


1st Rotation Period

 **SAMPLE**

Overview



1st Basic Principle

"God is all good and active in everything, everywhere."

Rotation Period - Teacher Enrichment

Rotation Period Intention

The purpose of this lesson is to recognize that there is only one God who is the source of all our good. This good is active everywhere and within every person.

Bible Quotes That Support This Principle

Psalm 139:7-10

"Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there; if I take the wings of the morning and settle at the furthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast."

1 John 4:16

"So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."

Joshua 1:9

"I hereby commend you; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

1 John 1:5

"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all."

Important Points About This Principle

- God is everywhere equally present.
- God is not a far off ruler on a throne. God is wherever we are because God is within each one of us.
- We discover our God presence by turning within.
- Each of us are partners with God in creating our world. We co-create together.
- As a wave is part of the ocean, we are part of God.
- God is Omnipresent, (*Everywhere present.*)

Song Suggestions for This Principle

CD - "Unite with Me in Song"

- #3 - *Face of God*
- #6 - *The Father and I are One*

CD - "A Child's Spirit," By Bunny Hill

- #1 - *God Is You & Me*
- #7 - *We Are Spirit*

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Definitions of God

God – Traditional

Anthropomorphic: big man on a cloud
Stands in judgment
Grants wishes
Vengeful or loving

Sin – Traditional

Assumes duality: that there is good and bad, right and wrong according to God, through human interpretation.

Hell – Traditional

An actual place for the purpose of punishment.

Evil – Traditional

The opposite of good
Satan vs God

Truth & Injustice – Traditional

Truth depends on circumstance
Truth changes
God punishes
Satan vs God

How to Discover God – Traditional

Go to church
Listen/obey priest/minister
Follow the rules of the church
Accept what you are told.

God - Unity

Absolute good
Omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent
Source
Not loving but all love

Sin – Unity

Missing the mark
Error thinking
“We are not punished for our sins but by our sins.” Charles Fillmore
Any human attempt to negate any divine Idea.

Hell - Unity

A state of mind; mental or physical
Negativity out of harmony with Source.
Needless, unnecessary suffering.

Evil - Unity

Misuse of the power of will - man-made
Does not exist independently
Disconnection from Source
Darkness vs Light

Truth & Injustice - Unity

Truth never changes - absolute
Our mistakes have consequences
Injustice is the misuse of will

How to Discover God - Unity

Look within through prayer & meditation
Know God's power is always available.
“Ask, seek, knock: that God be revealed
Be open and receptive to Inner Christ guidance.

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Stages of Faith Development

Source: James W. Fowler & Mary Lynn Dell

Intuitive-Projective Faith: (*Toddlerhood and Early Childhood - TOT into Early Elementary*)

This is a time of monumental brain development. Children are curious about other children and are experimenting with side by side play. Their imaginations respond to story, symbol, dream and experience and they are forming images that help them make sense of the world around them. At this age they may not be able to understand cause and effect and do not distinguish between fantasy/make believe and the facts. Stories that clearly illustrate good versus evil help them to begin to acknowledge the urges within themselves that pull them both in both directions. These stories help them identify with the feelings of being able to overcome “evil.” Since children of this age are very literal and are like sponges soaking up all around them, it is important to give them images of a kind and compassionate God who helps people choose to be loving. This will create the potential for them to form an image of God that is good and kind and to lay the ground work for self-empowerment.

Mythic-Literal Faith: (*Middle Childhood and Beyond - UNIKID into TWEEN*)

At this stage, children are refining their motor skills and small-muscle control. They are developing concrete operational thinking. This means that operations of thought can now be reversed so they are better able to understand cause and effect. They also begin to be able to differentiate between their experiences and the perspectives of others. They still rely on the images of the world they created in the previous stage but are now developing the ability to use logical forms of thinking.

Children in this stage are still learning to recognize, interpret and manage strong feelings and impulses. God is not yet personal. God is seen as something that sets the rules of fairness and moral reciprocity. God is modeled after a consistent and just but caring parent. Children in this stage have strong beliefs in cosmic sense of fairness and believe that goodness is rewarded and badness is punished. In this stage, stories and symbols used are interpreted literally. They are not yet able to think abstractly about the story and so do not examine the story for its deeper meaning.

Synthetic-Conventional Faith: (*Adolescence and Beyond - Older TWEEN to middle school*)

Puberty can begin between 8 and 13, usually appearing at younger ages in girls. At these ages there are many rapid body changes and developments. This stage also brings in cognitive functioning and the children are developing the capacity to use abstract thinking. They are also developing mutual interpersonal perspective taking (*Selman, 1974, 1976*): “I see you seeing me; I see the me I think you see.” And the obverse can also be appreciated: “You see you according to me; you see the you, you think I see.”

Since there is still a lack of “third person” perspective taking, adolescence may create their self-image based on how they interpret how others view them. Their beliefs and feelings about God can also be influenced by the interpretation of their life experiences and by the beliefs of their peers and family members that they are attached to. God can be described as having many personal qualities and often is a reflection of what is happening in their life and how they feel about themselves. God is changeable in this stage.

Lacking the third-person perspective taking - the ability to know that it is possible to acknowledge that both the beliefs of self and others can exist simultaneously - they rely heavily on significant others in order to confirm and clarify who they are.

1st Rotation Period At-A-Glance

“God is all good and active in everything, everywhere.”

Story: “Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego,” Daniel 3:1-30

Creation Stations & Intentions

The Magic of Theater

To know that there is one God that is everywhere I am.

Movement & Games

To understand that there is only one God, that is all power.

Creative Arts Studio

To understand that God is all good no matter what the situation.

Fun w/ Food & Science

To know that no matter what we experience, we are never separate from God.

Supplies

Tweens & Unikids

- Copy of the Bible story
- Yard of golden cloth
- *Other costumes optional*
- *Props optional*
- Paper
- Markers

Tots

- Copy of the story
- Red & yellow
- *Optional: Crown for the king & halo/wings for the angel*

Tweens & Unikids

- Bible story, *Children’s Illustrated Bible*, pp. 162-164
- Question & Answer Sheets, (*On CD*)
- Buzzer or noise maker for each team
- Game Board or Power point files, (*Directions and supplies listed on CD*)
- Marker

Prizes for each participant

Tots

- 4 Hula Hoops
- 4 Sheets of construction paper - 1 blue, 1 red, 1 yellow, 1 green

Tweens & Unikids

- 4 in x 4 in Styrofoam block, 1/child
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Wire cutters
- Tape
- Variety of colored pine cleaners or colored wire

Tots

- Wicky Sticks, 10/child

All Ages

Supplies for every 6 children

- 1 Box white cake mix
- 1 Stick soft, not melted butter
- 3 T Water
- Large mixing bowl
- Large spoon
- Measuring spoons
- 6 Ziplock bags

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Curriculum written using a three classroom program as the model.

If you have other classroom numbers choose the schedule from those listed on the following page that best matches your program. Minor adaptations will be needed as listed.

Three Age Groups on a Four Week Rotation Schedule				
Age Group	Week 1 Creation Station	Week 2 Creation Station	Week 3 Creation Station	Week 4 Creation Station
Tots	The Magic of Theater	Movement & Games	Creative Arts Studio	Fun with Food & Science
Unikids	Fun with Food & Science	The Magic of Theater	Movement & Games	Creative Arts Studio
Tweens	Creative Arts Studio	Fun with Food & Science	The Magic of Theater	Movement & Games
<i>Week Off</i>	<i>Movement & Games</i>	<i>Creative Arts Studio</i>	<i>Fun with Food & Science</i>	<i>The Magic of Theater</i>

1 station will not be used each week. Each week one classroom will have to be changed to a different creation station.

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Additional Monthly Rotation Schedules

Choose the one that best matches your program or create your own.

One Multi-age Group on a Four Week Rotation Schedule				
Age Group	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
All ages	The Magic of Theater	Bible Skills & Games	Creative Arts Studio	Fun with Food & Science

Two Age Groups on a Four Week Rotation Schedule				
Age Group	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Younger Group	The Magic of Theater	Fun with Food & Science	Creative Arts Studio	Movement & Games
Older Group	Fun with Food & Science	The Magic of Theater	Movement & Games	Creative Arts Studio

Four Age Groups on a Four Week Rotation Schedule				
Age Group	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Pre-K	The Magic of Theater	Bible Skills & Games	Creative Arts Studio	Fun with Food & Science
K & 1st	Fun with Food & Science	The Magic of Theater	Bible Skills & Games	Creative Arts Studio
2nd & 3rd	Creative Arts Studio	Fun with Food & Science	The Magic of Theater	Bible Skills & Games
4th & 5th	Bible Skills & Games	Creative Arts Studio	Fun with Food & Science	The Magic of Theater

Creation Station Set-up & Staffing Reminder

1 Multi-aged Classroom

- Each week the classroom is set up to reflect the creation station being used. The teacher(s) use the lesson within the creation station that is most appropriate for the age group of the children present.


2 Classrooms

- Classrooms are set using 2 of the creation stations. They remain in place for two weeks and are then transformed into the other 2 creation stations for the next two weeks of the rotation period. The two teaching teams will each facilitate two creation stations over the course of the month, choosing the lesson that is most appropriate for the ages of the children present.

4 Classrooms

- Each classroom is set up as a different creation station. There are teachers assigned to each creation station who remain in the creation station for the entire month. They vary the lessons each week based on the ages of the children present.

1st Rotation Period



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Weekly Lessons (Creation Stations)

1st Principle Creation Station



Lesson Focus



"God is Everywhere Present"

Lesson Intention

To know that there is one God that is everywhere I am.



Sacred Circle

Uniting Affirmation

- Invite the "Affirmation Leader" to create an affirmation that affirms the lesson of the day, for example: **My name is _____ . I am _____ .**
- The rest of the circle then affirms the first child by saying, "(Name), you are _____."
- The next child then repeats the affirmation and is affirmed by the circle. This continues until all of the children and teachers have been affirmed.

The Blessing

- Lead the children in a blessing for all those present and all those not able to be with you today.

Sacred Breath

- Lead the children in a breathing exercise that invites them to center themselves and brings them to the present moment.
- Share the prayer:

You are precious to Me, so precious that I have created you in My image and after My likeness. I have placed within you all that I am. Within you is all love, all joy, all peace, and all wisdom. I know that it is sometimes difficult for you to see these things within yourself. I know that sometimes you feel you have nothing with which to face the challenges of the day. But remember, Beloved, you have Me. You have My presence to fill your lonely moments, to calm your fears, to feed your faith. You have Me. You are never alone.

Love Offering

- Lead the children in blessing the love offering by inviting them to hold their offering in their hand (*their offering can be money or can be anything they would like to bless the world with, such as: love, joy, peace*) and pray the blessing of your choice. Then pass the basket and invite each child to add their offering.

Class Commitment

- Create a class motto or chant to recite or review the Heart Agreements.

Celebrations

- Invite the children to share something they would like to celebrate. Use noise makers and poems to cheer, after each celebration.

Bible Story

“The Golden Statue,” Daniel 3:1-30

Tweens

This is the story of three men who stood their ground, were thrown into the fiery furnace and never lost their understanding of the one true God.



Metaphysical Interpretation

Shadrach, Meshack & Abednego stand for three aspects of God, love, mercy and goodness. The standing firm in their beliefs of the one true God is what protected their consciousness from being overtaken by worldly beliefs.

Their experience in the fiery furnace, (*a severe trial*), represents a test of faith. They knew that there was only one power and one presence in the world and that God would be with them wherever they were. As we know from our own life experiences, it is easier to sometimes follow the crowd and to choose to ignore Truth and universal law. But these three knew that if they placed their faith in God they would not be let down.

The fourth man in the fire represents the presence of God that is always with us, our I AM presence. It is so powerful that it can be seen by all men, if we are willing to let it shine. Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego emerged from the fire unhurt, which shows us that if we too place our trust in the one true God that we can make it through anything.

Age Level Focus: When my friends and I work together for good, we can overcome our challenges because we know that God is good and always with us.

Discussion

- How did Daniel come to meet King Nebuchadnezzar?
- What did Daniel say the dream meant?
- What happened to Daniel and his friends?
- Who made the golden statue and what did he want the people to do with it?
- How did Shadrach, Meshack & Abednego respond to the order?
- What did the king think about their response and where did the men end up?
- What happened after the men were thrown into the fiery furnace?
- What did the king see when he looked in?
- How does the story end?
- The king threw 3 men into the fire but when he looked in he saw four. Who do you think the fourth person was?
- The men all believed that God was good. How did they work together to prove that the power of God would save them?
- Doing what we believe is right leads us to empowering experiences. The men believed that God was good yet they were thrown into the fiery furnace. What do you think helped them stick with their believe even though it might have looked like God was not there with them?
- What might have happened if they had let appearances cause them to doubt what they believed?
- How could being in the difficulty with their friends have helped them work to overcome their problem?
- Tell me about a time when your friends or family members helped you to do get through a problem.
- How does the God within you help you to remain strong and to make the best choices?
- What does it mean when we say God is everywhere present?
- How do you know that God is always with you?

Bible Story

Unikids

“The Golden Statue,” *The Children’s Illustrated Bible*, pp. 162-164

This is the story of three men who stood their ground, were thrown into the fiery furnace and never lost their understanding of the one true God.

Age Level Focus: God is always with us and focusing on God helps us to create more good in our lives.

Discussion

- How did Daniel help the king?
- How was Daniel rewarded for his help?
- What did the king then make out of gold?
- What did he command the people to do?
- How did Daniel and his friends respond? What happened to them?
- What happened after they went into the furnace?
- How does the story end?
- Daniel and his friends knew that focusing on God was the right thing to do. How did this help them in the end?
- Who do you think the 4th person in the story was?
- How does doing what you believe is right help you overcome your difficulties?
- How does paying attention to God help you?
- What can you do when you find yourself in trouble that would help you move through it?

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Bible Story

Tots

“The Men Who Liked to Say No,” *The Lion Storyteller Bible*, pp. 74-75

This is the story of three men who were not afraid to say no to those who wanted them to do something they knew wasn’t right. They knew that God was always with them and would protect them as they stood their ground.

Age Level Focus: God is good and is always with us, protecting us.

Discussion

- What was the king’s surprise?
- What did the king want everyone to do?
- What were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego saying no to?
- What happened to them after they were thrown into the fiery furnace?
- What did the angel tell them?
- What did the three men always remember even when things got “hot” and difficult for them?
- What is it that we must always remember about God?
- What must we always remember about ourselves?

Saying Yes to God!

The purpose of this activity is experience saying yes to God no matter what we are experiencing.

Tweens

Unikids

Supplies

- Copy of the Bible story
- Yard of golden cloth
- *Other costumes optional*
- *Props optional*
- Paper
- Markers

Cast

- Daniel
- Shadrach
- Meshack
- Abednego
- King Nebuchadnezzar
- The Guards
- The People of the Kingdom
- The Golden Statue
- The Fiery Furnace

Preparation

- Invite the children to choose a role to play. (*The Fiery Furnace can be made up of 3 -5 children who form a circle to represent the furnace.*)
- Some children can be the audience for the first time you act out the story. Their roles can then be swapped for subsequent performances.
- While costumes are optional, imagination is necessary!
- The story can be told a number of times in a variety of ways.

The Action

- Invite them to act out the story.
- If they need help getting started begin by reading some of the lines of the story and then prompt them to continue with statements such as: Then what happened? How do you think they felt, What would you have done, etc.
- Then, keeping the same roles or changing roles, invite them to use stories from their own lives about times when: working with friends helped them to make good choices; how doing the right thing led to a right outcome or another aspect of the story that they may discover for themselves.
- Invite them to explore who the fourth man was and why he was important to the story

Dramatizing the story in this way allows the children to really become part of the story and to begin to gain a deeper understanding of it and how they can use the story's message in their everyday lives.

Activity

- After all of the children have had time to play a part in the story, give them the paper and markers and invite them to draw or write about the fourth person who appeared in the fire.
- Ask them to think about who that might have been and what it might mean in their lives.
- Allow time to share.

God Is Always With Me

The purpose of this activity is practice staying focused on God.



Supplies

- Copy of the story
- Red & yellow scarves
- *Optional: Crown for the king & halo/wings for the angel*

Cast

- The King
- Shadrach
- Meshack
- Abednego
- The Angel
- Fiery Furnace

Preparation

- The teacher will fill the role of the king the first time through. Choose 3 children to be the men, 1 to be the angel and a few to be the fiery furnace, (*they will be waving the scarves at the 3 men when instructed to do so*).
- Additional children can be “the crowd” that is watching. Switch roles numerous times so they all have a chance to experience each role.
- Instruct the 3 that they are the people who like to say no to everything the king says.

Action

- Begin by telling the three that you are in charge of them and they have to do everything you tell them to do even if they don't want to. Also tell them that they are to say NO! to you each time because you are wanting them to do things that God would not want them to do.
- Start by telling them to do some of the things from the story: *Worship the statue, bow down to the statue, forget your good God, etc...* Each time you give an order, they are to tell you NO!
- Then begin to tell them to do odd things such as, *sticking their tongue out at their friend, making mean faces, etc...*
- Again, they are to say NO! to everything you tell them because God wants us to be kind to one another.
- Finally tell them to go into the fiery furnace for not obeying your commands.
- Invite them to skip over to the fire because they know that they are doing the right thing by doing what God would want them to do instead of the bad things you told them to do. They know God will protect them. (*The children with the scarves can dance around them waving the scarves.*)
- The angel then joins them in the fire and whispers how proud God is of them and that they are safe.
- Together the 3 people and the angel chant, “God is good and always with me,” over and over again and the children with the scarves fall to the ground and they are all safe.
- The king sees what the 3 have done and applauds them. The king then asks, “Will you teach me to be kind and strong in God?”
- The 3 who liked to say NO! then cheer and yes, “YES, we will!”
- Reaffirm to all the children that God is always with us, inviting us to make good choices.



The Closing Celebration Circle

Reconnecting Activity

- Create a ritual that invites the children back into the circle. You might use a song, ring a bell, and create a clap.

Closing Song

- Using a song of your choice, invite the students to sing together. The purpose is to assist them in bringing their attention back to the circle.

Random Acts of Kindness Tree

- Share all the kindness expressed today.

Sacred Sharing

- Invite the children to share what the day's experience meant to them.

Sacred Breath

- The "Sacred Breath Leader" leads the group in a breathing exercise.

Closing Commitment

- Invite the class to close with the class motto or a "Yea, God"

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