color for the “Coloring Page” section. Remember to use the wondering questions.
- Close with the blessing found at the end of the session.

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Show pictures of different walking aids and braces to the children and use the questions provided in the “Welcoming and Preparing” section.
- Use the “Praying,” “Preparing to Hear the Story,” “Hearing the Story,” and “Reflecting on God’s Grace” sections as written.
- For “Praying God’s Grace,” invite the children to name people who they think need Jesus’ care. You can write down the names of the people on a piece of paper and pray the prayer written in the session. Keep this list of names that the children share with you so that you can pray through that list one other time this week.
- If you can do a virtual walk around your church with a camera, let the children chime in about what is accessible in your church building for the “Offering God’s Grace” section. Be sure to pass on the children’s observations to the pastor and other church leadership.
- Supplemental activity: Ask the children to draw a picture of the four friends and ask them to place themselves in this picture as one of the characters. Would they be the person on the cot, Jesus, one of the four friends, a bystander in the crowded house? Encourage the children to share their pictures with one another and tell where they put themselves in the story.
- Close with the blessing found at the end of the session.



Sunday, January 31, 2021

Adaptations for Ages 3-5

- For “Playing with Water,” if the children can set their streaming device near but out of the way of the sink, they can use their sink at home to engage in some water play. They can use any measuring cups or regular cups or bowls that they may have at home. This may require parent or caregiver supervision. Alternatively, if a child has a water-painting set at home, they may wish to paint a picture of either a calm or stormy sea; this may also require adult supervision.
- During the “I Am...” activity, invite the children to repeat your actions but not the words.
- For “Hearing the Story” section, have the children do the sound effects for the storm but skip the part about providing fabric, pie tins, cymbals, and cardboard boxes. You may want to have a visual symbol of when to cut off the sound effects so that the children know when to stop if they can’t hear you say stop over the din.
- Instead of having the children run, jump, dance, and move during the “Be Still Game,” have children move, jump, or dance in place silently in front of their device. Then pick a child to tell the whole group “Peace! Be still!” and have the other children freeze in place. Pick the next child to be Jesus at random.
- Close with the blessing found at the end of the session.

Adaptations for Ages 5-10

- Open with the “Praying” section.
- Instead of writing fears on sticky notes, ask children to share things they or others they know may fear, such as snakes, the dark, etc. You can make a list of these fears if you wish in a document on your computer. Then ask the questions at the end of the “Preparing to Hear the Story” section.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” and “Reflecting on God’s Grace” sections as written.
- For the “Claiming God’s Grace” section, share with the children a fear that you have, then ask the children to say “Jesus brings us peace” while doing the motions. Then invite other children to take turns sharing something they may be afraid of. Not all children have to share something.
- During the “Celebrating God’s Grace” section, you can do the thunderstorm activity as written, but instead of shouting “Be quiet!” do a motion that symbolizes quiet to signal the stop of the storm.
- Optional: Email GN 2 to parents or caregivers beforehand and ask them to print this sheet so that you can use it during the session. Instead of breaking into small groups during the “Extra Activity,” have everyone wonder about the situations on GN 2 as a whole group.
- Use the echo prayer and blessing at the end of the session to close your time together.