



The Beginning

God Statement: God has a Plan!

KEY VERSE:

"God created them as male and female. God blessed them". (Genesis 1:27b-28a)

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 THE BIBLE STORY

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

This month, read a Bible story from **The Big Picture Bible** provided.

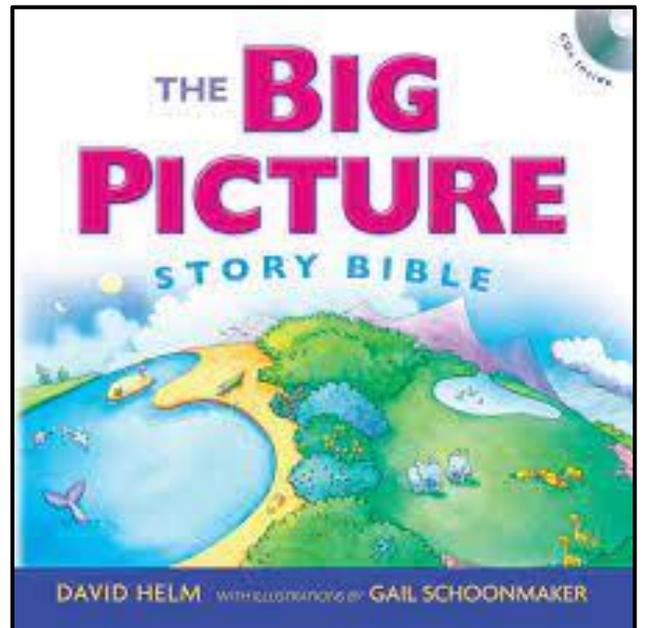
Try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions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

September 3 & 4 (Lesson 1)
Read pages 15-35 - Creation

September 10 & 11 (Lesson 2)
Read pages 51-66 - Noah's Ark

September 17 & 18 (Lesson 3)
Read pages 67-81 - God's Promise to Abraham

September 24 & 25 (Lesson 4)
Read pages 83-85 - God fulfills
His promise to Abraham



SING SONGS

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:

- My Friend Noah
- Thank You God
- Everywhere I Go
- Father Abraham

LEAD AN ACTIVITY

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

Lesson 1 (September 3 & 4) – CREATION TOUCH AND FEEL BOARD

Help the children work on their fine motor skills by allowing kids to explore this interactive touch and feel board about the 7 days of creation.

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 explore the sensory board.
- Monitor each child as they explore, encourage kids to take turns, and to be gentle while playing with the sensory board.



While the children are doing the activity:

- Summarize the Seven Days of Creation. **Say:**
 - God created the world in 7 days.
 - Hold up 7 fingers
 - On the first day, God created light.
 - Hold up 1 finger and say, “1!”
 - Allow each child to explore the light button on the board.
 - Light helps us see in the dark.
 - On the second day, God created the clouds and the ocean.
 - Hold up 2 fingers and say, “2!”
 - Allow each child to explore the cotton balls and make-believe water on the board.
 - On the third day, God created the land.
 - Hold up 3 fingers and say, “3!”
 - Allow each child to explore the “land” on the board.
 - How pretty is God’s creation! We see it every day!
 - On the fourth day, God created the moon, sun, and stars.
 - Hold up 4 fingers and say, “4!”
 - Allow each child to explore the “sky scenery” on the board.
 - On the fifth day, God created the birds and the fish.
 - Hold up 5 fingers and say, “5!”
 - Allow each child to explore the birds and the fish on the board.
 - Can you flap your arms like little birdies? Can you pretend your swimming in the ocean like the fish? Wow! You guys did a great job pretending to be birdies and swimming like a fish.
 - On the sixth day, God created land animals and man!
 - Hold up 6 fingers and say, “6!”
 - Allow each child to explore the animals and man on the board.
 - God created you (point to the children) and me (point to yourself)!

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- On the seventh day, God rested.
 - Hold up 7 fingers and say, “7!”
 - Allow each child to explore the pillow on the board.
 - God saw the world that he created and said it was good.
 - Then God rested, can you pretend to close your eyes and rest?
- God has a plan!
- Creating the world was a part of His awesome plan!

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

- Pray Genesis 1:27-28 over the kids – “God, thank you for having an awesome plan! Thank you for creating me! Help me to always remember that you have a plan and that your plan is great! Thank you for all that you do for me each day. I love you so much. Amen”

Lesson 2 (September 10 & 11) – NOAH’S ARK RAINBOW CRAFT

Help the children work on their fine motor skills as they do a handprint craft to help them remember the Bible story.



Craft Instructions:

- Before starting, find a clear space to work where other kids cannot get into the supplies.
- Bring each child over to work on the project, one at a time.
- Give them 1 or 2 options of crayons and assist them with coloring, as needed.
- Open the multi-color ink pad, spread the child’s fingers apart and push onto the ink pad
- Push the child’s hand (with ink) onto the top of the page 4 or 5 times creating a rainbow
 - Make sure you try to spread their fingers apart when placing on the page
- Use a wipe or paper towel to clean the child’s hand off
- Write the name of the child along with the date and the location (Woodmen Kids) on the child’s craft so the parent(s) can keep it as a keepsake

After the children do the craft:

- Summarize Noah’s Ark. **Say:**
 - After God created the world, it was good.
 - Can you give me a thumbs up? Good! J
 - God created the world with no bad things, no sin.
 - One day, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin came into the world.
 - When sin came, people stopped listening to God and did bad things.
 - Can you show me a thumbs down? Bad L
 - People were being really really bad and He wanted to start over
 - So one day, God told Noah, a man who really loved God to build a big boat.
 - Can you hold out your arms nice and big? Good job!
 - God was going to send a big flood to punish the people for not listening to him.

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- But Noah listened to God and loved God. So, God protected Noah and had him make a really big boat to hold his family, and 2 of every animal.
- God sent rain and made a big flood.
 - Can you make a wave with your hands?
- God protected Noah and his family.
- After the flood was over, God sent a rainbow in the sky, to promise that he would never flood the land again.
- (Pull out rainbow for the kids to see) Can you help me name the colors of the rainbow?
 - Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple.
 - Good Job! The rainbow is so pretty!
- Every time you look at a rainbow, remember God's promise and that He has a Plan.
- Sending a big flood was a part of His awesome plan!

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

- Pray Genesis 1:27-28 over the kids – “God, thank you for having an awesome plan! Thank you for creating me! Help me to always remember that you have a plan and that your plan is great! Thank you for all that you do for me each day. I love you so much. Amen”

Lesson 3 (September 17 & 18) – STARY SKY BOTTLE

Work with each child as they play and explore with this stary night bottle to help them better understand today's lesson.

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 explore the bottle.
- Ask each child these “questions” to help get their minds thinking about today's lesson. **Say:**
 - Do you see what's in the bottle?
 - Yes, that's right! They are stars!
 - Do you usually see stars during the day or at night? At night!
 - Today, we are going to be talking about stars in our Bible story.



While the children are doing the activity:

- Summarize God's promise to Abraham. **Say:**
 - There was a man named Abraham, and Abraham loved God.
 - Abraham had a wife named Sarah.
 - God told Abraham and Sarah to go to a new place, and they listened and went where God told them to go.
 - Abraham and Sarah were very old but God promised they would have a child
 - Abraham didn't believe God.
 - God told Abraham to go outside and look up at the sky.

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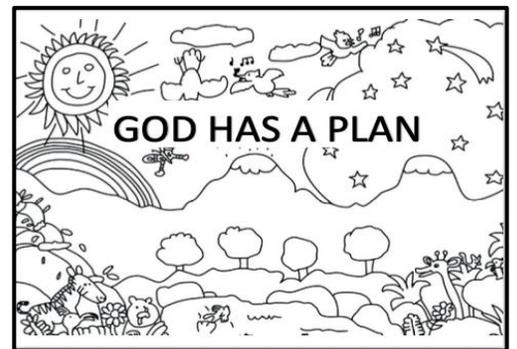
- Do you know what he saw when he went outside? Stars! (Hold up the starry night bottle for the kids to see).
- God told Abraham to count all the stars. God said Abraham would have more kids and family members than the number of stars in the sky.
- And guess what? There were too many stars to count! There were SO many stars!
- God's Promise to Abram was very big! And Abraham's faith in God was very big! Can you hold your arms out to show me how big? Yes! That's very big! Good job!
- God has a Plan!
- The promise of giving Abraham and Sarah a baby was a part of His awesome plan!

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

- Pray Genesis 1:27-28 over the kids – “God, thank you for having an awesome plan! Thank you for creating me! Help me to always remember that you have a plan and that your plan is great! Thank you for all that you do for me each day. I love you so much. Amen”

Lesson 4 (September 24 & 25) – GOD HAS A PLAN COLORING SHEET

Help the children work on their fine motor skills by coloring and decorating this “Jesus is Awesome” star mobile as a reminder of Jesus’ miracles.



Craft Instructions:

- Help the child color their picture.
- Give them 1 or 2 options of crayons and assist them with coloring, as needed.
- Write the name of the child along with the date and the location (Woodmen Kids) on the child's craft so the parent(s) can keep it as a keepsake.

While the children are doing the craft:

- Summarize God's promise to Abraham. **Say:**
 - God gave a promise to Abraham that he and Sarah would have a baby.
 - Sarah and Abraham were very very old when they had baby Isaac.
 - But God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah.
 - God used Isaac to do mighty things.
 - God has a Plan!
 - Baby Isaac was a part of His awesome plan!
 - And God has a plan for each one of you!

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

- Pray Genesis 1:27-28 over the kids – “God, thank you for having an awesome plan! Thank you for creating me! Help me to always remember that you have a plan and that your plan is great! Thank you for all that you do for me each day. I 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

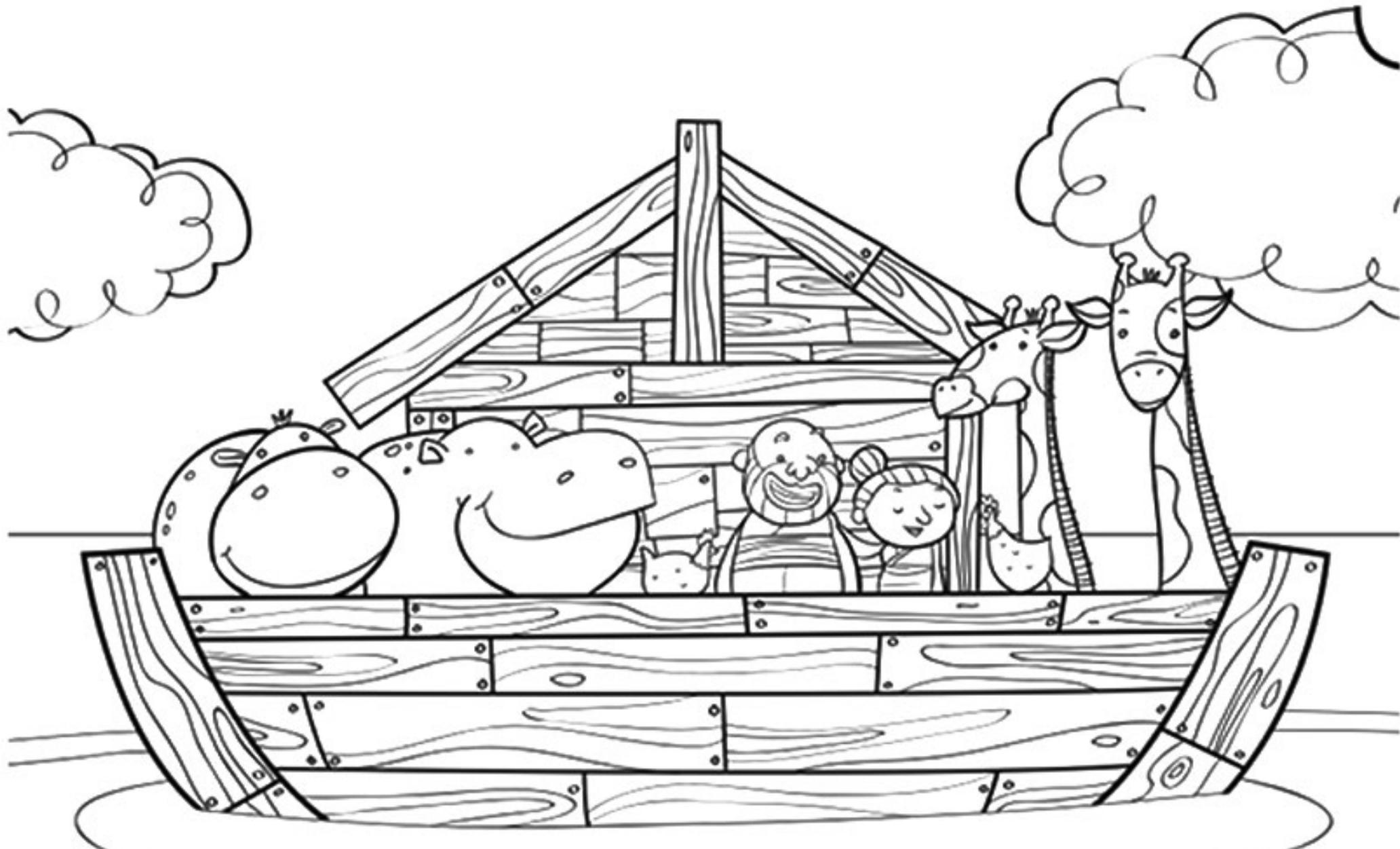
Suggestions of activities for Older 1 Year Old's:

- 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)!"





GOD HAS A PLAN