



God is in Control

Job 1-3

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: God is in Control

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is in Control.

SAY: We are going to hear about a man in Bible times named Job. He had lots of animals. He had a big house and a big field. But then something hard happened. Even when hard things happen, God is in Control. Let's think about those animals. I wonder what kind of animals Job had.

Supplies: none

Directions: Play a game with the kids. Make a circle by having all the kids holding hands, then sit down. Choose one kid or LIT to be an animal. You can whisper an animal in their ear. Try cat, dog, pig, sheep, donkey, monkey. The kid goes in the middle and acts out the animal with sounds. The rest of the kids try to guess what the animal is. Let each kid have a turn who wants to.

SAY: Job had lots of things. One day they all went away. Job still trusted God. And God took care of Job. Even when hard things happen. God is in Control.

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 > Babies OR 2s/3s folder**.

- God is So Good
- 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 Job 1-3.

BIG IDEA: Job had a lot of bad things happen to him. He still worshipped God and trusted Him through it all.

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: The Story of Job

(Summarized from Bible passage the Book of Job based on Truwaykids.com)

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 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 small animal.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** What a cute _____ (whatever the animal is) Our friend, Job, in the Bible, had a whole bunch of those animals. Let's listen to this true Bible story. ***Hamilton nods.***

Share the story of Job (pronounce Job with a long O): Hold up the picture of Job included in your lesson folder.

SAY:

- Here is a picture of a man named Job. See all his land and animals? What animals do you see? Good eyes.
- Job was a very wealthy man. He had lots of money!
- He had lots of animals. What kind of animals do you think Job had? (*Allow the kids to answer. Make the sounds the animals make.*) Cows? Sheep? Donkeys? Kittens? Puppies?
- He also had a big family. He loved his family very much. You love your family very much too. Let's give ourselves a big hug!
- Most of all, Job loved God with all his heart. Do you love God? Of course! Let's say "We love you, God!" "We love you, God!"

- Satan was watching Job. Let's make our hands into binoculars for our eyes. (*Hold up your hands to your eyes like binoculars.*) Can you look through them?
 - Satan said Job only loved God because God gave him lots of things.
 - God knew this was not true. Shake your head "no."
 - God allowed Job to lose everything.
 - Job was very sad. Can you make a sad face? He ripped his clothes and shaved his hair. Job was sad, but He still loved God.
 - Next, God allowed Job to get very sick. His skin was covered with boils. They hurt and itched.
 - Can you scratch your arm? Ooh, that was itchy.
 - Even when things were very bad for Job, he praised God.
 - How can we praise God? We can pray, we can sing, we can say, "Yay, God!" Let's say that now. "Yay, God!"
- Job learned that everything belongs to God.
God gave everything back to Job and more.
- God is in control!

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.

SAY: This month our God statement is God is in Control. 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: In our Bible story today, we learned that Job loved God with all his heart. What are some ways we can show God that we love Him? (*Let kids answer.*)

We can sing songs to praise Him.

We can obey our parents.

We can say, "We love you, God!"

We can clap for Him. Let's do that now. Let's clap AND say we love you God. 1, 2, 3 GO!

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 when hard things happen in your life, God still loves you.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(Until parents pickup)

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

COLOR: A Coloring Page of Job

Supplies: Color page of Job, crayons

Directions: Sit with the kids at the table.
Give them the color page of Job and a few crayons.

SAY: Let's color this picture. Job loved God.
Do you love God?
Job had a lot of animals.
You can draw some animals on this page too.
God took care of Job.
God is in Control.

**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)!"