

SEASONS CHANGE GOD DOES NOT!!!

Bible Story: Changing Seasons and Our Unchanging God

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Target Age Group: 1st – 5th grade

Time: 45-60 min

Supplies: Bibles, Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 on display, 2 whiteboards/chalkboards, dry erase markers/chalk, crayons or colored pencils, 11 by 17 pieces of white paper, optional costume ideas.

Optional Costume Idea: Dress in accordance with your region's current season. A fall outfit could include overalls, a farmer's hat, and a flannel shirt. A winter outfit could include a heavy winter jacket, ski pants, boots, scarf, mittens, and wool hat. A spring or rainy season outfit could include a rain coat, boots, an umbrella, a hat or gardening clothes. A summer outfit could include sunglasses, a hat, flip flops, a t-shirt, and shorts. (Dress up together!!)

Bible Lesson Plan – Seasons Change

Introduction: As the students arrive, say: Welcome! Welcome to the beginning of fall!

As a weather reporter may announce, say: Today's current conditions call for a temperature of ____ degrees, with partly ____ skies, and a wind coming from the east at ____ mph. With weather conditions like these, we better plan accordingly and _____. (List a number of appropriate seasonal activities such as taking a hayride, raking leaves, shoveling snow, building a snowman, planting some flowers, splashing in puddles, going swimming, or building a sandcastle at the beach.)

Express your like or dislike for the weather in this particular season and explain why. Ask the students: What is your all-time favorite season and why? What is your least favorite season and why? Allow for multiple answers.

Sometimes I wonder why God ever created _____ (your least favorite season.) Wouldn't we all be better off without all this _____? (snow, freezing rain, heat, humidity, rain, etc.) Please tell me that some of you agree with me!

But God said that He created every season for a purpose. So, yes! Even _____ (your least favorite season) has its purpose. Not only do seasons have their purpose, but times of our lives have a purpose too. That means that there will be times when we will laugh, dance, keep, love others, be loved, and have peace. There will also be times when we will cry, mourn and grieve, give up, fix something that is broken, and have to deal with war.

Maybe you're in a fun season of life right now. You are happy and your family is great and your friends just traded silly bands with you and you are doing well in school and you had cinnamon rolls for breakfast! (What could be better?)

But maybe you're in a sad season of life right now. Maybe someone you love has died recently. Maybe you are trying hard in school and your grades aren't getting better. Maybe your parents are fighting a lot and you think you may have to move to some place new. Maybe your friends haven't really been friends.

What I want you to know today is that seasons will change. Bad times and good times will come and go. You will change. Your friends and family members will change. Your home, school, or church may even change. And your hair, that will probably change too! (You should see what I looked like in 5th grade! Pictures would be awesome here!)

But you have to know that God will never change. If you have a relationship with Him, He will never leave you. He will always be there to help you through. God says that He has made everything beautiful in its time. That means that He can take even the worst seasons of life and turn them into something more beautiful than we could ever have imagined. Our God is incredible!

Four Seasons Art

Divide an 11 by 17 piece of white paper into four panels with folds.

Invite the everyone to depict pictures of fall, winter, spring, and summer on each of the four panels utilizing crayons or colored pencils. Have an example that serves as a model, maybe pull up a screen shot of each? For older students, other seasons of life, highlighted in Ecclesiastes 3, can be illustrated.

Write some of Ecclesiastes 3:11 on their papers.

Close the lesson in prayer, thanking God for the seasons in our lives and asking God to help us get through the good times and the bad times with His strength. Make sure that

the students know that if they ever need to talk, you are always there to listen.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 English Standard Version (ESV)

A Time for Everything

3 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

2 a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

3 a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

The God-Given Task

9 What gain has the worker from his toil? 10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end