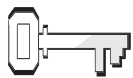


Going Home With God



References

Genesis 5:21–24;
Hebrews 11:5–7;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 84–89



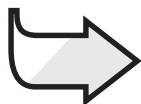
Memory Verse

“Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away” (Genesis 5:24, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that God is with us every day as we pray and study His Word.
Feel eager to walk with God as Enoch did.
Respond by praising God for being with us every day.



The Message

We become friends with God when we spend time with Him every day.

Monthly Theme

We thank God for His presence with us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Enoch lived on this earth for 365 years. At age 65 he became the father of Methuselah. It is written that he “walked with God,” meaning that he and God stayed close to each other throughout Enoch’s lifetime. Enoch was so close to God that God took him to live with Him in heaven. Enoch is still there today.

This is a lesson about worship.

Enoch and God were so close that God wanted Enoch to live with Him forever. God wants us to be that close to Him today. He wants to take us to heaven to live with Him too. We worship God when we thank Him for being with us, and when we walk with Him every day.

Teacher Enrichment

“Enoch’s walk with God was not in a trance or a vision, but in all the duties of his daily life. He did not become a hermit, shutting himself entirely from the world; for he had, in the world, a work to do for God. In the family and in his intercourse with men, as a husband and father, a friend, a citizen, he was the steadfast, unwavering servant of God.

“In the midst of a life of active labor, Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion with God. The greater and more pressing his labors, the more constant and earnest were his prayers. He continued to exclude himself at certain periods from all society. After remaining for a time among the people, laboring to benefit them by instruction and example, he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart” (*Gospel Workers*, pp. 51, 52).

“Enoch, separating himself from the world, and spending much of his time in prayer and in communion with God, represents God’s loyal people in the last days who will be separate from the world. . . .

“God’s people will separate themselves from the unrighteous practices of those around them, and will seek for purity of thought, and holy conformity to his will, until his divine image will be reflected in them” (*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, pp. 58, 59).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Prayer Hotline</i> B. <i>Special Delivery</i> C. <i>Follow in My Footsteps</i>	clothesline or thin rope, clothespins, slips of paper, pencils mailbag, envelopes, promises, "mailman" none
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container from Lesson 5 none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	man in Bible-times costume Bible, four sheets of paper, marker Bibles, paper, pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Walking With God</i>	pencils/markers, paper, scissors
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Sharing the Good News</i>	children's Sabbath School papers or invitations to come to church

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share an experience from last week’s lesson study. Ask them to follow the directions on the board (if there are any), or get ready to participate in the readiness activity you have selected.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- clothesline or thin rope
- clothespins
- slips of paper
- pencils

A. Prayer Hotline

Prepare in advance: Tie a clothesline across one corner of the room.

Give each of the children a slip of paper and a clothespin. Say: **Today we are setting up a prayer hotline. You may write or draw something to represent your prayer request. You can pray about anything. When you finish, bow your head and pray. God is always there, waiting to hear and answer our prayers. When you have finished, attach your paper to our hotline.**

You may want to use this idea for the next few weeks. When a child’s prayer is answered, have the child remove their request. Encourage them to keep it as a reminder that God answers prayer.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What does the Bible tell us to do when we have a problem?** (Pray about it.) **Should we pray only when we have a problem? Think about it. How would you feel if the only time your best friend ever talked to you was when he or she had a problem? That’s the same way God feels. Today’s message tells us more . . .**



WE BECOME FRIENDS WITH GOD WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH HIM EVERY DAY.

Say that with me.

B. Special Delivery

In advance: Put a Bible text on paper for each child. Place a text in each envelope. List your favorites or use the following texts:

Isaiah 41:10	Matthew 6:6	John 14:1–3	James 1:5
Jeremiah 31:3	Matthew 7:7	Hebrews 10:16, 17	1 John 1:9
Jeremiah 33:3	Matthew 28:19, 20	Hebrews 13:5	Revelation 22:12

Arrange for a “mailman” to knock and come in and announce a special delivery for your class. Hand out individually addressed envelopes each containing a Bible promise. Ask: **What’s inside your envelopes? Would someone like to read their special delivery?** Allow time for sharing their texts. Assist nonreaders as necessary.

You Need:

- mailbag
- envelopes containing Bible promise addressed to each child
- spare envelopes for visiting children
- “mailman”

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when you got a special delivery message just for you?** (I liked it, felt good, excited, etc.) **God has even more exciting things to tell you. We can't talk to Him face to face today, but we can learn what He wants to say by reading our Bibles and talking to God in prayer every day. Today we're going to learn about a man who knew the importance of staying in close contact with God. He was God's close friend. Our message tells us how we can become God's friend too.**



WE BECOME FRIENDS WITH GOD WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH HIM EVERY DAY.

Say that with me.

C. Follow in My Footsteps

Divide the children into pairs. Ask them to stand at one side of the classroom.

Say: **Stand one behind the other and hold on to the waist of the person in front of you. Now walk to the other side of the room. The person behind has to stay close and walk in the footsteps of the person in front.** Repeat, allowing the children to change places.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How easy was it to walk in someone else's footsteps? What made it difficult or easy? How do you feel when you have to find your way somewhere you have never been before? What if you had someone who knew the way and could tell you where to go? We are on a journey to heaven. God has given us footsteps to follow in His Word to us, the Bible. In our lesson today we will learn about a man who walked closely with God. He was God's friend. Our message tells us how we can become God's friends too.**



WE BECOME FRIENDS WITH GOD WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH HIM EVERY DAY.

Say that with me.

Note: Prayer and Praise appears on page 97.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- man dressed in Bible-times costume

Experiencing the Story

Invite a man dressed in Bible-times costume to tell the story of Enoch. The story is told from the perspective of Methuselah, his son.

Read or tell the story.

I am Methuselah. Did you know that I lived longer than any other person? I could tell you many stories, but I want to tell you about my father, Enoch. He was Adam and Eve's great-great-great-great-grandson. When he was small, he loved to listen to their stories about his family and the beautiful garden they had lived in. He also heard how they had sinned. Enoch listened carefully when they told him that Jesus would die for their sins. Enoch learned to love God because of what his great-great-great-great-grandparents told him.

When Enoch was 65 years old (about as old as your grandmother or grandfather!), I was born. After I was born my father told me that he learned to love God even more. He told me that he would do anything to protect me, so he began to get an idea how God must feel at the thought of sending His Son Jesus to die for our sins.

He thought more and more about God every day. He spent a lot of time talking with God in prayer. Often he slipped away to be alone with God. When Enoch was talking with God, we knew that we should not disturb him.

God and Enoch were very close. God told him a lot of things. He told him about the Flood that was coming. He told him about Jesus' birth, His life, and His death on the cross. He talked about Jesus' resurrection, His second coming,

and everything that would happen in between.

Enoch did not spend all his time in prayer. Sometimes he would play with us. He often told us about the things that God had told him. He always made it sound very exciting. Because he had so many interesting things to say, we always had friends and neighbors coming to talk with him.

My father often preached about the things that God had told him. Good people liked to hear him. But bad people didn't, because he told them not to sin. Some people listened to him and stopped sinning. Others didn't care and sinned even more. He was always sad when he came home from those trips.

Even though Enoch traveled and preached, he constantly talked to God and worshiped Him. The more time he spent with God, the more he looked like God. His face was full of joy.

God let Enoch see heaven, and Enoch really wanted to live there. You know how you spend so much time at your best friend's house that the neighbors think you live there? That's how it was with God and Enoch. Finally, one day God just took Enoch to live with Him in heaven.

Some people saw him go to be with God—good people and bad people. They told us about it. Some said it was a trick. They searched everywhere, but they could not find him. He was in heaven. He wasn't coming back to live on earth.

I had mixed feelings. I missed him a lot, but I knew that he was happy in heaven. Best of all I knew that God was my Friend as well. He is your Friend too. You can walk with Him every day, just like my father, Enoch, did. I have tried to follow his example. I hope you do too.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who told Enoch stories about their garden home?** (Adam and Eve) **How did Enoch become friends with God?** (He prayed all the time, talked to God every day.) **Does this mean that he didn't do anything else?** (No. He talked to God as he went about his daily activities and work.) **What happened to Enoch?** (God took him up into heaven.) **How did people react to that?** (The good people were happy because he was with God; the bad people said it was a trick.) **We can walk with God too. Our message tells us what happens when we spend time with God.**



WE BECOME FRIENDS WITH GOD WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH HIM EVERY DAY.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

Write the memory verse on four separate sheets of paper, one phrase on each sheet.

Divide the children into three groups, and teach them the following actions:

- Group 1: "Enoch walked with God" (Walk on the spot.)
- Group 2: "then he was no more" (Shake head.)
- Group 3: "because God took him away" (Point to heaven.)
- Unison: Genesis 5:24

Point to each group when it is time to say their part. Do it several times. Change the phrases around until each group has said each phrase. Then have the whole group say the complete memory verse and do the actions.

Bible Study

Give a copy of the following questions to the children or have them written on a board or large sheet of paper where all can see. Divide the children into pairs or groups of three and read the texts, then answer the questions. Readers or adults can help nonreaders.

1. When Enoch was 65 years old, he had a son. What was this son's name? Genesis 5:21
2. How many years after his son was born did Enoch walk with God? Genesis 5:22
3. How many years did Enoch live on earth? Genesis 5:23
4. According to Genesis 5:24, what happened to Enoch? Why?
5. How can we be sure that Enoch did not die? Hebrews 11:5
6. What did Enoch have that made him special? Hebrews 11:5

Allow time for the children to share their answers with the whole group.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What does it mean to walk with God? How do you think Enoch learned to trust (or have faith in) God? What can we do to develop the same faith in God? God enjoyed being Enoch's friend. They spent time together. Enoch talked to God in his prayers in the same way that he would talk to his best friend. He told God everything that made him happy and sad. We can have the same kind of friendship if we spend time with God every day. Do you want to be God's friend? Let's say our message for today together:**



WE BECOME FRIENDS WITH GOD WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH HIM EVERY DAY.

You Need:

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- pencils/
markers
- paper
- scissors

Walking With God

Have the children trace around their foot, then cut out the footprint. At the top of the footprint have them write: I Walk With God. Underneath write:

1. I pray.
2. I study my Bible.
3. I listen for God's voice.
4. I obey Him.

Adults assist as necessary.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do these four steps tell us about walking with God? What keeps us from doing these four things? What can we do to make sure that we spend time with God every day?** Deal with each of the things that prevent time with God. Help them to come up with solutions.

Enoch followed these steps all his life. That is why he and God were such good friends. Let's say today's message together:



WE BECOME FRIENDS WITH GOD WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH HIM EVERY DAY.

4

Sharing the Lesson

You Need:

- extra copies of *Primary Treasure*[®] or other children's magazine, or
- Voice of Prophecy cards, or
- invitations to come to church

Sharing the Good News

Allow response time as you say: **When Enoch lived on earth, God told him many things that would happen in the future. Do you think Enoch kept those things to himself?**

How can we tell others about Jesus? I have some extra copies of *Primary Treasure*[®] (Voice of Prophecy cards/invitations to come to church—whichever is appropriate in your situation). **Sharing these with someone else is one way we can help others learn about Jesus. How do you think we can best share these? If possible, arrange a time to do this together.**

Debriefing

What can we expect to happen when we share what we know about Jesus? Will everyone listen? Did everyone listen when Enoch preached?

Give the children copies of the papers or cards to distribute to neighbors and friends. **This week as we spend time with God, let's ask Him to bless those people who receive these papers. Remember today's message:**



WE BECOME FRIENDS WITH GOD WHEN WE SPEND TIME WITH HIM EVERY DAY.

Closing

Gather the children in a circle. Ask God to bless them as they share the papers this week.

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Father, I Adore You" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 21)
- "Seek Ye First" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 67)
- "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 119)
- "Jesus Loves Me" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 27)
- "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 48)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize that we worship God when we are close to Him.



Offering

Sing "We Give Our Gifts" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 146) as the offering is collected. Say: **Giving money is important, but offerings are more than giving money. Giving our time and energy to do things for God is also an offering.**

You Need:

- offering container from Lesson 5



Prayer

Have the children join hands in a circle. Ask three volunteers to pray for help to get to know God better through prayer and Bible study. Close by praying for the prayer requests on the "Prayer Hotline" if it was made in Readiness A.

Going Home With God

References

Genesis 5:21–24;
Hebrews 11:5–7;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*, pp. 84–89

Memory Verse

“Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away” (Genesis 5:24, NIV).

The Message

We become friends with God when we spend time with Him every day.

Do you have a best friend? How much time do you spend together? How often do you visit one another's homes? Our story today is about a man who was one of God's best friends.

Enoch was Adam and Eve's great-great-great-grandson. Like many grandsons he loved to listen to the stories about his family. Adam and Eve told him about the beautiful garden they had lived in. They told him how they had sinned. They told him about God's wonderful plan. Enoch listened carefully when they told him that Jesus would die for their sins. He learned to love God because of what they told him.

When Enoch was 65 years old, his first son was born. He named his son Methuselah. When Enoch became a father, he learned to love God even more. He understood how hard it must have been for God to even think about letting Jesus die for our sins. He thought more and more about God every day. He spent a lot of time talking with God in prayer. And he often slipped away to be alone with God.

God told Enoch about the Flood that was coming. He told him about Jesus' birth, life, and death on the cross. They talked about Jesus' resurrection, His second coming, and everything that would happen in between.

Enoch spent time with people too. Good people liked him. But bad people didn't because he told them not to sin. Some people listened to him and stopped sinning. But others didn't care and sinned even more.

Even though Enoch traveled and preached, he constantly

talked to God and worshiped Him. The more time he spent with God, the more he became like God. His face was full of joy.

God let Enoch see heaven, and Enoch really wanted to live there. Finally, one day God just took Enoch with Him to heaven.

Some people saw him go to be with God—good people and bad people. They looked for him later, but they couldn't find him. They searched everywhere they knew Enoch usually went. But he was in none of those places. He wasn't coming back to live on earth.

People missed Enoch after he was gone. When they finally figured out that he was with God, their faith was strengthened. Good people knew two things: one, that they, too, could worship God in a wicked world. And, two, people who worshiped and obeyed God would go to heaven. The bad people knew a couple things too: one, that they should obey God and worship Him. And, two, that unless they changed, sadness and death would be waiting for them at the end of their lives.

Which group would you like to belong to?



Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Take a prayer walk with your family. Pray for the people you meet and who live in the houses you pass. When you go home, read your lesson together.
- Trace around each family member's feet. Cut out the footprints and mount them on a large piece of paper. Write at the top "Walking With God." Ask each person to sign their footprint as a sign of their commitment to walk with God. Then pray together and ask God to help each one keep that commitment.

Sunday

- For family worship read and discuss Genesis 5:21–24.
- Count the shoes in your home. How many types of shoes are there? What kind of shoes do you think Enoch wore?
- Draw and cut out a shoe shape and write your memory verse on it. Cut it up to make a puzzle. Put the puzzle together every day until you can say the verse without help.
- Pray that God will lead you to someone you can tell about Him.

Monday

- Read 2 Kings 2:11 for family worship. Who else went to heaven to live with God?
- Fold a sheet of paper in four equal parts. Open it up and draw or paste pictures of someone you want to pray for.
- Make a calendar with squares big enough to write in. Print "Prayer and Bible Study" in each square. Put a check by each day you do both.

Tuesday

- During family worship, remind everyone that Enoch was Adam and Eve's great-great-great-great-grandson. Ask if anyone knows when your great-great-great-great-grandparents lived or who they were.

- Ask your family to help you read Genesis 5:1–24. Make a list of each person from Adam to Enoch and tell how long they lived. How long do people live today?
- Enoch prayed for the families of the people on your list. Read Luke 6:27, 28 to find out who we should pray for.
- Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 96). Then pray for the people on your prayer list.

Wednesday

- During family worship, find out who is the oldest living person in your family. Read Genesis 5:23. How old was Enoch when he went to heaven? How much older was he than the oldest person in your family?
- In Hebrews 11 Enoch is called a hero of faith. Read the chapter together. Who else is named there? What do you discover about them?
- Pray that you and your family will have great faith as Enoch did.

Thursday

- Try this for family worship. Say: One way to know God is to study the Bible. One way to study is to say these sentences after reading a Bible passage:
 1. In this Bible passage I learned . . .
 2. In this Bible passage God is saying to me . . .
 3. After reading this Bible passage, I want God to help me . . .Now read the story of Enoch again and then complete the sentences.
- Pray that God will give you understanding as you read His Word.

Friday

- Read Psalm 139 for family worship. Ask each person to tell about a time they felt that God was with them in a special way.
- Sing "Trust in the Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 111).
- Thank God for the Bible, His Word. Ask Him to be with you in a special way as you learn more about Him throughout the Sabbath.