



## The Parables

### God Statement: Jesus is Our Teacher!

#### KEY VERSE:

**"With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)**

## CHECK-IN

*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 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 S's 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**.

## READ THE BIBLE STORY

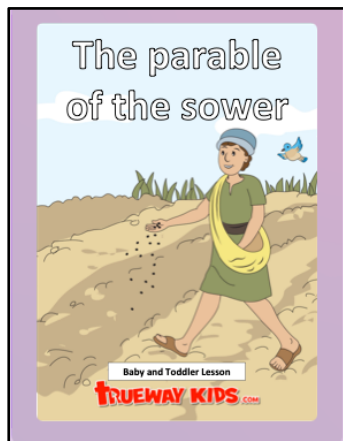
*Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!*

This month, read a short story from ***The Fruit of the Spirit*** book provided.

Try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as your 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!

**July 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>** – this weekend, simply introduce the kids to the word “Parable” and that Jesus told lots of stories in the Bible to

**July 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>** read this parable about the Sower and the Seed



### The Good Samaritan



**July 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>** read this parable about the Good Samaritan

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>** read this parable about the Lost Sheep



**July 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>** read this parable about the Prodigal Son

## SING SONGS

*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 folder.

This month, focus on singing these songs:

- Thank You God
- Jesus Loves Me
- God is so big
- This Little Light of Mine

## LEAD AN ACTIVITY

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children by doing a variety of learning activities!*

### Lesson 1 (July 2 & 3) – PARABLES COLORING PAGE

*Help the children work on their fine motor skills by coloring this Parables coloring page.*

#### **Craft Instructions:**

- Help the child color their picture
- Give them 1 or 2 options of crayons and assist them with coloring, as needed
- Write the name of the child along with the date and the location (Woodmen Kids) on the child's craft so the parent(s) can keep it as a keepsake

#### **While the children are doing the craft:**

- Summarize what Parables are. **Say:**
  - Jesus told lots of stories while he was here on earth.
    - These kinds of stories are called parables.
    - These stories come from God's Word.
    - He told these stories to teach us!
    - Can you point up to the sky (towards God) and say God's Word?
      - Yes! God's Word!
    - This month, we are going to read different parables from God!



#### **Pray with the kids – teach them how to fold their hands and close their eyes while you pray**

- Pray Matthew 19:26 over the kids – “God, thank you for the Bible and for teaching us. Help me to remember that with you, all things are possible. Thank you for all that you do for me each day. I love you so much. Amen”

### Lesson 2 (July 9 & 10) – FIND THE SEED

*Help the children practice their colors, growing their imagination, and working on their gross motor skills as they participate in this activity of retelling the Parable of the Sower.*

#### **Activity Instructions:**

- Before starting, encourage the kiddos to clean up or find a clear area in your room for the activity.
- Have the kids sit in a circle (do the best you can!)
- **Say:** Today, we are learning about a story with seeds!
  - In our story there are birds that eat the seeds.
  - I am going to hide these colorful seeds arounds the room.
  - Now, you have to pretend to be a bird and flap your wings to find them.
  - We are going to count to 5 while we wait for our teacher to hide the seeds.



- Ready? Let's count (count to 5, using your hand while you count)
- We are going to flap our hands like wings (demonstrate how to flap your hands like wings and join in on the fun with the kiddos!)
- Ok! Now it's time for you little birdies to find the seeds!
  - Play this as many times as you want!
- Wow! Look at all of those seeds!
  - Let's point to the seeds and say their colors (kids may not be able to say the colors, that is ok! We are helping them start to recognize their colors).

***After the children do the activity:***

- That was so much fun pretending to be little birds!
  - Show me how to flap your wings like a bird (flap your arms with the kids).
- This reminds me of a story that Jesus taught us!
- There was a farmer who had a bunch of seeds.
  - Can you hold out your arms like you are carrying a bucket?
- One day the farmer scattered the seeds.
  - Ok now let's pretend to throw the seeds.
- When the farmer threw the seeds, the seeds fell in 4 different places.
  - Can you hold up the number 4 (assist kids the best you can with doing this)
- Some of the seeds landed on the ground, some on rocks, some on the weeds.
  - But none of those seeds grew.
- The last of the seeds landed on the ground with good soil.
  - Can you show me a thumbs up for good?
- These seeds grew nice and big.
  - Can you stand up and reach all the way to the sky? So big!
- Jesus said that the seed is God's Word – the Bible.
- We want to have good soil in our hearts so God's Word can grow in us!

***Pray with the kids – teach them how to fold their hands and close their eyes while you pray***

- Pray Matthew 19:26 over the kids – “God, thank you for the Bible and for teaching us. Help me to remember that with you, all things are possible. Thank you for all that you do for me each day. I love you so much. Amen”

**Lesson 3 (July 16 & 17) – GOOD SAMARITAN COLORING PAGE**

*Work one on one with each child to help them color this “love your neighbor” coloring page as a reminder of today's lesson.*

***Craft Instructions:***

- Help the child color their picture
- Give them 1 or 2 options of crayons and assist them with coloring, as needed
- Write the name of the child along with the date and the location (Woodmen Kids) on the child's craft so the parent(s) can keep it as a keepsake



***While the children are doing the craft:***

- Summarize the Parable of the Good Samaritan. **Say:**
  - Jesus teaches us in the Bible to love others.
    - Can you give yourself a great big hug. Let's all do it together. Good job! That's the sign for love!
  - How can we show love?
    - Being a good listener, sharing, being kind, obeying.
    - You know who has the biggest love of all? Even more than our moms and dads and Grandmas and Grandpas? God! He loves us so much!
  - God tells us to love others even when they make us mad or sad.
    - We're going to give ourselves a great big hug again to remember how we should love others.
  - God loves us so much and wants us to love others!

***Pray with the kids – teach them how to fold their hands and close their eyes while you pray***

- Pray Matthew 19:26 over the kids – “God, thank you for the Bible and for teaching us. Help me to remember that with you, all things are possible. Thank you for all that you do for me each day. I love you so much. Amen”

**Lesson 4 (July 23 & 24) – SHEEP HEADBAND**

*Help the children work on their fine motor skills by coloring this sheep headband as a reminder of today's Bible story.*

***Craft Instructions:***

- Help the child color their headband
- Give them 1 or 2 options of crayons and assist them with coloring, as needed
- Write the child's name on the inside of their craft
- Fasten the headband with the glue sticks that have been provided. You may have to use scissors to adjust the headband to the proper size for each child

***While the children are doing the craft:***

- Summarize the Parable of the Lost Sheep. **Say:**
  - Jesus tells a story in the Bible about a sheep.
    - Can you all baa like a sheep, let's baa together on the count of 3! Ready 1..2..3...
  - There was a man who had 100 sheep.
  - And one day he noticed one was missing.
  - The man was very sad
    - Can you show me a sad face?
  - So, he decided to leave his sheep to search for the lost sheep
    - Let's all pretend we are searching. Put your hand on your head and look side to side like you are searching (demonstrate for the kiddos).



- The man found the lost sheep and was so happy.
  - Can you show me your happy face?
- The man carried the sheep home and told everyone the good news.
  - Can you show me a thumbs up for good news?
- Just like the man was happy that he found the lost sheep Jesus is happy when follow Him!

***Pray with the kids – teach them how to fold their hands and close their eyes while you pray***

- Pray Matthew 19:26 over the kids – “God, thank you for the Bible and for teaching us. Help me to remember that with you, all things are possible. Thank you for all that you do for me each day. I love you so much. Amen”

**Lesson 5 (July 30 & 31) – FIND THE STUFFED ANIMAL**

*Help the children work on their gross motor skills and their sensory development as they participate in this activity of finding the stuffed animal.*

**Activity Instructions:**

- Before starting the activity, encourage the kiddos to clean up or find a clear area in your room for the activity
- Have the kids sit in a circle (do the best you can!)
- **Say:** Today, we are learning about a story where a father and son get to see each other again!
- We are going to play a fun game that will help us with today’s story!
- I am going to hide this toy and **(fill in child’s name)** will go find it! And when you find it, I want you to give the toy a great big hug.
- We are going to count to 5 while we wait for our teacher to hide the toy
  - Ready? Let’s count (count to 5, using your hand while you count)
  - Ok, **(fill in child’s name)** you can go find the toy now
  - Good job! You found it! Now give it a great big hug! (Act excited when child finds the toy).
  - Repeat taking turns to find the toy until everyone has had a turn.



***After the children do the activity:***

- Summarize the Parable of the Prodigal Son. **Say:**
  - Jesus told a story about a father and his son.
    - Let’s make the sign for dad!
      - Place your thumb on your forehead with your palm sticking out and your fingers slightly spread apart.
      - This is the sign for dad!
  - In this story, the dad gives his son some money but he spent it all.
  - This made the dad very sad. Can you show me your sad faces?

- The son was hungry and had no more money left so he decided to come home. Can you hold your tummy like you are hungry?
- When the son came back home, the dad was so happy. Can you show me your happy face?
- The dad gave him a big hug! Can you give yourself a big hug?
- The dad threw his son a big party to celebrate that he was home.
- Jesus is very, very happy when we follow him!

***Pray with the kids – teach them how to fold their hands and close their eyes while you pray***

- Pray Matthew 19:26 over the kids – “God, thank you for the Bible and for teaching us. Help me to remember that with you, all things are possible. Thank you for all that you do for me each day. I love you so much. Amen”

## 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. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

**Suggestions of activities for Babies & Younger 1 Year Old's:**

- Play Peek-A-Boo
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball
- Roll a large car back and forth
- Take turns putting toys in a bin or bucket

**Suggestions of activities for Older 1 Year Old's:**

- 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.)

## 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)!”