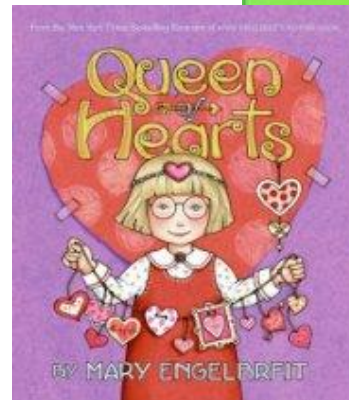
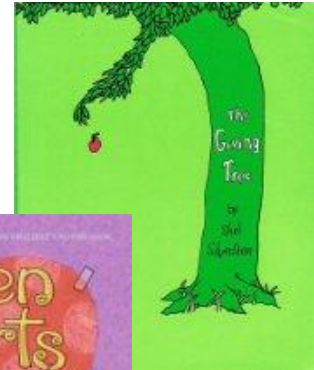


Preschool Post

Lesson 23



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Letter: Q

Preschool Theme: Favorite Stories (Valentine's Day)

Bible Theme: Children learn about the true source of love, and the sacrifices that were made to ensure a future for mankind. This lesson helps children explore the benefits of giving rather than receiving.

Morning Circle:

Review yesterday's letter ("Q") by asking the children if they can think of a word that begins with that letter. (The goal is not to tell them the letter, but to see whether they can remember it on their own.) If they have trouble remembering "Q," give them some clues. They will probably mention "quilt" and "queen." Play a rhyming game. See if the children can come up with some rhyming words for "queen." It's fine if they come up with a few nonsense words. Steer them in the right direction by suggesting correct answers like "seen," "green," and "lean." Try to find rhyming words with "quilt," ("built," "stilts," "wilt," etc.) Ask the children if they know what special holiday is coming up. (Valentine's Day.) What kinds of things do we celebrate on Valentine's Day? (Love, hearts, being kind, friends, etc.)

Read: [Queen of Hearts](#), by Mary Engelbreit. This perfect Valentine's Day story shows how one child demonstrates a loving attitude toward her classmates.

Music & Movement:

Play Musical Hearts. Tape large pink and red hearts, (either cut from posterboard or bought in the Valentine's Day decorations dept. of your local dollar store,) in random positions on the floor in your circle area. Have enough hearts for there to be one for each two children. Pair up the children on the hearts and explain that this game is similar to "musical chairs." Play some music, and let the children skip around the room while the music plays. Then take away a heart. When the music stops, the children will have to pile

onto the remaining hearts. Continue reducing the number of hearts until there is only one left. The children will have to help each other as it gets harder and harder to fit onto the remaining space.

Snack:

Let the children decorate their own heart-shaped sugar cookies with pink frosting and red sprinkles.

Centers:

1. Foamy pink hearts. Cover the children with protective paint shirts and let them play with pink shaving foam. Use cheap shaving foam to draw large fluffy hearts on a long table. Place a few drops of red food coloring here and there in the foam. Let the children help it turn pink by mixing it with their hands. This activity will stain little hands (and clothes!) Take proper precautions.

2. Heart-shaped doily reliefs. Tape various sizes of heart-shaped paper doilies onto a table. Cover these with a paper table covering or butcher paper. Provide pink and red pastels or crayons, and let the children rub over the doilies to reveal heart-shaped patterns.

3. Set up a Valentine's Day postal center. Decorate a large box to be the Valentine's Mailbox. Provide a variety of "mailbags" as well as envelopes, paper, pens, stickers for stamps, and rubber stamps and ink pads. Let the children's imaginations guide them in dramatic play as they become Valentine's postal workers.

Art Activity:

Make Valentine's Day boxes. Provide a shoe box for each child. Offer a variety of decorations and art supplies. Cover each box with pink, purple, or red tissue or wrapping paper, then let the children decorate them to their heart's desire, just like in the circle-time book, [Queen of Hearts](#).

**Bible Storytime:**

Read: [The Giving Tree](#), by Shel Silverstein. Explain that Jesus' sacrifice of himself is very much like the tree in this book. Briefly relate the story of the Prodigal Son. Explain that the boy's father in the story gave so much to his son, and even though the boy was selfish and ungrateful, the loving father waited for him. When the son returned and was truly sorry for the bad things he'd done, the forgiving father gave him the best of everything he had.

Bible Verse Bracelets: "They gave as much as they were able." [2 Corinthians 8:3a](#)

Song: "[Down in My Heart](#)" from the Cedarhurst Kids Classics "Sunday School Songs" recording.

Additional Activity:

Create a classroom "Giving Tree." Use a small tabletop Christmas tree or similar small tree, and "decorate" it with things the children want to give to those they love. Give each child a heart shape cut from cardstock. Help the children to write (or draw a picture) of something they can sacrificially give. For example, one child might promise to take out the trash for his busy parent. Another might promise to help her younger sibling pick up her toys. Another child might decide that giving away part of his birthday money to his Sunday School class might be something he could sacrificially offer. Help the children with ideas based on their particular situations. Then punch a hole in the top of their heart-shapes, tie a ribbon through the hole, and let the children place their promises on the "Giving Tree."

Optional Resources:

[Heart Size Sequencing Bible Verse](#)

Helpful Links:

[Valentine's Day Bible Crafts on Christian Preschool Printables](#)

[Valentine Treat Printables on Little Blots of Faith](#)

Notes:
