



God is our Leader

Genesis 11:1-9

God Statement: God Has a Plan

KEY VERSE:

“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 about how God is our Leader. We follow what He tells us to do.

SAY: We like to make towers with our blocks. What is the tallest tower you have ever made? Did you make one that could reach the sky? Let's see how high we can make a tower.

MAKE: A block tower

Supplies: : any type of blocks that are available

Directions:

- Out of blocks/legos in our room; are we able to build a tower high enough to reach heaven?
- Work together to build a high tower.
- Encourage kids to help you knock the tower down
- Ask kids to grab a piece and put it somewhere else in the room.
- Wow, our tower went all around the room!
- Now, go pick up your pieces and let's put them back in this bucket.

- We're going to hear about people building a tower in our Bible story later.

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.

- My God is So Big
- He is God
- He's God 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 11.

BIG IDEA: The Bible people didn't listen to God. They wanted to build a huge tower but God had other plans.

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 Leader

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.

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.).

Share about The Tower of Babel:

- Do you remember Noah and all the animals he took on a big boat? **(show picture of Noah and the ark)**
- Hamilton, what kind of animals do you think went with Noah on the boat? ***Have Hamilton "whisper" some animals in your ear.*** Yes, an elephant; yes, a sheep; yes, a puppy; yes, a kitten! What about a hedgehog?? ***Hamilton nods enthusiastically.***
- Noah and his family got on the boat because God saved them from a big flood of water.
- After the flood, God told Noah to have children and to spread out and live all over the world.
- The people didn't listen to God and stayed in one place.
- The people decided to build a BIG tower that reached up to the sky because they wanted to be seen by all the people in the world.
 - Can you stretch up to the sky and pretend to be a BIG tower?
- God wasn't happy with the people because they did not spread out around the world. He didn't want them to build a tower for themselves.
- God made it so the people couldn't understand what everyone was saying.
- The people were confused.
 - Show me a confused face.
- The people had to spread out and obey what God had asked them to do the first time.

- Let's spread out around the room! This is what the people had to do. Now come back and sit down.
- God led the people to do what He asked them to do.
- God is our leader!

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 told the people to spread all over the world. What are some things that tells us to do? *Let kids answer.* God tells us to be kind. God tells us to love others, God tells us to pray for each other.

Let's listen to God. Does He have anything to tell you? You probably won't hear God talk to you with a big voice. You might hear God in your head or your heart. Listen quietly and see if He tells you anything.

Sit quietly for 30 seconds or so.

ASK: Did you hear anything from God? *Let kids answer.* Can you do those things? If you didn't hear from God, that's ok. We must learn to listen to Him. Maybe you'll hear Him next time.

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.

May you always remember that God leads you. He loves you and you are important to Him and He wants to help you. May you always let God be your leader and trust His plan.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Build a Tower Part 2

Supplies: blocks of any kind, sticky notes, sad face stickers

Directions: What Separates Us from God?

- Build a tower (just like in the Explore activity earlier)
- Encourage each kid to stick a sad face sticker to their sticky note
- Explain that we are sad when we don't do the right thing
- Encourage kids to put their sticky note on the tower to represent doing things our own way like the people did with the tower of Babel
- Now encourage the kids to knock the tower down
- **SAY:** Now we can choose to do the right thing: Let's throw away these sad sticky notes. Now let's work together to pick up all the blocks.
- Let's remember to do what God wants us to do.
- Put the blocks away.

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)!"