



Remember and Celebrate – God has a Plan

Psalm 130

God Statement: God has a Plan

KEY VERSE: “The Lord Himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will never leave you. He’ll never desert you. So don’t be afraid. Don’t lose hope.”
(Deuteronomy 31:8, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 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: God has a Plan

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God has a plan!

SAY: Do you remember what our ‘God Statement’ was the past few weeks? **Let kids respond.** That’s right! God has a plan! Do you remember what it means to have a plan for something? **Let kids respond.** When we make a plan, we write out details, and we come up with ideas for what will happen or take place.

Who always has a plan? **Let kids respond – Jesus/God!** God always has a plan! He has a plan for each and every one of our lives. He knows what will happen in our lives before we do. It is so wonderful to remember that God has a plan for me and for you! I am thankful that God has a plan.

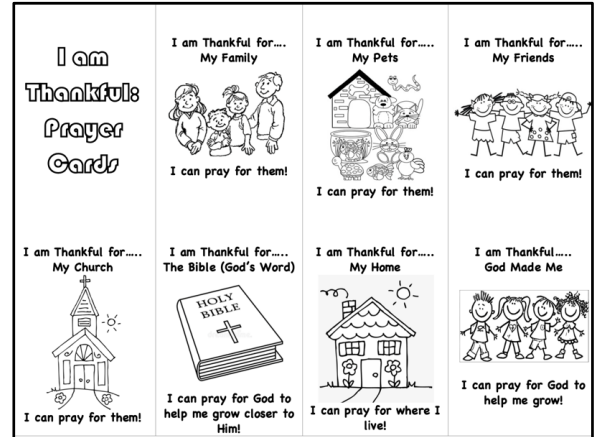
MAKE: Thankful for....prayer card set

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Supplies: one prayer card key chain set per child, crayons, and markers

Directions: Pass out one key chain prayer card set per child. Have each child color their cards. As they color talk about all of the things they can pray for and are thankful for.

SAY: Today we get to remember that God has a plan. This is a season of thankfulness. I am thankful that I can pray to God and talk to Him. Let’s create a special craft before we learn about our story today.



LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

Worship Leader & Host

REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE

Host

Briefly introduce the topic reminding kids that this weekend is Remember & Celebrate. Use this time to reference the “Feasts & Festivals” table on stage, talking about what it represents.

SAY: It’s Remember & Celebrate weekend! Do you notice anything different on the stage today? That’s right! This table – we call it the Feasts & Festivals table! Let’s name some of the items we see on the table. **Use the laminated guide in the F&F Bin to discuss what some of the items represent.** Why do we have this special table out? In the Old Testament, God put into place a religious calendar of special events for the people of Israel to follow. Each year, there were seven unique and special feasts. There were four in the Spring and three in the Fall. The purpose of these feasts was for the Jewish people to celebrate their people’s history, their faith, and the blessings God had given them. So why are these feasts that started so many hundreds and hundreds of years ago still important today? Through each of the feasts, God reveals a special story and shows the work of Jesus that is so important for each of our lives. Each feast can help us understand and appreciate that Jesus died for us, rose from the grave, and will come again one day! No matter how much time passes, the miracles of Jesus and the work He did for all of us are something to remember and celebrate.

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

TODAY’S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Help Me Live in Step
- Egypt

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

****Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.****

***“The Lord Himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will never leave you. He’ll never desert you. So don’t be afraid. Don’t lose hope.”
(Deuteronomy 31:8, NIRV)***

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: Nothing! Remember and Celebrate Weekend

SAY: There’s nothing in our wardrobe because it’s Remember and Celebrate weekend. A weekend where we get to reflect on all God has done and is doing, and celebrate that! Soooo let’s dive in to God’s word today to discover more!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: *Remember and Celebrate – God Has a Plan*

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

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.

DO: STATION RESPONSES - God HAS A PLAN

Supplies: paper, markers/pens, giant map, heart stickers

Prepare ahead: set out supplies at each station, tape butcher paper map to chalkboard stations (bigger classes have 2 maps to use) and place markers by it, choose a couple leaders to be at the “God loves you” station and explain role

SAY: We’ve been learning the past few months all about God’s big plan. God has had a plan from the very start of the world to bring us back to Him because He loves us! Who did God use to bring His people back? **Let kids respond – Jesus!** That’s right, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take the place for all of our sins and mistakes. Because of this, we get to have life forever with God when we ask God into our hearts!

We all make mistakes and sin, that means anything that goes against God. Do you remember that special day we learned about in our Remember & Celebrate lesson? **Let kids answer – Day of Atonement.** The Day of Atonement was a special day to take time to ask God for forgiveness for sins and mistakes. Because of what Jesus did, we can come to God anytime and anywhere to atone, or make right, our mistakes and sins. That’s such good news! Let’s take some time to think about our relationship with God and bring any sins to God we need forgiveness for.

DIRECTIONS: Explain that kids will be given some time to respond individually and on their own at each station. Then, explain each station.

Station 1 – Sins at the Cross

SAY: At this station, take a piece of paper and a marker. Sit back down for a moment and think about anything you might need to ask God for forgiveness for. A sin or mistake you've made recently. Then, draw or write a picture of it and crumple it up and lay it at the foot of the Cross. As you do this, remember that Jesus took the place for your sins, and you are forgiven!

Station 2 – Names on the Map - Chalkboard

SAY: At this station, write your name on the map. As you do this, remember that God has had a plan from the very start of the world for you. God loves you and He wants to have a relationship with you!

Station 3 – God Loves You! - Twine/Wire Stations

SAY: At this station, take a heart sticker from the leader as they tell you good news! **Leaders will say "God Loves You, ____!" to each kid as they get a sticker. Leaders should make sure to say the kids names as they say this.**

SAY: When you finish any or all stations, find your spot and sit quietly to wait for other friends to finish!

SAY: God loves you so much, and He wants a relationship with you! If you want to talk more about what this means, ask your teachers in small group time! Let's finish our time by thanking God together in prayer.

Close time in prayer.

*****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.*****

OFFERING**Host**

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.

*****After Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.*****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – ACTS Gift of Love**Host**

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the PowerPoint to display important announcements.

ACTs Gift of Love

SAY: What are some of your favorite Christmas traditions? Raise your hand if you enjoy baking Christmas cookies? How about reading the Christmas Story? Maybe you enjoy family Christmas pajamas? Or opening a gift on Christmas Eve? **Pause.** There are SO many joys of Christmas that you and I get to look forward to but what about the kids and families who are unable to enjoy the Christmas holiday? How can we help them?

SAY: Does anyone remember our mission focus? **Pause.** That's right! Gift of Love! Gift of Love is a super special event that allows families in need to shop for Christmas gifts at a very low cost! And guess how you can be a part of it? Your family can help by donating new toys/clothes/activities/games/etc. for the families to shop for. If you haven't already, when you leave, talk to your family about picking an ornament off the tree and shopping for a specific age/gender – like a 12-year-old girl or a 7-year-old boy. Then, bring your UNWRAPPED item back in and put it under the tree next weekend!

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who will participate in Gift of Love.

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING**Host**

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.

May you believe that God has a plan for you! God loves you and He wants a relationship with you!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Pass out snacks during this time and break into a few small groups to chat together. Use the questions below as a guide to lead the conversation, but feel free to insert your own questions as the conversation develops.

****check for allergies before giving kids snacks****

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today? (God has a Plan.)**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Psalm 130**
 - What does God do when we sin (V.3-4)?(He forgives.)**
 - Where should we put our hope? (in God; God's Word.)**
 - Do you remember what this Psalm is called? (A song of Lament.)**
3. **As a group reread verse 5-6.**
 - What do you think it means to put your hope in the Lord? What does this look like?**
 - How can we put our hope in the Lord everyday even when it seems like things are tough? Spend some time as a group discussing and sharing. We can and should put our Hope in God each and every day. This week I encourage you guys to listen to worship music or just one worship song in the morning before you start the day to help you focus on God.**

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: New Testament Books of the Bible Card Race

Supplies: 2 bags of NEW Testament books of the Bible cards and mats

Directions: split the class into two teams. Have an LIT or helper sit in each group. Give each helper a bag with NEW Testament matching cards and a number mat. Have the helper flip over the cards face down and shuffle them around. Allow the children to flip over one card at a time and match them to the corresponding number on the chart. The LIT or helper can then read the cards in order. The first team to finish wins.

SAY: God has a plan! Do you know one way we can learn more about God? By reading the Bible! Let's play a game to see what we can remember about the New Testament books of the Bible!

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.