

# God Is With Me No Matter What!

1st - 5<sup>th</sup>  
9/12/2010

**This Week's Theme:** Encouraging the understanding that God's presence is always with us, even in our difficulties.

**Teacher Insights:** Our emphasis on this Sunday will be to invite the children to see how God's presence is always there, even when they are facing difficulties. Often times when faced with a challenge it is fear that first creeps into our minds instead of looking toward the presence of God in our lives and in that situation. One of the key principles we want the kids to understand is that no matter what is going on outside of ourselves, God is always a constant present help!

## **Unity Writings:**

The word universe means "turned into one, a whole"... A whole needs all of its component parts, and no one part is any more important than the other.

- *The Quest*, Richard and Mary Alice Jafolla

God as omnipresence is the only presence in the universe. This refers to the all-pervading presence of God, permeating the universe. God is everywhere present. There is no place where God is not. He is in all, through all, and around all.

- *Dynamics for Living*, Charles Fillmore

## **Scripture:**

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

-Matthew 28:20 NRSV

## **Unity Principles: (today's principle is highlighted)**

- 1: **God is all Good and active in everything, everywhere.**
- 2: I am naturally good because God's Divinity is in me and in everyone.
- 3: I create my experiences by what I choose to think and what I feel and believe.
- 4: Through affirmative prayer and meditation, I connect with God and bring out the good in my life.
- 5: Practice, Practice, Practice. I do and give my best by living the Truth I know! I make a difference!

## Pre-session: Where is God?

Make sure you create a sacred space at the tables in your rooms. You can do this by lighting the Christ candle and then placing sacred objects around it.

**Greet Parents and Children.** As much as possible try to greet parents at the sign-in table.

- At the Sign-in table ask:
  - Please print names
  - Does your child have a **yellow registration form** filled out?
  - Any special needs that we should know about?

## **Pre-session Activity: Where is God? Game**

**Materials:** Copy of God Symbol

As the children arrive, share with them that while we are waiting for all of our friends to arrive, we are going to play a game. In your tubs you will find a piece of cardstock with a symbol printed on it (it looks like a star with three hearts on it). If the children would like to color the God symbol they may.

1. Have one child decide to be it.
2. The child that is "it" will cover their eyes (head down on the table will work well) and the rest of the class will hide the God symbol.
3. Prior to them looking for the symbol, share with the class that the light of God is always with them, they simply have to look for it.
4. The person who is "it" will then try to find the God symbol in the room while the rest of the class gives them hints by saying hotter as "it" gets closer and colder as "it" gets farther away.
5. The game will continue until the God light is found. Once the God symbol is found, "it" picks a new person to be "it" and the game can continue for as long as the class would like!

## Sacred Circle: Is God Always with Me?

- **3 Ohms:** In order to synchronize our energies, have the children sit in a circle and begin sacred circle with 3 ohms.
- **Who is Jesus for us in Unity?** Our way-shower, the great master of love.
- **Affirmation:** God is all good and active everywhere

- **Introductions/Affirmations:** In turn, have each student stand say their name and a characteristic they bring to the classroom. For example, "I am Brandon and I bring peace to the circle today." All the children warm up their hands and put their hands in the prayer position, bow, and say, "Namaste' \_\_\_\_\_, you are \_\_\_\_\_!"  
*Namaste' means: "The light in me sees the light in you."*
- **Heart Agreements:** Heart Agreements establish the boundaries of how everyone in the group agrees to "show up" in Sunday school. They are not being TOLD how they must show up; they are telling YOU how they have agreed to show up. During the course of the lesson, you may refer back to the Heart Agreements. For example, if a group of kids is perpetually talking while you are speaking, then you may say to the class as a whole, "What was our heart agreement about listening to speakers?" And let the kids tell you!

**Our basic heart agreements are:**

**Gentle Hands  
Open Hearts  
Walking Feet  
Listening ears  
Kind Words**

- **Love Offering:** Divine Love, Blesses and multiples, all that I have, all that I give and all that I receive. And I am joy-filled and grateful. FYI: students may place lots of things besides money in the love offering basket: joy, friendship, peace, love, etc.

## **Meditation:**

I invite you to close your eyes, take in a deep breath and relax. Take in another deep breathe and let it go. In the Hindu religion, there is a prayer that recognizes God everywhere, and guides us in our interactions with each other. Continue to relax and listen to these words. (Read slowly pausing after each sentence.)

May the winds, the oceans, the herbs, the nights and days, the mother earth, the father heaven, all vegetation, the sun, be all sweet to us.

Let us follow the path of goodness for all times, like the sun and the moon moving eternally in the sky.

Let us be charitable (or kind) to one another.

Let us not kill or be violent with one another.

Let us know and appreciate the points of view of others.

And let us unite. Amen.

# Story time: Gideon Trusts God in Difficult Times

**Materials:** Copies of the story (one per child), flashlight, kazoo

You will find the copies of the story in your tubs as well as the flashlight and the kazoo. The main idea of this story is that *God* is present in our lives even during difficult times. Give each child a copy of the story and select one child to hold the flashlight and one to hold the kazoo. Let them know that when they hear the place in the story when the lights show up, they should turn their flashlight on and when they hear the place where the trumpets blow, they should blow their kazoos. If you would like to read the story prior to Sunday it may be found in the Hebrew Scriptures in Judges 6-7. Metaphysically, this story represents our personal battles with the negative aspects of our lives. We all must defeat the negative thoughts we have to be able to fully realize our own Christ natures.

## Discussion Questions:

- What happened in this story?
- How did *Gideon* find out what he needed to do?
- What is an angel?
- What did *Gideon* do after he heard *God's* voice?
- What do you think might have happened if *Gideon* had not listened to *God*?
- How many men started out in *Gideon's* army? How many did he finally end up with?
- What do you think *Gideon* felt when he went to face the Midianites?
- Why were *Gideon* and the Israelites able to be brave?
- Where is *God* in this story?
- Who can tell us about a difficult time you had in your life? How did *God* show up in that situation?
- How do you connect with *God* in the difficult times?
- What would be a situation that would be too difficult for *God*? Is there such a thing?
- What Unity Principle helps us remember where to find *God*?

# Creative Expression:

## Gideon Newscast

**Materials:** Paper and pencils

We are going to take an opportunity to play out a newscast that tells the story of Gideon. Have you class decide if they would like to work in a group or on their own or a mix of both! Each group or individual will then have about ten minutes to come up with a news story or article that they can share with the rest of the class that will tell Gideon's story, but also tell where God was in that story. They can do whatever they would like (even modernize the story), but each one must in some way show how God's presence is active in that situation. Be sure to allow enough time for them to share their ideas with the rest of the class.

## Closing Prayer:

Let us pause for a moment in silence. We send thoughts of love to everyone in the world. Pause.

Father Mother God, thank you for this time together. In this moment we choose to create a wonderful world for all. We allow our Christ light to shine out for the world to see and speak words of love and peace into our world. We are grateful. Thank you God! Amen.

## Teacher Reminders: Please HELP

- Return the teacher tub and all supplies to the Resource Room
- Sign out by writing the number of children you had on the Teacher Sign-In Sheet.
- At 11 put the sign-in sheets in your supply tubs.
- Put the love offering in the envelope in your tubs.
- Feel out the "Hums and Areas for Improvement" sheet found behind your curriculum in your tub. Leave the completed sheet in the tub for Brandon to collect after Sunday!