



God is Our Guide

Exodus 20

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.”**

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 our Guide.

SAY: Do your parents tell you what to do? Yes, of course they do. They are your parents and want to keep you safe by giving you good safe rules. God gave His people rules too. We're going to practice following some funny rules. Are you ready?

PLAY: Follow the Rules!

(adapted from True Way Kids)

Supplies: None

Directions:

- Have kids line up and face you.
- Tell them that God gave rules to His people.
- Tell them to follow the rules that you will tell them.
- Do the action yourself and encourage the kids to do it with you.
- The rule is: spin around in a circle.
- The rule is: hop like a rabbit.
- The rule is: count to five.
- The rule is: sound like a cat.
- The rule is: sit down.
- The rule is: do crazy dance.
- The rule is: clap your hands.

- Continue to create more rules if time allows.
- You are very good at following rules!

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.

- Oh Be Careful Little Eyes
- Our God is So Big!
- God is So Good

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 Exodus 20.

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: *The Ten Commandments*

(Summarized from Exodus 20 and taken from True Way Kids)

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 the story cards with Moses on the first one.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows you.*** Oh, I see you have a picture. ***(Show the kids.)*** That is Moses. He was God's special helper. Let's hear more about Moses. ***Hamilton nods.***

Share the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- Moses was a man who listened to God.
- One day, Moses climbed a mountain.
 - Let's pretend we are climbing a mountain.
- God spoke to Moses on the mountain.
 - Let's say: Hey Moses. "Hey Moses!" ***(Cup your hand up by your mouth as if you are calling someone.)***
- God gave Moses a special message for His people, called the Israelites.
- God wanted to care for His people and keep them safe, so He gave Moses rules for the people.
- God gave Moses stones with the rules written on them.
- The rules were called the Ten Commandments because there were ten rules altogether.
 - Let's count to 10! 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10!
- These rules would teach the people what was right.
 - Give me a thumbs up.
- The rules would also teach the people what was wrong.
 - Give me a thumbs down.
- We follow God's rules because He has a plan and His plan is good!
- 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: What are some rules God has for us? Let the kids answer.

God says we should love each other.

God says we shouldn't take things that don't belong to us.

God says we should obey our parents.

God says we should be kind.

Let's ask God to help us obey His rules.

Pray: God, help us to obey your rules. Amen!

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 has a plan! His plan includes obeying Him. You can always ask Him to help you.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

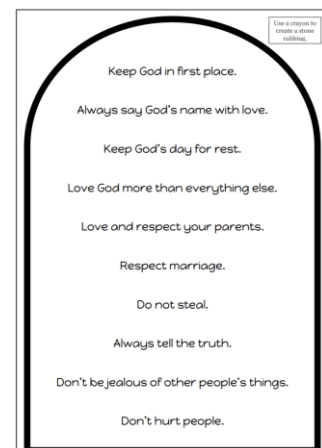
If you have extra time at the end of your lesson, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: Follow the Rules!

Supplies: coloring page and crayons for each kid.

Directions:

- Have kids sit at the table.
- Hand out the coloring page and a few crayons to each kid.
- Read the coloring page.



SAY: We just heard about how God gave rules to His people.

Let's color a picture to remember about following the rules.

What color are you using?

What rules do your parents have for you?

Do you have to sit down while you're eating? That's a rule some families have.

Do you say please before asking for something? That's a rule some families have.

Do you stay out of the street? That's a rule some families have.

Let's read the rules God gave His people.

Rules can keep us safe.

God has a plan. He gives good rules. His rules can keep us safe.

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)!"