Daisy-Head Mayzie

I. Background

Learners: Group of 10-12 elementary age children from the small congregation of a Presbyterian church who are meeting as one class for summer Sunday school

Setting: A Sunday school classroom in the Education Building

Time Frame: 45 minutes

II.   Focus

Unit Subject Matter: Dr. Seuss books which are being used to teach biblical principles to the children. Each book will focus on a different theme.

Biblical Principal for this session: God loves each of God's children with a love that is deeper, wider, and higher than any human love we can ever imagine. We are all dearly loved children of God no matter what.

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1 and Galatians 3:26

Session goals:
- Discuss how your life might change if something about your outward appearance changed.
- Read and discuss Daisy-Head Mayzie reinforcing the fact that Daisy is loved no matter what
- Make cards for homebound and nursing home residents to remind them that they are loved and are beloved children of God

III.   Space, set-up, and materials

Environment: A Sunday school classroom with floor space for children to listen to the story and one long table for the project which concludes the lesson.

Materials, Resources, Equipment:
- Headband with shamrocks, bunny ears, etc. on it
- Daisy-Head Mayzie
- Construction paper
- Markers, paper scraps, stampers and ink, glitter glue, foam craft pieces
- Printed scripture verses to cut apart for cards
- Bibles

IV. Step-by-Step Story Experience Plan

FEELING into the story (5 minutes)_
- Have one child put on the headband. Discuss what it would be like if you really had this on top of your head and could not take it off.
- Talk about how others would see you and how you would feel.
- Tell children that today we will hear a story about a girl with something strange on her head.

MEETING with the story (20 minutes)
- Read Daisy-Head Mayzie using discussion questions below
- What happens to make Daisy different? How do people around her try to fix the problem? Why does Daisy run away? What happens after Daisy signs the contract to be in a show? Why does Daisy feel so lonely? Who do you think is telling Daisy that she is loved? Why do you think the flower still occasionally grows from her head?
- Link Daisy feeling unloved with others who sometimes feel unloved. Contrast this with the scripture which reminds us that we are all beloved children of God.

RESPONDING out of the story (20 minutes)
- Each child will be given the name of a church member who is either homebound or in a nursing home.
- Using the craft materials, a special card will be made for that individual.
- Each child will cut out the two scripture verses and glue them in the card and write a personal note to the recipient.

II.   Rationale

Our society today feeds us the message that we must look and act a certain way in order to be loved. Daisy-Head Mayzie experiences a change in her life when the flower begins to grow out of her head. She feels unloved when she is all alone. This will illustrate for the children that God is there and loves them no matter what.

Often those church members that are not able to attend on a regular basis suffer feelings of loneliness and feeling unloved. The cards will remind them that they too are beloved children of God and much loved.

Using other Dr. Seuss Book to teach spiritual principles

Title	Possible biblical principles that could be taught
Horton Hatches the Egg	Faithfulness
What was I scared of?	Faith will overcome fear
The Cat in the Hat Comes Back	God can heal our brokenness and restore us to new life
The Zax	Consequences of pride/healing a broken relationship
How the Grinch Stole Christmas	Being kind to those who seem unlovable/ grace
Green Eggs and Ham	Creation of new heart/bringing dry bones to life
The Sneetches	Church as a model for unity/learning from our differences
The Butter Battle Book	Overcoming selfish human nature
The Grinch Again	True and lasting joy are found in Christ
On Beyond Zebra	God will take us on beyond the expected to something greater still when we faithfully follow