



God Sees Our Heart

Matthew 6:5-15

God Statement: Jesus is Awesome

**“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.
Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”**

-John 3:16-17, 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 Sees our Heart.

SAY: In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God Sees our Heart. Can you hear your heart? Can you feel it? Let's jump up and down. Now, put your hand on your heart. Can you feel it? God sees inside your heart to see if you're happy or sad or mean or kind. What is in your heart?

DO: Look for Hearts

Supplies: small wooden hearts

Directions:

- Hide the hearts around the room.
- Show the kids one of the hearts.
- Tell them to each find a heart and then sit down in a circle.

SAY: Let's put your hand on your heart again. Can you feel it? God sees inside your heart to see if you're happy or sad or mean or kind. What is in your heart? **Let them share.**

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.

- Looking at My Heart
- My Hope is in the Lord

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 Matthew 6:1-24.

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: God Sees Our Heart

(Summarized from Matthew 6:1-24)

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 a wooden heart with a message written on it.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** Oh, you found one of the hearts in our classroom, too, Hamilton! Oh, but this one says something! It says, "God Sees My Heart." God is watching over us and knows our hearts! He knows if we feel sad or happy or if we've done something good or sinful. Let's listen to this true Bible story. ***Hamilton nods.***

Share the story from Matthew 6:1-24 using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- One day, Jesus climbed up a mountain.
 - Let's pretend to climb a mountain with Jesus!
- A lot of people met him on the mountain because they wanted to listen to Him teach.
 - Let's get ready to listen to what Jesus had to say, just like the people did.
- Jesus asked the people to do many things.
- One thing he asked them to do was share with people who needed things.
 - What are some things people need? Yes, food, water, a place to live, love.
- Jesus wants us to help other people have food, water, a place to live, and love.
- We should try to give some of those things to people who need them.
- Back on the mountain, Jesus also asked the people to pray.
- He taught them a special prayer called the Lord's Prayer.
- Jesus also wanted the people to be careful with what they had.
- Jesus wanted the people to share some of things they had and not to be greedy.
 - Let's pretend we have some money. Let's make a greedy face and hold all of the money close to us. We want to keep all the money for ourselves!
- But that's not what Jesus asks us to do!
- Jesus wants us to share our money with others.
 - Let's give some of our pretend money to our friends around us. We can still keep some for ourselves, we just don't want to be greedy.
- Wow, Jesus taught the people lots of things on that mountain!
- Jesus knows when we do what he asks of us.
- He sees our hearts and knows if we listen to Him or not.

- We should do our best to listen to Him and to pray to Him.
- And we can always ask Him for help doing those things!
- God Sees Our Hearts!

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: Today our God statement is God Sees Our Hearts. 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.
- God (hand vertical in front of face) sees (hands in circles around eyes) our hearts (make a heart or hug yourself).

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 Jesus asks us to share with others and to pray to Him.
Let's pray to Him right now!
Dear, God...
Thank you for teaching me...
And thank you for loving me...
We love you...
Amen.

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 sees your heart. He cares for you and loves to help and teach you.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(15 minutes)

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

COLOR: Decorate a heart to share

Supplies: small heart, markers

Directions:

- Sit with the kids at the table.
- Give them each a small heart to decorate.
- Don't forget to write their name on the back.

SAY: We can color these little hearts to remind us that God sees our hearts.

Jesus knows when we do what he asks of us.

He sees our hearts and knows if we listen to Him or not.

We should do our best to listen to Him and to pray to Him.

And we can always ask Him for help doing those things!

Now that you have decorated your little heart, can you think of someone who would like it?

You can give this away to show someone that you love them, that you are thinking of them, and to show God's love to them.

Who will you give your heart to? **Let them share.**

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)!"