



God is Mighty

Judges 6:11-16

God Statement: God has a Plan

“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

(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:

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is Mighty.

SAY: We're going to hear a true story today and in that story is a trumpet and a torch. Have you ever sat by a cozy fire when you're camping? Did you ever make a smoke stick? You must be very careful around fire. The fire we are making is a pretend fire.

MAKE: A Pretend Torch

Supplies: toilet paper rolls, aluminum foil, cardstock in a flame shape, fire colored tissue paper squares, glue sticks/tape

Directions:

- Have kids sit in chairs around the table.
- Cover about a 2" section of the flame area with glue from the glue stick.
- Encourage kids to choose a few tissue paper squares and stick them on the gluey area.
- Help the child wrap the toilet paper roll in aluminum foil and tape the flame to the top of the toilet paper roll.
- Don't forget to write their name on the back of the flame.
- Set aside their torches to use after the story.

SAY: We are going to hear a story about how God used torches to beat the bad guys.

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 to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder**. Choose some songs to sing.

- I’m in the Lord’s Army
- Only God Can Do
- My God is so Big

READ THE BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read about a Bible story from Judges 6:11-16.

Read the Bible story below. 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!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Gideon and the 300

(Summarized from Judges 6:11-16)

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 read parts of the story, do the hand motions, ask the kids questions, etc.).

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a paper cone trumpet.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us. He pretends to use it like a trumpet.*** Oh, it's a trumpet! We're going to hear about some trumpets in our story today. Hamilton will you help tell the true Bible story? ***Hamilton nods.***

Share the story of Gideon using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- God's people were surrounded by meanies.
 - Can you make a mean face? Ooh, yes.
- They stole the food and ruined the land.
- God's people prayed. They asked God to help them.
 - Can you show me your prayer hands? God answers our prayers.
- God answered His people by sending a young man named Gideon.
- But guess what? Gideon was afraid! He was afraid to fight those bad guys.
 - What do you look like when you are afraid?
- God said, I will win the war for you.
 - Let's all put our fist in the air and say, 'God will win the war for you!'
- Many of God's people came to fight the bad guys, but God said, we don't need this many. I will win the war for you.
 - Let's all put our fist in the air and say, 'God will win the war for you!'
- God said, "Is anyone afraid to fight? They should go home." So many people went home.
- God had another test.
- He checked how they drank water. If they cupped their hands and then lapped the water like a dog, they could stay.
 - Let's pretend to do that. Cup your hand and pretend there is water in it. Use your tongue to lap up the pretend water. Use your eyes to look around while you are drinking. You can see all around.
 - Now bend down and pretend to drink water from a creek. You can't look around while you drink that way.

- Only 300 people lapped water like a dog, so those people could stay and fight.
- God wanted to show everyone that He was the one who would win.
 - Let's all put our fist in the air and say, God will win the war for you!
- Every person took a trumpet, like Hamilton's, in one hand and a torch, like the one we made, in a jar in the other hand.
- They blew the trumpets and broke the jars so the torch would shine. The bad guys were afraid and ran away.
- The people shouted, "For the Lord and for Gideon!"
- God won the war and took care of His people.
- God is mighty!

SAY IT OUT LOUD:

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.

SAY: Today our God statement is God is Mighty. We are going to say our God statement in fun ways to help us remember it.

- Have the kids say it in a fun voice.
- Have them say it in a whisper.
- Have them say it in a loud voice.
- Do motions: God (vertical hand in front of face) is Mighty (make muscles with your arms).

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.

SAY: God is mighty! He can win every time.

He knows best how to help His people.

Let's stand up and jump up and down and shout, "God is mighty! God is mighty! God is mighty!"

Yay, now let's clap for God!

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: Friends, may you always remember that God is mighty! You can call on Him to help you anytime.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

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

MAKE: A Trumpet

Supplies: construction paper, stickers, tape and or stapler

Directions:

- Roll a trumpet for each kid.
- Tape or staple 3-4 places to make the trumpet shape.
- Let each kid stick stickers to decorate the trumpet.
- Demonstrate how to blow in the trumpet to make a sound by saying “doo, doo doo doo!”

SAY: God helped Gideon and his army win the war. God is mighty!



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)!"