



God is Merciful

Genesis 4:1-15

God Statement: God Has a Plan

KEY VERSE:

“The Lord himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you.”

Deuteronomy 31:8, 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: 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:

- Jesus Loves the Little Children
- My God is So Big
- He is God
- Tell the World
- He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

READ THE BIBLE STORY

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

Read the Bible story provided. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures and 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: CAIN AND ABEL

(Summarized from Genesis 4:1-15)

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 do the hand motions, ask the kids questions)

Share about the Cain and Abel:**Supplies Needed: picture of sheep, picture of vegetables**

- Adam and Eve were the first two people God created.
- They had two sons named Cain and Abel.
- Abel was a shepherd who took care of sheep (*show picture of sheep*).
 - What does a sheep say? That's right! Baaaa.
- Cain was a farmer who grew vegetables (*show picture of vegetables*).
 - **Hamilton, do you have a favorite vegetable? *Have Hamilton whisper in your ear. Carrots? (or whatever it is) Yum!***
- Abel decided to bring God his best sheep as a gift. Abel loved God and wanted to give him his best.
- Cain didn't listen to God so he just brought some vegetables from his garden.
- God wasn't pleased with Cain's gift.
- Cain was angry and sad.
 - Can you show me an angry face? A sad face?
- Cain didn't listen to God, but God was merciful and still loved him.
- We want to give our best to God!
- God is merciful!

LEAD AN ACTIVITY

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

TODAY'S ACTIVITY: SENSORY BAG

Work one on one with each child as they work on their fine motor skills and imagination as they partake in today's activity. Help each child participate in this activity to help them remember the truth we learned about today.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Before starting, find a clear space to work where other kids cannot get into the supplies. Make sure you have **supplies (sensory bag filled with soil, animals, and vegetables)** ready before starting!
- Allow 1-2 kids to come over to the bag at a time. Hold the bag at all times and make sure the children don't tear holes in it.
- Talk about what they see/find in the soil. (ie. You found a strawberry! I bet Cain grew strawberries in his garden!)
- Make sure each child gets a turn.

BLESSING

Purpose: To read a blessing or verse over the kids.

Encourage/show the kids how to hold their hands open to receive the blessing. This is a truth that they can take with them and hide in their hearts.

TODAY'S BLESSING:

“(Child’s name) may you always remember to bring your best to God. He loves you and cares about your heart. He is merciful towards you.”

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)! ”