



God Has a Plan

KEY VERSE:

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

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

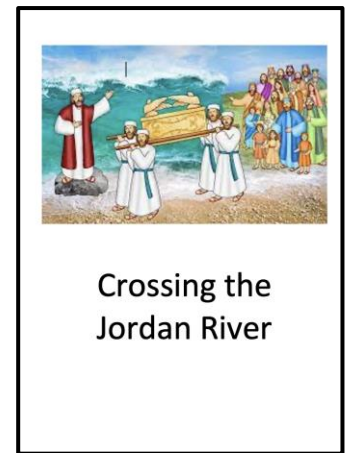
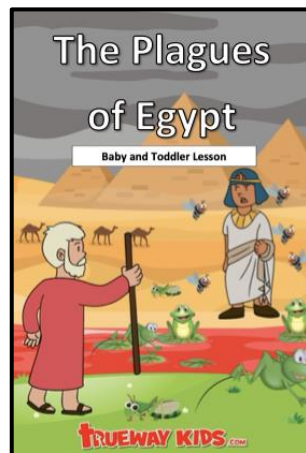
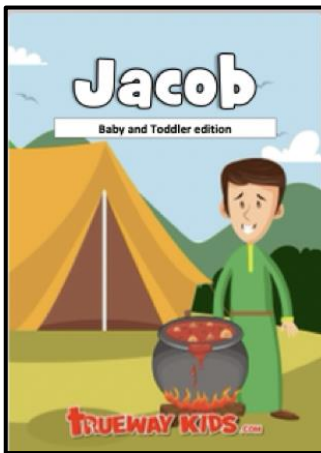
They can become **SECURE.**

READ THE BIBLE STORY

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

This month, read the Bible story from **the 4 short stories** 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!



October 1 & 2; 8 & 9
(Lesson 1 and 2)
Read "Jacob"
Song included in story

October 15 & 16
(Lesson 3)
Read "The Plagues
of Egypt"

October 22 & 23
(Lesson 4)
Read "God Guides
His People"

October 29 & 30
(Lesson 5)
Read "Crossing the
Jordan River"

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:

- God Can Do Anything
- Happy
- Father Abraham
- I've Got The Joy

LEAD AN ACTIVITY

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

Lesson 1 (October 1 & 2) – SENSORY SOUP

Help the children work on their gross motor skills and imagination by making this sensory soup activity that goes along with the Bible story.

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 soup by touching, feeling, and helping make the soup.
- Monitor each child as they explore, encourage kids to take turns and to be gentle while making the soup.



While the children are doing the activity:

- Summarize the story of Jacob. **Say:**
 - There was a husband and wife named Isaac and Rebekah.
 - They had 2 sons.
 - Hold up 2 fingers and say "2".
 - The sons' names were Jacob and Esau.
 - Esau liked spending time with his dad.
 - Let's make the sign for "dad" (Place your thumb on your forehead with all your fingers sticking out)
 - Teachers - demonstrate and assist each child in doing the sign with you
 - Jacob liked spending time with his mom.
 - Let's make the sign for "mom" (Place your thumb on your chin with all your fingers sticking out)
 - Teachers - demonstrate and assist each child in doing the sign with you
 - When the boys got older, their dad wanted Esau to take over by giving him a blessing.
 - But Jacob wanted the blessing so he tricked his dad and brother.
 - Jacob made soup and tricked Esau into swapping his blessing for a bowl of soup, just like the soup we made today.
 - The plan worked and Jacob got the blessing.
 - This made Esau very angry and Jacob ran away.
 - But even though Jacob messed up, God still had a good plan!
 - Even when we mess up, God can still help us!

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

- Pray 2 Samuel 22:33 over the kids – "God, thank you for going before me. Thank you for being my protector. Give me strength each day and help me to see your way. Thank you that you have an awesome plan. I love you so much. Amen"

Lesson 2 (October 8 & 9) – JACOB AND ESAU COLORING PAGE

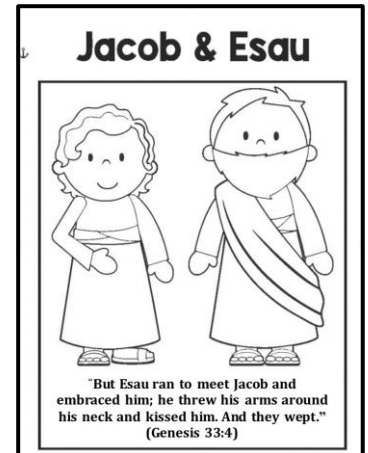
Help the children work on their fine motor skills as they color this picture of Jacob and Esau to remember today's Bible story.

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.

After the children do the craft:

- Summarize the story of Jacob **Say:**
 - Last week we learned about 2 brothers named Esau and Jacob.
 - When we finished our story, we left off with Jacob running away.
 - After Jacob ran away, he met a girl named Rachel and they fell in love.
 - Can you give yourself a big hug? This is the sign for love!
 - A couple of years later Jacob married Rachel and they had lots of baby boys!
 - Can you rock your arms like you are rocking a baby?
 - A few years later, God told Jacob to go back to his home where Esau still lived.
 - Jacob heard that Esau was headed towards him, and he got scared.
 - Can you show me your scared face?
 - When Jacob was traveling, he stopped because he was scared.
 - Jacob knew that God promised to be with him but he was still scared.
 - Jacob wrestled with a man.
 - Can you make fists like you are fighting?
 - The man and Jacob stopped fighting.
 - The man blessed Jacob and gave him a new name.
 - His new name was Israel.
 - Jacob was changed by God and was no longer fearful.
 - God helped Jacob because Jacob obeyed God.
 - Jacob saw Esau and ran to him and gave him a big hug.
 - Even though Jacob messed up with Esau, God had a plan!



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

- Pray 2 Samuel 22:33 over the kids – "God, thank you for going before me. Thank you for being my protector. Give me strength each day and help me to see your way. Thank you that you have an awesome plan. I love you so much. Amen"

Jacob & Esau



“But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.” (Genesis 33:4)

Lesson 3 (October 15 & 16) – FEED THE FROGS

Help the children work on their fine motor skills as they play a little game to help remember the Bible story for today.

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 pick up the fake bugs and feed them to the frog.
- Encourage each child to take turns while feeding the frog.



While the children are doing the activity:

- Summarize the story of the 10 Plagues. **Say:**
 - Today we are learning about a man named Moses.
 - God sent Moses to Egypt to rescue the people of Israel.
 - Pharaoh would not let the people of Israel go.
 - Pharaoh’s heart was hard.
 - God sent terrible things to Egypt to try and make Pharaoh change his heart.
 - These terrible things were called Plagues.
 - God sent bugs and frogs to cover the land.
 - Do you remember feeding the bugs to the frogs today?
 - Do you know what a frog says? Can you say ribbit like a frog?
 - God sent all these bad things and Pharaoh still would not listen.
 - It took 10 bad things to finally change Pharaoh’s heart.
 - Pharaoh called out to Moses and he finally let the people of Israel go.
 - God had a plan!

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

- Pray 2 Samuel 22:33 over the kids – “God, thank you for going before me. Thank you for being my protector. God give me strength each day and help me to see your way. Thank you that you have an awesome plan. I love you so much. Amen”

Lesson 4 (October 22 & 23) – PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE ACTIVITY

Help the children work on their fine motor skills by filling water bottles with cotton balls and tissue paper to resemble a pillar of cloud and fire. This activity is to help the kids better understand today's Bible story.



Craft Instructions:

- Before starting, encourage the kids to clean up or find a clear area in your room for the activity.
- Encourage each child to feel the cotton balls, then help them put cotton balls into the water bottle representing a pillar of clouds.
- Then, help each child fill the water bottle with a red, orange, and yellow tissue paper resembling a pillar of fire.

While the children are doing the craft:

- Summarize the story of God Guiding His People. **Say:**
 - After Moses and the people of Israel left Egypt, they started wandering to the Promised Land.
 - The people of Israel wandered for 40 years. That's a really long time!
 - During their wandering, the people faced some tough times.
 - They started to feel like they were wandering alone.
 - But God reminded them that they were not alone.
 - God was leading them.
 - During the day, God sent a pillar of cloud to guide them.
 - Teachers hold up the pillar of cloud activity.
 - During the nighttime, God sent a pillar of fire to guide the people.
 - Teachers hold up the pillar of fire activity.
 - They followed the pillars wherever they went.
 - This showed them that God was guiding them.
 - God has a Plan!
 - And guiding His people is a part of His plan.
- If time allows, play a game of "follow the leader" using the pillars of cloud and fire to lead the kids around your room

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

- Pray 2 Samuel 22:33 over the kids – "God, thank you for going before me. Thank you for being my protector. Give me strength each day and help me to see your way. Thank you that you have an awesome plan. I love you so much. Amen"

Lesson 5 (October 29 & 30) – CROSSING THE JORDAN

Help the children work on their fine motor skills by exploring this interactive activity that helps them better understand today's Bible story.

Activity Instructions:

- Before starting, encourage the kids to clean up or find a clear area in your room for the activity.
- Help each child demonstrate “crossing the Jordan River” by pushing the cereal to the sides and “walking” their toy person or animal through the pretend water (cereal).
- Take the 12 pom-pom balls and count them out loud then set them on the tray, representing the stones that Joshua placed by the river.



While the children are doing the activity:

- Summarize the story of Crossing the Jordan River. **Say:**
 - The people of Israel wandered for 40 years. That's a really long time!
 - They were almost to the Promised Land.
 - The Promised Land is a land that God promised to the people of Israel.
 - It was filled with food and all the good things.
 - Before they could get there, they had to cross the Jordan River.
 - The river was very very full! But God had a plan!
 - God told Joshua to have the people walk through the river.
 - God held back the water so the people could walk through.
 - Just like we did in our activity today. We made a way in the river so our toy people could walk through.
 - After everyone walked through, Joshua placed 12 stones by the river to remember that God was always with them and that He has a plan.
 - Teacher - take the 12 pom-pom balls and count them out with the kiddos.
 - 12! 12 stones to remember that God was and will always be with them.
 - Joshua trusted God because God had a plan!



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

- Pray 2 Samuel 22:33 over the kids – “God, thank you for going before me. Thank you for being my protector. Give me strength each day and help me to see your way. Thank you that you have an awesome plan. 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)!"