



Jesus is God's Son – At The Temple

Luke 2:41-52

God Statement: Jesus Is Our Hope

KEY VERSE: “In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is Our Hope

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is our Hope.

SAY:

We are starting a new quarter, and guess what that means! We have a new God Statement. Over the last few months, we've been learning about how God is our leader as we saw how He led the people of the Old Testament. Who did we learn about? *Let kids share some of the people we learned about – Israelites, Joshua, Samuel, Saul, David, etc.*

Now, we're going to look at a very important person in the Bible, in the New Testament – Jesus! Our new God Statement is: Jesus is our hope! What do you think hope means? Turn to the person next to you and tell them what you think hope means.

Sometimes we might say we hope something will happen, meaning we really really wish that what we want or expect to happen does happen. But, when we say Jesus is our Hope, it doesn't quite mean the same as wishing. Hope, as we see in the Big God Story, is what we have when we believe in who Jesus is and what He did for us. Over these next few weeks leading up to Easter, we are going to learn all about what Jesus did in His ministry on earth, and why He is our hope. First let's play a game.

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Old Testament Books of the Bible Cube Race

Supplies: 2 bags of Old Testament books of the Bible cubes

Say: *Who remembers the special Bible Challenge we just finished last week? That's right! Learning the Old Testament Books of the Bible! Well, before we jump into learning about Jesus in the New Testament, we want to test our knowledge. We're going to get into a few groups, and you have to work together to put these cubes with the names of the Old Testament books in order.*

Directions: Have children get into groups of 4-5. Each group will get a chance to race against another group. Give two groups, block bags. Set a timer and see how quickly each team can finish stacking the blocks in order from beginning to end (the books of the Old Testament need to be in order). Have children help their teams to remember what order the books of the Old Testament go in.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Key Verse slides.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**"In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven."
(Matthew 5:16, NIRV)**

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is God's Son – In the Temple

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: Cross station and world map

Did you know that Jesus was a refugee? A refugee is someone who must leave their home because they are being persecuted. Hurt for their beliefs. When Jesus was very young, King Herod was trying to hurt Jesus and His family so an angel told them to go to Egypt where they would be safe. So, they left their own country and traveled to Egypt.

There are refugees today who must leave their homes because they are not safe.

- Many countries are not safe for people to live in. Their government tells them what to do and the families can't do it because it goes against what they believe.
- Or their government punishes them for what they believe. To keep their family safe, they leave their country and go to another one.
- This is very difficult since often they don't have very much money and the government doesn't want them to leave so they must sneak away at night.

Imagine if you were one of these refugees who had to leave their homes behind. Your beds, your rooms, your friends, your neighbors, your school, and everything you know – you have to leave that all behind and move somewhere you don't know. How would that make you feel? ***Allow a few kids to share their responses.***

Walk over to or bring map onto stage to show kids. Look at this map. Here is Syria. Syria is one country where many refugees come from. It is not a safe place for many people. Millions of people have left Syria to find a safe place to live. This includes many, many children, just like you. The new countries can't help too much since they have their own people to take care of.

Here are some of the countries Syrian Refugees go to. ***Point to Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan.*** Here is Greece. Our church helps Syrian Refugees in Greece get the help they need.

We give food and money to the Refugees. Some people can help with school for the children. There are many needs.

Something you can do for the children is to pray for them.

- Some of them don't believe in Jesus.
- You can pray that Jesus will show up in their dreams and that they will believe in Him.
- You can pray that the kids will be safe and warm.
- You can pray that their parents will find work.
- You can pray that there will be a safe school for the kids.
- You can pray that someone will tell them about Jesus.

Let's pray now. ***Let a few kids pray out loud or show them the worship response station where they can pray individually.***

After a few minutes of prayer, close this time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

******After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the "Compassion International" slide.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – REFUGEES IN GREECE

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: Right now, our special missions focus is on refugees in Greece. Refugees are people who have left their homes and need a safe place to go, usually a country nearby. The country of Greece currently has over 50,000 refugees who are living there. Most of these people are from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Can you imagine having to leave your home without knowing if you'll ever return?

Say: Even during these scary and uncertain times, God is using people in Athens, Greece to love and serve these refugees. They are sharing the love of Jesus by providing food, education and other supplies to help the refugees get settled into their new homes. **You can help, too, by praying for the refugees and the churches that are serving them!**

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, may you always remember that you can quiet your heart and think about the treasures God has given you from His word.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (Luke 2:41-52)**
2. **Where did Jesus go with Mary and Joseph?** (The festival for Passover).
3. **What happened to Jesus after the festival?** (He stayed at the temple while His parents had left).
4. **What happened to Mary and Joseph? What did they do?** (They realized Jesus was missing so they went back to find Him).
5. **What was Jesus doing when Mary and Joseph found Him?** (He was teaching).
6. **Jesus had earthly parents (Mary and Joseph), but who is Jesus' Father?** (God).
7. **God is our father too, and he loves us so much. He gives us hope and He protects us. Jesus was God's son, but he also had earthly parents (Mary and Joseph). Jesus wanted to share the hope of God with others. What is one way that we can share this truth with others too?**

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Read Luke 2:41-43**

Where did Jesus go with Mary and Joseph? (The Festival). **Why did they go to the festival?** (To celebrate Passover).

2. **Read Luke 2:44-47**

What happened to Jesus? What did Mary and Joseph realize? (Jesus stayed behind. Mary and Joseph realized He was missing).

How old was Jesus when he went to the festival with His parents? (12 years old).

3. **Read Luke 2:48-52**

Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? (In the Temple Courts) **What was He doing?** (teaching).

4. **Jesus said, "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" What do you think He meant and why?** (He was in God's house, and He knew He is God's Son).

5. **God is our father, and he loves us so much. He gives us hope and He protects us. Jesus was God’s son, but he also had earthly parents (Mary and Joseph). Jesus wanted to share the hope of God with others. What is one way that we can share this truth with others too?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher
(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – Jesus Is God’s Son – Temple Craft

Supplies: temple activity page, scissors, markers, glue

Directions: Pass out one temple page to each child. Have them cut out Jesus as a boy and glue him into the temple. Allow children to color their pages. This can be sent home with children if there is not enough time to complete it in class.

Say: Today, we learned how Jesus is God’s Son! Jesus knew from the very start that even though He had earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, He had a Heavenly Father too, God! Where did Jesus say He was when He was at the temple? God’s house! Let’s make this craft to help us remember that Jesus is God’s Son and our Hope!

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher
(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.

