



Come to Me, and I Will Give You Rest – Jesus is Rest

Matthew 11:25-30

God Statement: Jesus is Awesome

KEY VERSE: "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

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 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: Jesus is Rest!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is Rest!

SAY: Have you ever been super tired before? **Let kids respond.** Sometimes when we have a lot going on and we have to do a lot of things or work really hard, we become very tired. Has this ever happened to you? **Let a few kids respond.** What do we do when we get tired? **Let a few kids respond.** That's right! We rest! What does it mean to rest? Rest means to find peace, relax, find strength, and recover.

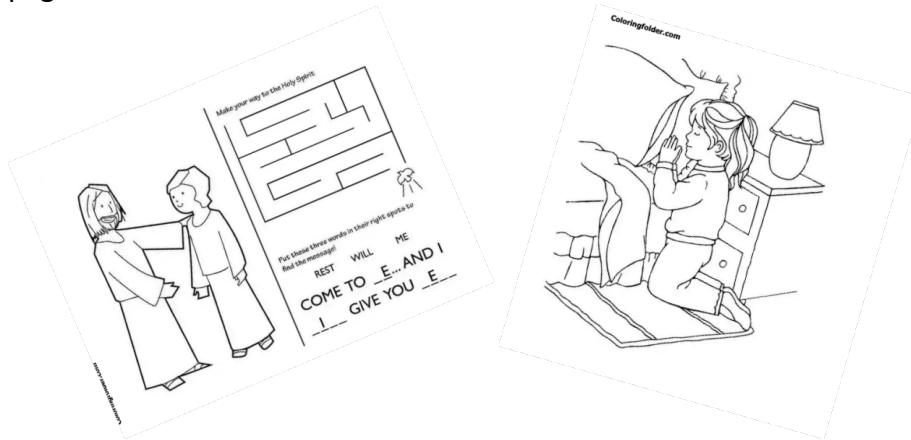
Do you know who provides and brings us rest? **Let kids respond – Jesus/God!** That's right! Jesus! Jesus brings rest. He IS rest. God calls us to seek Him always and this means we can seek Him even when we are tired! When we feel weak and we feel tired, we can find rest in Jesus. He is REST!

MAKE: Rest Activity Page

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Supplies: Rest Activity Page

Directions: Pass out one page per child and allow them to color and work on the activity page.



SAY: Sometimes when we rest, we pause. Resting is nice! It brings us strength. Jesus is Rest. When our souls feel weary or tired, God brings rest. Let's color our pages and talk about ways we can rest and talk with Jesus.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Super Wonderful
- King of My Heart

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

****Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.****

***"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)***

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the "What's It" is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to "spy" on the What's It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What's It in the host's ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What's It: A Pillow

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What's It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Accept around three questions and then three guesses. You can allow the kids to whisper their guess to their neighbor to allow for more sharing before you reveal the item. Retrieve the What's It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

SAY: What do you guys see? It's a pillow! What is a pillow usually used for? **Let kids respond.** That's right, we usually use a pillow for our heads when we are sleeping or taking a rest. When you see a pillow what do you usually think of? **Let kids respond.** I usually think of rest when I see a pillow. Seeing a pillow in our Wardrobe today makes me think we're going to talk about rest. What does that have to do with Jesus? Let's dive into God's word to discover more about Jesus and rest!

***** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.*****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: *Come to Me, and I Will Give You Rest – Jesus is Rest*

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

*****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.*****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

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.

DO: Resting in God

Supplies: Wired Worship Response Board, Scripture Verses, Soft Worship Music from Spotify

Set Up Before Worship Response: Hang Scripture Verses on Wired Worship Response Board.

SAY: So many times in the Bible we hear “rest in the Lord” or “God is rest”. It can be confusing to know what that means or how to do that. Resting in the Lord means to be still or to be at peace. So, it’s not talking about physical rest but more about spiritual rest.

Learning to rest in the Lord is a practice. It’s not always easy to do. But it’s something that God wants us to do. He wants us to spend time with Him resting in His word and His comfort. So many times, our minds can wonder and get overwhelmed. So, it’s good to come back to Him and rest in His truth.

DIRECTIONS: Take a moment to be with Jesus. Quietly go up to the wire board and take a Bible scripture card. Then go to a spot in the room where you can be quiet. Spend a minute reading the verse and then talk to God. Begin to give him all your feeling and find true peace, rest, and stillness in Him.

SAY: Jesus is Rest. He wants us to remember this truth and rest in Him. As you go throughout your week, keep this scripture card close by where you can see it every day. Perhaps each day as you wake up, spend 5 minutes reading the verse and resting in Him.

Close time in prayer.

****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.****

OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.

****After Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Teacher Bags

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

SAY: Hey friends! How many of you are excited to begin summer break? **Pause.** I’m excited too! As the school year ends, can any of you think of something you are grateful for? Maybe your friends? Learning about your favorite subject? How about your teachers?

SAY: Did you know that your teachers work hard by preparing the classroom for the school year and creating instruction plans and lessons to help you learn the best way possible? Teachers have training to know how to best care for and develop you. They manage classrooms, meet with parents, and make sacrifices to ensure you have the necessary tools needed for success as you continue your education.

SAY: Wouldn’t it be great to show teachers how much we appreciate them?

For the next couple of weeks, we will decorate bags to say thank you to our teachers for all they do. These bags will later be filled with goodies for teachers to enjoy. You can begin thinking about something very special you can write on the bags you will decorate such as...

- *You make learning fun!*
- *Thanks for all you do!*
- *What you do matters!*

If you need help with spelling, please let a leader know.

Let’s take a moment to pray for teachers — as they wrap up the school year and look forward to the next school year.

Invite someone to pray.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

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: *May you remember that Jesus is Rest. He cares for you and wants you to find true peace and rest in Him. He loves you very much.*

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10minutes)

Younger Kids 4-K:

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper. If children need a quick break before doing questions, have them do some jumping jacks or exercises before doing small group questions to help them refocus.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (Jesus is Rest)
2. **Read/Recap today's story: Matthew 11:25-30**
 - **Is life or following Jesus always easy?** (No)
 - **How can we turn to God when we feel like we're carrying too much or going through something difficult?** (Pray, Read the Bible)
 - **How else can we get "rest" besides sleeping?** (Make room for quiet time, take time to notice where God has been present in your life)
3. **Are you going through something difficult that you can ask God to help you find rest from? What would it look like this week for you to find rest in Jesus?** Model examples from your own life and ask for examples from kids who are willing to share. Discuss what it may sound like to pray during these times and ways to find rest in a day.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

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

PLAY: Rest in the Lord Ball Toss

Supplies: 1 ball

Directions: Have children get into a circle and sit on the floor. Have one child take the ball and share a way that God can help them rest (praying, listening to God quietly, spending time in the Bible, learning scripture etc.). Then have them roll the ball to another child in the circle. Have that child share one way that they can rest with God and then pass the ball. Continue until all children have had a turn.

SAY: Jesus is rest! Today we got to learn how to rest with God. If we go to God, He can bring us rest. Let's play a game to talk about ways that we can rest in the Lord and grow closer to Him.

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.