

Soaking Up God's Love

Elementary Devotional and Activity

By: Brittany DiGiammarino (September 2024)

Intended Audience: Pre-K through 5th Grade.

Teacher Notes: This lesson is intended to be read as a script, but feel free to deviate from it as the Holy Spirit leads you. This lesson is intended for a 30–45-minute class.

Materials Needed:

- Coffee Filters
- Washable Markers
- Clear plastic cups
- Popsicle sticks
- Small clothespins or paper clips

Opening Activity: Chromatography

Say: Today we will be exploring chromatography. Can you all say that word with me? Great job!

What in the world is Chromatography? (*You can allow children time to guess if you like*).

Chromatography is a trick we use to separate mixtures. Our mixture is the ink from our markers.

In Chromatography, the mixture (or ink) passes through these coffee filters, and the ink travels at different speeds through the paper. That's Chromatography!

Instructions:

1. Fold your coffee filter in half, then fold it two more times so that it is in the shape of a triangle.
2. Color the tips of the folded filters with washable markers. Do not color the entire filter. (About half-way up the triangle is fine)
3. Attach the filters to a popsicle stick with the tip facing downward. Place the tip of the filters into a clear plastic cup so that they dip into the water. Use the popsicle stick to support the filters across the top of the cup.
4. Watch the ink and water travel up the filter.
5. When the water reaches the top of the filter or stops traveling, remove it from the cup, unfold it and look at your beautiful design! Set it on a flat surface to dry.

Say: Chromatography uses water's ability to move things to pull the ink up the filter. Water moving up the coffee filter is called capillary action. The water pulls the ink with it at different speeds!

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Soak Up God's Love Devotional:

The coffee filters soaked up the water and spread the ink to make a beautiful image. This reminds me of what it's like to soak up God's love. When we are full of God's love, God can do beautiful things in our lives. What are some ways we can soak up God's love? *(Ans: Do what Jesus did. Feed the hungry, collect canned goods for local food pantry, visit the sick, collect items for the homeless, etc.)*

Deuteronomy 4:29 says, "But even there you can look for the Lord your God. And you will find him if you look. But you must look for him with your whole being."

What does it mean to look for God with our whole being? *(Allow children time to answer. Remind the children that looking for God isn't just going to church, it's obeying God's commands such as serving others, befriending those who are lonely or bullied, etc.)*

When we make God the most important thing in our lives, we will find God, and we will be like the coffee filters that soak up ALL God's love until it fills our whole hearts and creates something beautiful.

That's why it's so important to look for God in life, because you will soak up the things you look for, or the things that are important to you. We need to be full of God's love like these coffee filters, to be the happiest we can be!

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, please help us to look for you, and to soak up your love. Please fill us with your love and make something beautiful with our lives. We know you will. We love you. Amen.

Exit Ticket: Ask children one of these questions as they leave the class.

1. What was our experiment called? *(Chromatography)*
2. Can you remember what our Bible verse told us to do? *(Seek God with your whole heart and you will find God)*