



God is Faithful

Genesis 12:1-5, 17:1,7

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 Faithful.

SAY: How high can you count? *(wait for response)* Today, we will hear a story about how God told a man that he would have as many children as there were stars in the sky! That's a lot of stars and a lot of children!

PLAY: Count the Stars

Supplies: clear cup with tiny star sequins

Directions:

- Show children the cup of stars.
- Let them hold it and guess what is inside.
- Ask them to try to count how many stars are inside.
- Try to count the stars yourself and have some other leaders/LITs try.
- This is really hard! But God told a man named Abraham that he was going to give him as many children as the stars in the sky. There are more stars in the sky than there are in this cup! That's a big promise God made!

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 – SAY: 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.

- Mindy Songs_Father Abraham
- He is God
- God’s Promises

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 Genesis 12:1-5 and 17:1,7.

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!

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Abram and Sarai

(Summarized from Genesis 12:1-5, 17:1,7; adapted from Cheri Gamble)

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 do the hand motions, ask the kids questions, etc.).

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding Abram and Sarai puppets.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** Did you bring some friends today, Hamilton? What are their names? ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** Abram and Sarai? ***Hamilton whispers again.*** They're going to tell us about themselves? Let's listen! Are you ready Hamilton? ***Hamilton nods.***

Share the story of Abram and Sarai. Set Hamilton down and put each puppet in one of your hands. Talk as Abram, Sarai, or yourself as directed below:

SAY:

Abram: Hello, my name is Abram. I lived a long, long, long time ago. I want to tell you about a time that God made me a promise!

Sarai: My name is Sarai. I was married to Abram a long, long, long time ago.

Abram: One day, God talked to me and told me that he was going to give me lots and lots of children! He told me I was going to have more children than the stars in the sky!

Teacher: Remember when we tried to count the stars in the cup? There are more stars in the sky than in that cup! And God told Abram he was going to have more children than the stars in the sky! That's a LOT of children!

Abram: It was a BIG promise! It didn't seem like God could do it! When God told me this, I was very old and still didn't have any children.

Teacher: Do you think God will keep his promise to Abram and give him as many children as there are stars in the sky? ***(wait for responses)***

Abram: Guess what? God kept His promise! Sarah had a baby! She was over 90 years old and I was almost 100 when the baby was born!

Sarai: Yayyy! I had a baby! I thought it was so funny that I named the baby a name that means laughter. His name was Isaac! Can you laugh with me?

Encourage the children to laugh with you and Sarai.

Abram: God always keeps his promises! He made me a promise and I had to wait a long time for it to happen. I was almost 100 years old! But Isaac grew up and had kids and his kids had kids and I had as many children as the stars in the sky!

Teacher: Yes, God was faithful! He kept his promise to you, Abram! Let's say bye to Abram and Sarai now!

Encourage the class to wave goodbye and put the puppets out of sight.

God kept his promise to Abram! He gave him as many children as the stars in the sky. God keeps his promises to you, too! God is faithful!

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 Faithful**. 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: Do you know what God promises you? **(wait for responses)**
 God promises to love you forever **(make a heart with your hands)**.
 He promise to take care of you **(hug yourself)**.
 He promises he won't leave you.
 He promises to listen to you **(put your hand by your ear)**.
Repeat and have the kids join in the motions.

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 remember that God is faithful! He keeps his promises to you. He always takes care of you and loves you.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

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

PLAY: The Waiting Game

Supplies: Music on the TV

Directions: This is just like freeze dance.

- Play some music and have the kids dance and jump around while the music is playing.
- When the music stops, they have to stand perfectly still exactly how they are until the music starts again.

SAY: Abram had to wait a long time for God to keep his promise!

Abram was almost 100 years old when he had a baby!

But God kept his promise to Abram and gave him as many children as the stars in the sky.

Can you wait like Abram did?

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)!"