



God is with Us!

Genesis 1

God Statement: Jesus is God's Gift

KEY VERSES:

"A child will be born to us." Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV

CHECK-IN

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you've completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the "Connect" reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 S's are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...(most of the time)

SAFE: physically and emotionally

SEEN: known and understood

SOOTHED: calmed and supported

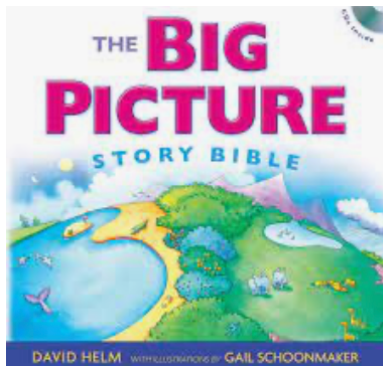
They can become **SECURE**.

READ A BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!

This month, read about baby Jesus being born from ***The Big Picture Story Bible*** on **pages 249-257**.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as your read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!



SING SONGS

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex >

Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.

Introduce:

Oh What a Special Night! (on Plex)

Make it fun and do motions for the animal sounds!

LEAD AN ACTIVITY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by doing a variety of learning activities!

WEEK 1: Nativity Coloring Sheet

Let the children work on fine motor skills by coloring the nativity coloring sheet.



While you are re-enacting the story:

- Talk about how God is with us and how he sent Jesus as a gift to us all.
- Show each character from the story, tell who they are and what they did in the story.
- Thank God for being with us!

WEEK 2: Baby Jesus

Allow the children to pretend play by taking care of Baby Jesus.

Young children like to pretend play by reenacting care and nurture as their parents have done for them. Allow each child to hold a baby, pretending it is baby Jesus. What does he need? They can: swaddle him in a blanket, feed him, give him a bed to sleep in, rock him when he is crying, hold him close. End by praying and thanking God for sending baby Jesus as a gift to us all.



While you are playing with each child:

- Talk about how they were cared for as a baby.
- Ask them how should they care for Baby Jesus?
- Thanks God for Baby Jesus, a gift to us all.
- Read Isaiah 6:9

WEEK 3: Nativity Christmas Ornament

Have the children color the ornament to remember what we have been talking about.



While the children color:

- Read Isaiah 6:9 & Luke 2:11, 12
- Say, “Who is the baby they are talking about? That baby is Jesus!”
- Point out and name the various characters from the story on the page.
- Close in prayer, thanking God and celebrating that Jesus was born!

WEEK 4: Thumb Print Christmas Tree

Celebrate Jesus by decorating a Christmas tree!



While the child decorates the Christmas tree:

- Re-tell the story with the Christmas Story Puppets from Week 1.
- Ask them the name of the characters from the story.
- Make animal sounds like the animals near the manger.
- Point out the different colors they are using to decorate their tree.
- Count the dots with them.
- Celebrate by singing **Oh What a Special Night!**

PLAY!

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities for Babies & Younger 1 Year Olds:

- Play Peek-A-Boo
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball
- Roll a large car back and forth
- Take turns putting toys in a bin or bucket

Suggestions of activities for Older 1 Year Olds & 2 Year Olds:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"

PLEASE RETURN:

Use this checklist of items to return at the end of the month.

- ☐ **Baby Dolls**
- ☐ **Blankets**
- ☐ **Baby Bottles**

Note: Please keep "The Big Picture Story" Bibles at your campus