



The Ten Plagues

Exodus 5-12

God Statement: God is Omniscient! (all-knowing)

KEY VERSE:

“God gives me strength for the battle. He keeps my way secure.” 2 Samuel 22:33, NIRV

CHECK-IN

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

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 brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.

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 Ss 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.**

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 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: The Ten Plagues

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God has a plan. He saved His people from the bad king.

Say: Have you ever been really scared? Show me your scared face! Today, we're going to hear about a time when God's people were really scared, but God saved His people. The bad king wanted to keep them working for Him. But God had a plan and He saved them.

Say: The bad king had a hard heart. Show me your angry face. He was angry and didn't want to do what God said. Sometimes we have a hard heart, too but God can help us have a soft heart. Show me your happy face!

MAKE: Hard or Soft?

Supplies: Tub for water, a sponges, a rock

Directions: Pass around hard and soft objects to the children. Ask the children to decide whether each object is hard or soft. Fill a bowl with water. Put in the sponge. Show the children how this soft object will soak up the water and be filled with it. Now put in a rock. Demonstrate to the children that the rock did not soak up the water. *(Activity taken from Truewaykids.com)*

Say: *The sponge is soft. It soaked up the water. The rock is hard. It couldn't soak up any water.*

While you are working with each child:

- Our hearts can be hard or soft. God is omniscient. (ahm-ni'-shent) (Pull your hand across your forehead like a sliding salute.) He knows everything, including if our hearts are hard or soft. He loves you so much! He wants you to have a soft heart so you can listen to Him.

- A soft heart can become filled with God, but a hard heart will remain empty of God.

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton’s house for Large Group time. .

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

Offering – ask: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

WORSHIP

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.

- *Father Abraham*
- *My God is so Big!*

READ A BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read about a story about The Ten Plagues from the Bible Lesson Page in your folder.

BIG IDEA:

God is omniscient. He knows everything. He knew the bad king's heart. He knows our heart.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you 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!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)**THIS WEEK'S LESSON: The Ten Plagues**

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a frog.

Say: Hamilton, you have a frog! You found him in a puddle? **Hamilton nods excitedly.** That's fun. He's kind of cute. We're going to hear a story about some people who wouldn't listen to God. They had hundreds and thousands and millions of frogs! What if you had a frog in your macaroni and cheese? Would you like that? **Hamilton shakes his head no.** Well, the Egyptians didn't like that either. Would you like to hear more about our story, Hamilton? **Hamilton shakes his head eagerly.**

Say: The bad king's name was Pharaoh. He wanted God's people to be his slaves and do all the hard work. Pharaoh's people were the Egyptians. Most of them were bad too. God sent the bad things to convince Pharaoh to listen to Moses and let God's people go to a new land.

Read the The Ten Plagues from the Bible Lesson Page in your folder.

Say: Finally! Pharaoh was tired of all the bad things happening and let God's people go to their new special land. We'll hear more about that next week. I wonder if Pharaoh will keep his promise to let God's people go.

Say: Hamilton, what are you going to do with your new frog friend? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Oh, you're going to take it home as your new pet? That's so exciting! Thanks for listening with us today, Hamilton. Remember – God had a plan for the Israelites, and He has a plan for us too! We'll see you next time, Hamilton. Bye-bye. **Put Hamilton back in his house.**

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

God is omniscient. (ahm-ni'-shent) (Pull your hand across your forehead like a sliding salute.) He knows everything, including if our hearts are hard or soft. He loves you so much! He wants you to have a soft heart so you can listen to Him.

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

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.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: Did you know that God wants us to rest? In the Bible He tells us to rest. We can quiet our hearts so we can experience Him. Let's all lay down here on the floor. You can sit up quietly if you would rather.

Say: Dear Jesus, would you help us experience your love today?

Kids, let's listen to God. What do you think of when you think of God's love? A puppy? A new baby? Your mom? A rainbow? Shh, let's be quiet for a moment.

Say: What do you think of when you think of God's love? ***Let kids answer.***

BLESSING (1 minute)

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.

Say: God is omniscient. (ahm-ni'-shent) (Pull your hand across your forehead like a sliding salute.) He knows everything, including if our hearts are hard or soft.

Friends, may you always remember that God loves you so much! Keep listening to Him so that you will have a soft heart.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Soft Heart Coloring Page

Supplies: heart coloring page, crayons

Directions: Encourage the kids to use the crayons to color their pages as bright and colorful as they can. Make sure to send the paper home if they don't have time to color, so that parents can see what they learned from the day.

Say: *Let's color this picture of a heart to remind us what it means to have a soft heart!*

Pharaoh didn't have a soft heart and he wasn't very kind. God wants us to have a soft heart.

While you are working with each child, ask:

- What do you think a person with a hard heart would do?
- What do you think a person with a soft heart would do?
- How is your heart today? Hard or soft?

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:

- 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.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

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)!"