



Jesus is the Light of the World

KEY VERSE:

Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life."

(John 8:12, 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 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: To build relationships & prioritize 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.**

USE THE POSTER

Locate the poster hanging in your classroom. As you interact and play with children, change diapers, or sooth a fussy child, refer to the poster. Sing or play the worship songs. Use the explore activities to relate to this month's God statement and play with the children. Read the prayer, verse, and/or blessing over the child you are holding. Follow the instructions below to help a child create a keepsake each month.

Remember, babies love repetition!

WORSHIP

Sing some of the songs on the poster yourself or use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing these simple songs with your class each week. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > Babies folder**.

This month, focus on singing these songs:

Jesus is the Light of the World

Jesus is the Light of the World x2
Let His light shine before all
Jesus is the Light of the World

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

You Are My Sunshine

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.
You make me happy when skies are gray.
You'll never know dear, how much I love you.
Please don't take my sunshine away.

He is my sunshine, my only sunshine.
He makes me happy when skies are gray.
He saves and keeps me. He watches o'er me.
He will never go away.

More on Plex:

Jump into the Light, Jana Alayra

EXPLORE

Use the poster to play one or all of the following activities each week to share the God statement of the month with the children.

FLASHLIGHT PLAY

Supplies: flashlight

Directions:

- Turn on the flashlight.
- Turn off the flashlight.
- Repeat.

SAY: Light, this is light. On, off. Jesus is the light. He loves us.

PEEK-A-BOO

Supplies: a small washcloth or burp rag from the classroom

Directions:

- Hold the cloth in front of the baby and ask where they went.
- Hold the cloth in front of your face and ask where you went.
- If baby is comfortable, put cloth on their head. Say, where is Baby?
- Talk to the baby about how it is a little dark when the cloth is on our head. Jesus is always with us. He is the light.

SAY: Where's (baby's name)? There he is! Where's (your name)? It can be dark sometimes but Jesus is always with us. He is the light.

FOLLOW THE LIGHT

Supplies: flashlight

Directions:

- Light the flashlight.
- Make the light move around on the floor.
- Encourage the kids to step on the light.
- Bounce the light around so they can run after it.

SAY: Can you step on the light? Can you follow the light. Look it's over there. Follow it. Jesus is our light. We follow Him. He is the light of the world.

PRAYER, VERSE, AND BLESSING

Use the poster to read the prayer, verse, and/or blessing over the children or pray your own prayer/blessing each week. It's okay if the children act like they're not listening or understanding.

Take home some of the children's prayer tags to remind yourself to pray for them this week.

PRAYER

SAY: I pray that the Lord is your strong tower and your fortress as you grow up in this world. I pray His truth is the rock you stand upon. May you bring the Lord honor and glory. Amen.

VERSE

SAY: Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life."
(John 8:12, NIRV)

BLESSING

SAY: May you always remember that Jesus is the Light of the World. He protects you from this world and teaches you the truth. May you trust in His truth.

MONTHLY KEEPSAKE

Use the supplies, until they run out, to help the babies make a keepsake each week. It's okay if the same baby makes it twice or even more; parents can decide if they will keep it or not. It's okay if not all the babies make the keepsake each week.

Once the supplies run out, children may color the coloring page instead.

MAKE: Mother's Day Magnet

Supplies: yellow and orange paint, cardstock circle, 1 magnet per child, paintbrush



Directions:

- **While you create, sing the songs or say the prayer/verse/blessing on the poster.**
- Paint ONE of the child's hands with paint.
- Position the child's hand on the paper between the M's and press it down.
- Wash the child's hand.
- Write the child's name, age, and the date on the back of the keepsake.
- Peel off the back of the magnet and stick it in the middle of the circle (on the back).

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)!"