



Jesus is God's Son

Matthew 17

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.
God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save
the world through him.”
-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 Jesus is God's Son.

SAY: In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is God's Son. He and God are the same.

DO: Transfiguration!

Supplies: ziploc bag, baby oil, about 1 teaspoon glow-in-the-dark craft paint, a blacklight

Warning: This could be messy so work at a table.

Prepare ahead of time:

- In a ziploc bag, mix about a quarter cup warm water with about 1 teaspoon of glow in the dark paint. Mix until the paint is fully incorporated.
- In the same bag, fill the Ziploc bag with the 1/3 cup of baby oil. Seal the bag tightly.

Directions:

- **SAY:** In today's Bible lesson, something happened that is called "transfiguration." Transfiguration means a complete change of appearance to be more beautiful. We're going to use this bag to help us learn about transfiguration.
- Show kids the bag of oil.

- As Jesus prayed, His face was changed, and His clothes became a dazzling white.
- Open the bag and pour the paint into it. Seal the bag tightly again.
- The disciples saw Jesus talking to Moses and Elijah. They were amazed! Jesus was TRANSFIGURED.
- This paint is transfigured. Can you imagine seeing Jesus all filled with bright light?! Jesus is God's Son!
- **Turn off the lights and turn on the blacklight to show the paint in the bag.**
- What an experience! Do you know what caused the face of Jesus to be changed and His clothes to become dazzling white?
- It was because they were in the presence of God! Jesus is God's son!

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.

- This Little Light of Mine
- Jesus is the Light of the World

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 17.

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 Transfiguration

(Summarized from Matthew 17)

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 glow stick (please do not let the children hold this).

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** A glow stick! ***(break it so it glows)*** Look at it glow! Today, we're going to hear a story about Jesus. He's God's Son and He's so special, it looks like he's glowing in our story today! Let's listen to this true Bible story. ***Hamilton nods.***

Share the story of the transfiguration using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- Jesus and three of His friends climbed a mountain one day.
 - Jesus climbed a lot of mountains! Let's pretend to climb with Him!
- Suddenly, Jesus looked like he was glowing and shone like the sun!
- It was so bright!
 - Cover your eyes, it's so bright and special!
- Some of God's helpers from a looooong time ago appeared and began talking to Jesus!
 - What a surprise! Show me your surprised face.
- Then, a voice from a bright cloud said, "This is my Son, and I love him; I am very pleased with Him. Listen to Him."
- That was God speaking!
- Jesus looked like he was glowing because He was in the presence of God.
- Jesus's friends bowed down and worshipped Him because He was God's Son.
- Jesus is God's Son!

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 Jesus is God's Son. 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 Jesus is God's Son and God wants us to listen to His Son.

Jesus glowed brightly because He is God's Son.

Here is a sticker.

Hold it up to the light (**hold the stickers toward the ceiling**).

Let's see what happens when we turn off the lights! (**Dim the lights or turn them off; the stickers should glow. Turn the lights back on**).

This sticker can remind you that Jesus is God's Son.

He glowed even brighter than this sticker because of the presence of God!

Listen to Jesus because He is God's Son.

Let's spend some time listening to Jesus.

Let's quiet our bodies.

Let's quiet our minds and hearts.

Let's listen to Jesus. You probably won't hear Him with a loud voice.

You might hear Jesus in your heart or your brain.

Keep quiet for a few moments.

Ask if they heard anything from Jesus.

Let them share.

If they didn't hear anything, SAY: "That's all right, keep listening for Jesus."

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 Jesus is God's Son. May you listen to Him and trust Him.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

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

ACTIVITY: A Little Glow in the Dark Painting

Supplies: Small piece of dark paper, glow in the dark paint, Q-tips

Directions:

- Write the child's name on their paper.
- Sit with the kids at the table.
- Dip the Q-tip in the glow-in-the-dark paint.
- Show kids how to dab the paint on the dark paper.
- Let them dab the paint on the dark paper.
- Encourage small light dabs this time so you can send it home.

SAY: It's fun to see this kind of paint.

In a bit we'll turn out the lights to see if we can see it glow.

This reminds us of Jesus. He is God's Son.

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)!"