



God Sees Our Heart

Numbers 22:21-31

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 Sees Our Heart.

SAY: Sometimes God asks us to do hard things. Today we will hear a story about a man who did not want to do what God asked. But God still loved him and took care of him, in a very special way!

PLAY: Pin the Tail on the Donkey (and the Sword on the Angel)

Supplies: donkey poster and tail, angel poster and sword, tape

Directions:

- This is just like pin the tail on the donkey game.
- Hang up the donkey poster and the angel poster in separate places around the room.
- Ask a child if they'd like to try putting on the blindfold and putting the tail/sword on the donkey/angel.
- It's okay if they don't want to put on the blindfold, they can still try to put the tail/sword on.
- Let them see how close they were to pinning the tail/sword in the right spot.
- Always encourage trying the activity, even if they don't get the tail/sword where it is supposed to go.
- Today we will hear a Bible story about a TALKING donkey, an angel, and a man who had to choose to listen to God!

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.

- The B-I-B-L-E
- All the Animals Praise the Lord
- 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 Numbers 22:21-31.

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: Balaam's Donkey

(Summarized from Numbers 22:21-31)

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 donkey.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** A donkey! Does anyone know what a donkey says? (***wait for response***) Hee-haw! That's right! What's that Hamilton? ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** There's a donkey in our story today? ***Hamilton nods. He whispers in your ear again.*** The donkey doesn't say hee-haw, it says something else? Oh my! Let's listen to this true Bible story to find out what this special donkey says!

Share the story of Balaam's (pronounced Bay-lahm) donkey using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- There once was a king who was mad at God's special family, called the Israelites.
 - Can you pretend to be a king or queen? Put a pretend crown on your head.
- The king asked a man named Balaam (bay-lahm) to say bad things about God's special family so that bad things would happen to them.
- The king offered to pay Balaam lots of money to do this.
- Balaam said that God didn't want him to curse the Israelites, so he couldn't.
- But Balaam wanted the money, so he waited for God to say more to him, and God did!
- God said to go to the king, but to only do what God said to do.
- Balaam got his donkey ready for a trip to see the king.
- God was upset that Balaam didn't listen when God said no the first time, so he sent an Angel to stop Balaam.
- Balaam's donkey could see the Angel, but Balaam couldn't.

- The Angel had a sword in His hand and stood in the way of the road!
- The donkey moved out of the way of the angel. Balaam was mean and nasty to the donkey.
- This happened three times. Eventually, the donkey was so sad that she laid down in the road.
- Balaam was even meaner and nastier to the donkey!
- Then, the Lord made the donkey speak!
 - What does a donkey say again? (**wait for response**) Hee-haw! That's right! But that's not what this donkey said!
- The donkey said, "Why have you hurt me three times?"
 - I'll bet that surprised Balaam! Can you make a surprised face?
- Then, the Lord showed Balaam the Angel.
- Balaam said that he had sinned and shouldn't have hurt the donkey. He didn't know the angel was there!
- God told Balaam to continue on to meet the king, but to only say what God wanted him to say.
- Balaam obeyed, and God could see Balaam's heart for Him.
- God sees our heart!

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 Sees Our Heart. 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.
- Have them do motions: God (hand vertical in front of face), sees (cup your eyes), our hearts (make a heart).

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: Can you put your hand on your heart? Can you see your heart? No. But God can. He can see the love and sweetness you have there. Do you do wrong things? Yes! Me, too. And Balaam! God can see those wrong things that we do. And He still loves us! Let's say we are sorry for the wrong things we do.

Let's say: I'm sorry that I do wrong things, God.
God still loves us.

Let's say: I love you too, 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: May you always remember that God loves you and knows you! He sees your heart and you are precious to Him.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

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

PLAY: Left, Right, Lay Down

Adapted from True Way Kids

Supplies: angel puppet

Directions:

- Have the children stand in a line.
- Tell them they must listen carefully to your directions.
- If you say right, they must step right, left they step left, and when they see the angel puppet (you hold it up), they lay down, just like Balaam's donkey did.
- Mix up the directions so the children can practice listening carefully.
- Children this age will not know left from right, so it may be best to have an LIT or other leader lead the line in following your directions.

SAY: Remember how Balaam's donkey kept turning off the path when she saw the angel? Remember how she laid down after the third time?

Let's pretend we're the donkey!

When I say right, move right.

When I say left, move left.

If you see the angel, lie down!

Listen to directions carefully, and remember, it's important to listen carefully to what God says.

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)!"