



God Has a Plan

(Remember & Celebrate – Atonement)

Psalm 130

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 has a plan.

SAY: We are going to Remember and Celebrate all the things we have learned this month. We are thankful to God for all He has done and that He has a plan!

MAKE: Thankful Banner

Supplies: clothespins, 3x5 colorful paper, twine, tape, markers or crayons.

Directions:

- Tape the twine to a wide space in your room low enough for the kids to reach.
- Invite the kids to sit at the table.
- Who knows what holiday it was this week? That's right, Thanksgiving!
- What do we do on Thanksgiving? There is a clue in the name...THANKS...giving!
- We give thanks to God for all the things He gives us.
- Let's remember and celebrate the things He has done.
- Pass out colorful paper and tape or markers.
- Ask the kids to think of something they are thankful for.
- Make suggestions: cookies, apples, Mommy, puppy, toys and then ask them to draw that on the paper.

- Their drawings will not look like what they named so label it for them and put their name on it.
- When they are finished, you can help them pin the item to the twine. Say, “Thank you God for _____ (name and item; i.e., Daniel’s puppy).

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.

- Thank You God
- Mindy Songs_God Can Do Anything
- Our 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 Psalm 130.

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: Remember and Celebrate

(Summarized from Psalm 130)

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 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 some hand sanitizer.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** Oh, you have some hand sanitizer! Hamilton, have you ever had dirty hands? ***Hamilton nods.*** We can use hand sanitizer to get those hands clean again! ***Pretend to give Hamilton some hand sanitizer. He rubs his hands together.*** Let's see what hand sanitizer has to do with our Bible story for today.

Share Psalm 130 using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- We are all humans. I'm a human, you're a human, and the person sitting next to you is a human.
 - Hamilton, are you a human? ***Hamilton shakes his head "no."*** No, you're a hedgehog, Hamilton!
- But we are humans, and humans sin.
- To sin means to do something wrong.
 - What are some things we do wrong? Sometimes we don't listen to our mom and dad, or we yell and scream if we don't get a toy that we reeeeaally wanted.
- When we sin, our hearts get dirty.
 - Where is your heart? Can you put your hand over your heart? It's inside of your body and beats all day and all night to keep you alive. Can you feel it beating?
- When our hearts get dirty from sin, God can clean our hearts up again! Kind of like hand sanitizer cleans our hands!
- This means when we sin, God forgives us and makes our hearts clean.

- In the Bible, it says, “His love never stops. He sets His people free from all their sins.” (Psalm 130: 7-8, summarized)
- God knew we would sin when He made us, so He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins.
- But Jesus didn’t stay dead, did he? He came alive again, and He set us free from our sin! He made us clean!
- God had a plan all along to save us from our sins and make us clean again.
- Let’s remember and celebrate that God sent Jesus to save us from our sins!
 - Let’s say, “Thank you, God!”
- God has a plan!

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 has a Plan**. 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.

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: We celebrated Thanksgiving this week.
 It’s a great time to Remember and Celebrate.
 We can remember to thank God for all He has done.
 Let’s all say “Thank you” to God right now.
 Are you ready?
 We will shout, “Thank you, God” as loudly as we can.
 Ready? THANK YOU, 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 all the good things God provides for you and have a thankful heart.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

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

PLAY: Celebration Dance Party

Supplies: Fun music from the TV

Directions:

- Put on the music and dance!
- Choose a favorite song that the kids enjoy.
- You could play freeze dance, too.
- Stop the music unexpectedly and tell the kids to freeze.
- Then start the music again and dance more.

SAY: Let's dance to celebrate all God does for us!

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)!"