



God is OUR Creator

Genesis 1, 2

God Statement: God has a Plan

“The Lord himself will go ahead of you. He will be with 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 how God is our Creator.

SAY: Who made the world? *Let kids respond.* Yes, GOD! Who made the trees? Yes, GOD! Who made the animals? Yes, GOD! Who made YOU? Yes, GOD! God is our Creator!

PLAY: Treasure Hunt

Supplies: push light, globe, flowers, star, fish, animal, pillow

Directions: Hide these items around the room. Let kids find them. Bring them to you to put in the bag or basket. Repeat if desired.

SAY: Hmm, what are all these things? These are to remind us that God made everything! We'll talk more about them in our story time.

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.

- Only God Can Do
- He's got the Whole World in His Hands

READ A 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 1 and 2.

BIG IDEA: God made everything!

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! 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: God is our Creator

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, I see you have your Bible. I know a really great story from the Bible! It's the very first story in the Bible. Want to hear it? **Hamilton nods.** Kids, do you want to hear the very first story in the Bible, too? Hamilton, time for you to go to your house. You may listen from there. Bye, Hamilton.

Read the Bible Lesson below.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
There was nothing.

God said, "Let there be light." And there, was light.
Remember the light we found? (***Pull out the push light and push it to show the light.***)
God said, "That's good!" Let's all put our thumbs up.
That was Day 1. Let's count to 1. 1!

Then God made the earth and sky.
What did we find in our treasure hunt? Right, a globe. This is what the earth looks like. We live on the earth. It is much, much bigger than this globe.
God said, "That's good!" Let's all put our thumbs up.
That was Day 2. Let's count to 2. 1, 2!

God made all the plants and flowers and trees.
See this flower? God made the flowers.
God said, "That's good!" Let's all put our thumbs up.
That was Day 3. Let's count to 3. 1, 2, 3!

God made the sun! And the moon! And the stars!
See this star? God made stars!
God said, "That's good!" Let's all put our thumbs up.
That was Day 4. Let's count to 4. 1, 2, 3, 4!

God made the fish and He made birds!
Can you move your hands like a fish? Now, let's all stand up and flap our wings like a bird.
God said, "That's good!" Let's all put our thumbs up.
That was Day 5. Let's count to 5. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5!

God made all of the different kinds of animals. Who can tell me an animal? **(Let the kids answer and say the sound that animal makes.)**
Right! Do you know what else God made that day?
People!!! He made a man and a woman. He made them in His image.
God said, "That's good!" Let's all put our thumbs up.
That was Day 6. Let's count to 6. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6!

Wow! God made so many things.
Is there anything left in our bag/basket?
Oh, here is a pillow. Hmm. When do we use a pillow?
That's right. For resting.

God finished all the work He had been doing. So, He rested.
Let's make a pillow with our hands. We can rest our heads.
That was Day 7. Let's count to 7. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7!

God made everything. And, He said, "That's good!" Thumbs up!

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

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.

We are learning that God has a Plan! (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

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 made the whole world. He made us too. What is your favorite thing that God made? (Let kids answer.) Let's tell God thank you for making all the things.

We can clap for Him.
We can shout, "Thank you, God!"
Clap and shout.

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 made everything in the world. And, God made YOU! And He said, "It is good!" (*Give a thumbs up.*)

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Do What I Do

Supplies: none

Directions: Do actions with the kids. Jump, march, clap, then "rest." (everyone lies down.) Repeat as many times as interest holds.

SAY: God made everything and then He rested. Let's do that too.

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)!"