

Three Questions



Lesson Message

- ♦ Who is God?
God is One who can do what no one else can.
- ♦ Where is God?
God is everywhere.
- ♦ What does God do?
God makes impossible things possible.

OPENING PRAYER

3 MINUTES

ॐ सह नाववतु ।
सह नौ भुनक्तु ।
सह वीर्यं करवावहै ।
तेजस्विनावधीतमस्तु मा विद्विषावहै ॥
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

*om saha nāvavatu,
saha nau bhunaktu,
saha vīryaṁ karavāvahai,
tejasvināvadhitam-astu mā vidviṣāvahai.
om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ.*

May He protect us both.

May He nourish us.

May we acquire the capacity
(to study and understand the
scriptures).

May our study be brilliant.

May we not cavil at each other.

Om Peace Peace Peace.

ATTENDANCE

5 MINUTES

Take attendance, and let each child respond *Hariḥ Om*, when his or her name is called.

MEMORY TIME

10 MINUTES

- ♦ Read and explain the meaning of the Opening Prayer.
- ♦ Teach children how to sit erect with folded hands and legs.





The topic of the day consists of:

- ◆ **Activity:** Nametag
- ◆ **Game:** Yes, I Know Your Name
- ◆ **Tale:** Three Questions
- ◆ **Project:** The Alphabet Safari Folder

Activity: Nametag

Children will make their nametag.

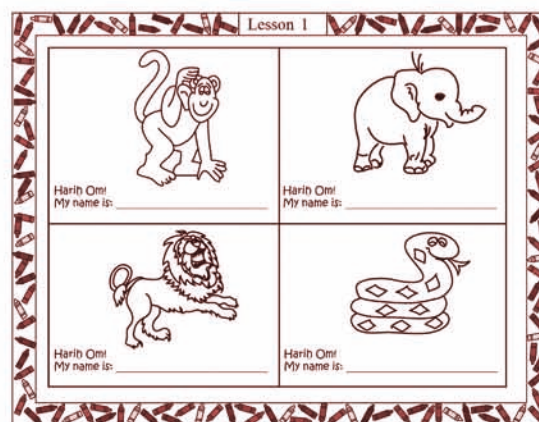
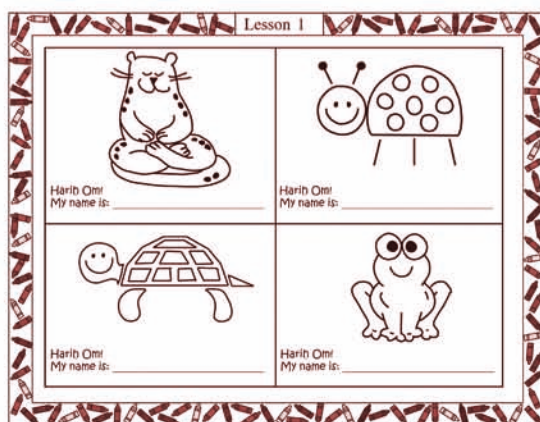
Materials Required

- ◆ Classroom kit (Refer to the Introduction)
- ◆ Copy of the animal nametags from the Appendix

Directions

Children get to choose one of the animal cards for writing their name. Ask each child to color and write his or her name on the card. Some children may need help in writing their name.

Once completed, the children will place the nametag in front of them until the game, “Yes, I Know Your Name,” is over. Then, the teacher can display the cards of each child on the door of the classroom or inside the room.



Game: Yes, I Know Your Name

The goal of this game is to help children to get to know each other by their name.



Materials Required

- ◆ Box containing 26 slips of paper, with a letter of the alphabet (A through Z) written on each
- ◆ CD/Cassette player
- ◆ Pre-recorded music CD/tape

Directions

Ask children to sit in a circle. Play the music, and while the music is playing, pass the box around. When the music stops, the child with the box should draw a slip of paper from it and call out the letter on the slip. All the children whose name begins with that letter will raise their hands and say their name. Once the children are done, play the music and repeat the steps again. If there is no one whose name begins with the drawn letter, start the music and begin again. Continue to play the game until everyone is familiar with each other's name.

Tale: Three Questions

Long, long ago in India a king had an old, wise minister as a teacher for his sons. All of the king's subjects respected and admired the minister for his great wisdom and devotion for the Lord.

The minister taught the princes strong moral values and not to accept anything solely just because he said so. He encouraged them to think independently and question anything that did not seem rational to them.

The young crown prince, who was very clever, could not understand why the old minister would spend all his time singing the praises of the Lord. The young prince found this very puzzling and irrational. As he grew up, he could not find any rational explanation for the minister's devotion for God. He had three nagging questions in his mind:

- ◆ Who is God?
- ◆ Where is God?
- ◆ What does God do?

After sometime the old king passed away, and the young crown prince became the new king. As soon as he became king, he passed a decree in all his land: "There will be no irrational devotional singing of *bhajan*s in my kingdom." This decree was to prevail until the minister gave a satisfactory answer to his three questions. Since the questions were of such great importance to the young king, he gave the minister only forty-one days to find the answers. Otherwise, he would forever ban devotion from the kingdom. The old minister was very worried. He was a great devotee of the Lord, but he did not know how to answer these questions. He had no doubts that there is God, who rules His creation with love and care. He could see God's immutable laws everywhere: after day comes night





and then day again; time never stands still; chickens hatch other chicks, never toads; our eyes always see, never smell. Everything works with clockwork precision—spring follows winter, summer follows spring, and autumn follows summer.

But ...

- ◆ Who is God?
- ◆ Where is God?
- ◆ What does God do?

These questions, the minister had never considered. He did not know how to answer them. He just knew that “God is.”

The minister set out on a long and difficult journey to seek the answers to these questions. The worship of the Almighty in the land depended on him finding these answers. The old minister traveled to all four corners of the country. He met several devotees, but nobody could give him a satisfactory answer. Forty days passed and the old man returned home, tired and weary, and without the answers to these questions.

Upon return, his cook greeted him. The cook was moved by the plight of his master. The cook fed him, gave him a comfortable seat to sit, and washed his feet. The cook then told the minister not to worry, and that the questions would soon be answered. The old minister did not believe the cook. The cook gave the minister a warm glass of milk with honey and rubbed his feet until the minister fell into a deep sleep.

The next day, the king sent for the minister to narrate his findings. Instead of the minister, the cook went to the king's court. He bowed low and announced to the king, “Oh, King, the minister is resting after his long and arduous journey, and he has sent me to answer your questions.” He asked the king, “Would you be kind enough to get up from the throne and sit before me as a student, then I will give you all the answers.”

The king was surprised by the cook's request, but he was so anxious to hear the answers that he promptly got up from the throne, came and sat before the cook. He was a worthy, humble king at heart though he did grumble a bit as he sat down, and then said, “Now, tell me the answers.”

As soon as the king got up from the throne, the cook quickly went and sat on the throne. All the members of the king's court were astonished at the strange behavior and waited with baited-breath to hear what the cook had to say. First, he asked the king's men to bring a brown cow, a pail of cow's milk, and green grass for her to eat.





Hearing this request, the whole court roared with laughter, but the king impatiently said, "Be it so!" Next, the cook asked that a lighted candle be brought into the court.

The cook was ready to answer the first question: "Who is God?" He said, "God is He, who can do

what no one else can. He can make a brown cow eat green grass, and make her produce white milk!"

Next, he answered the second question: "Where is God?" "Where," he asked, as he held up the lighted-candle, "is the light spreading from the candle?" "Why, everywhere," replied the king,

as did all the people in the court. "Then, that is where God is," declared the cook, "He is everywhere!" The king and the court were pleased with the answer.



Just as the cook was about to answer the third question, the old minister, having finally awakened from his slumber, rushed into the king's court, and fell onto his knees before the king, crying, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry."

He did not even see his cook sitting on the throne in the court and thought that since the three questions had not been answered, devotion would be banished from the kingdom forever. Triumphantly, the wise cook laughed. "Oh, King," he said, "you asked, 'What does He do?' Only He can put a cook on the throne, a king on the floor, and a minister on his knees!"

The king was pleased with the answers to all his questions.

Project: The Alphabet Safari Folder

Children will prepare the Alphabet Safari Folder which they will use during the whole year.

Materials Required

- ◆ Classroom kit
- ◆ One folder for each child
- ◆ Copy of the cover picture for each child provided in the Appendix



Directions

Let children color the picture. Ask them to glue the picture on the cover of the folder, and write their name on the folder. After completing, keep the folders in the classroom. The children will use the folder to file all the pictures that they will be coloring during the year.

QUIET TIME

3 MINUTES

Ask children to close their eyes and sit erect. The teacher leads by chanting *Om*, and the children will follow. Repeat five to seven times, and remain quiet for a few seconds in between chanting.

CLOSING PRAYER

2 MINUTES

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ।
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद् दुःखभाग्भवेत् ॥
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

*om sarve bhavantu sukhinah sarve santu nirāmayāḥ,
sarve bhadraṇi paśyantu mā kaścid duḥkhabhāgbhavet.
om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ.*

May all be happy.
May all be healthy.
May all enjoy prosperity.
May none suffer.
Om Peace Peace Peace.

EXIT TICKET

2 MINUTES

Ask children: “Where is God?” They repeat together: “God is everywhere,” as they leave the classroom.