



God is Omnipresent (all present)

KEY VERSE:

"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere. They watch those who are evil and those who are good." (Proverbs 15:3)

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.**

WORSHIP TIME

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

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > EC > Babies folder.

This month, focus on singing these songs:

- Thank You God
- Happy
- Lord's Army
- God Can do Anything

READ THE BIBLE STORY

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

Read the Bible story provided. You can read the full story from the book provided or simply read the summary provided below. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures, allowing the kids to turn pages, or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word of the story! 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!

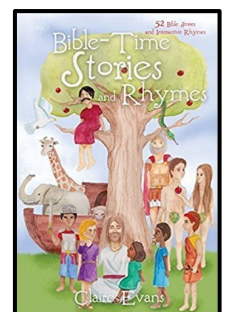
THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Samson the Strong
(Summarized from *Bible-Time Stories & Rhymes*, page 33-34)

BIBLE STORY:

Bring Hamilton (the hedgehog puppet) out and allow the kids to interact with him before you begin the story (they can feel his soft fur, give him high fives, give him a hug, etc.). Use Hamilton to help keep the kids engaged while you share the story (he can read parts of the story, do the hand motions, ask the kids questions, etc.).

Share the story of Samson the Strong:

- Today we are learning about a man named Samson
- Samson was special to God
- He had very long beautiful hair
- God told Samson to never cut his hair
- As long as Samson did not cut his hair, he would be strong
 - Can you show me your big muscles?
 - Woah, look how strong you guys are!
- Samson loved to be strong but forgot to be thankful to God for making him strong
- When Samson grew up, he married a girl named Delilah
- Delilah was not nice to Samson



- She tricked Samson and cut off all his hair so Samson would become weak and be captured by his enemy
- Samson knew he was silly for trusting Delilah
- Samson prayed to God and asked for forgiveness
- When Samson prayed for forgiveness, God gave him all his strength back
 - Can you show me your big muscles again?
- God never left Samson, even when he was captured by his enemy
- God is Present – He was with Samson, and He is always with us!

LEAD AN ACTIVITY

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

TODAY'S ACTIVITY: SAMSON'S HAIR

Help the children work on their fine motor skills and coordination as they pretend to be hairdressers and "cut" and style Samson's hair.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Before starting, encourage the kids to clean up or find a clear area in your room for the activity.
- Allow each child an opportunity to play with the yarn "hair" on Samson as a reminder that Samson's hair gave him strength.
- Talk to the kids about the feeling, color, and length of the yarn hair.
- Encourage each child to take turns while styling Samson's hair.



BLESSING

Purpose: To engage our youngest children in prayer while reading a blessing over them.

Pray with the kids – teach them how to fold their hands and close their eyes while you pray this blessing over them.

TODAY'S BLESSING:

"God, thank you for always watching over (child's name) and for always being with him/her. Help (child's name) to know that you are always with him/her and help us to love others and to do what's good. We love you so much. Amen"

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. 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 Old's:

- 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 Old's:

- 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)!"