



## 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: To build relationships & prioritize 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!*

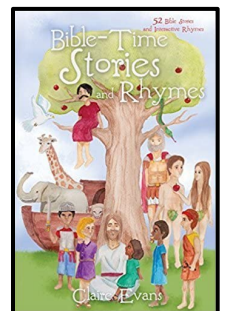
Read the Bible story provided. You can read the full story from the book provided or simply read the summary provided below. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures, allowing the kids to turn pages, or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word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

*(Summarized from Bible-Time Stories & Rhymes, page 27-28)*

#### **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 the Battle of Jericho:**

- Today, we're learning about the Battle of Jericho
- There was a city with really tall walls
  - Can you reach all the way to the sky? **(Hamilton shows the kids how to reach up high)**
- God told Joshua and His army to go to this city
- God told Joshua to destroy the walls, but he didn't know how to do it
- God told Joshua exactly what to do
- God told Joshua and his army to march around the wall silently for 6 days
  - We are going to try our very best to sit quiet for 6 seconds. Hamilton is going to count to 6 for us while you do "shhh" (finger over mouth). Ready? **(Hamilton counts -**

*1...2...3...4...5...6...)*

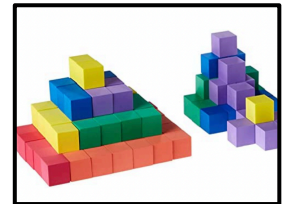
- On the seventh day, God told Joshua to blow their trumpets very loudly
  - Hamilton is going to count for us again while you do “shhh” (finger over mouth). But this time, when Hamilton gets to 7, we’re going to make noise. Ready? (**Hamilton counts - 1...2...3...4...5...6...7...**)
  - Good Job! That was so much fun!
- Joshua and his army won the battle because God was with them
- God is present – this means He is always with us!

## LEAD AN ACTIVITY

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

### TODAY’S ACTIVITY: JERICHO WALLS

*Help the children work on their patience, gross motor skills and fine motor skills by allowing them to participate in “destroying” Jericho’s walls.*



### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Before starting, encourage the kids to clean up or find a clear area in your room for the activity
- Allow each child to take turns stacking the foam blocks to build the wall of Jericho
- Monitor each child as they explore, encouraging kids to take turns and to be gentle while you build the miniature wall
- After you build the wall, have the kids sit with their hands on their heads as you count to 7
  - Encourage the kiddos to be quiet while you are counting
- Once you count to 7, allow the kiddos to knock down the wall
- Repeat!

## 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)!"