



Jesus is the Way

John 10

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 the Way! Jesus wants us to follow Him. It's like we are sheep, and He is the shepherd.

SAY: In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is the Way. Jesus wants us to follow Him. It's like we are sheep, and He is the shepherd. What does a sheep say? **Let kids respond.** Right. Let's make a picture of sheep.

MAKE: Sheep

Supplies: white paint in small containers (like a plastic cup for ketchup), black half sheets of paper, one white crayon

Directions:

- Write the child's name on the back of the paper with the white crayon.
- Encourage the child to dip their finger in the white paint, just enough to cover their fingerprint.
- They can dab their fingerprint onto the black paper.
- Each dab is a sheep.
- Kids can make as many or as few sheep as they like.

SAY: Sheep follow the shepherd. Let's be like sheep and follow Jesus. We will play a game about that later.

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.

- Jesus Loves the Little Children
- Jesus is our Hope

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 John 10.

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 Good Shepherd

(Summarized from John 10)

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 sheep.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** A sheep! What does a sheep say, everyone? Baaaa. We'll hear Jesus tell a story today about sheep. Let's listen to this true Bible story. ***Hamilton nods.***

Share the story of The Good Shepherd using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- Jesus was teaching some people and He told them this story:
- "There once were some sheep."
 - Let's pretend to be sheep! What does a sheep say?
- Jesus said, "Can sheep climb over a fence?"
 - What do you think? Can sheep climb over a fence? No! That would be too hard for sheep!
- Jesus kept telling the story.
- "No, the sheep can't climb the fence. They go into a pasture using the gate."
- "The shepherd opens the gate for the sheep."
- "The sheep know the shepherd's voice and listen to him."
- "The sheep follow the shepherd because they love him and know him."
- Jesus told this story to the people and they were confused.
 - Can you make a confused face?
- The people didn't understand why Jesus was telling them this story.
- So Jesus told them:
 - "I am the gate. I am the only way anyone can enter the pasture."
 - "I am the good shepherd. I give life to the sheep and help them."
 - "I know my sheep and they know me."
- Jesus had been telling a story about Himself the whole time!
- The people were the sheep.
- We are also the sheep.
- Jesus is the shepherd.
- He protects us and takes care of us.
- Jesus is the only way to be saved from our sins.

- Let's remember and celebrate that Jesus saved us from our sins!
 - **Let's do a happy dance, Hamilton!**
- Jesus is the Way!

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 the Way. 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.
- Motions: Jesus (each middle finger touched to center of each palm) is the way (point).

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 believing Jesus is the only way to live forever with Him!

Believing in Him is the only way to be forgiven for our sins.

You can ask Jesus to forgive you for your sins.

You can believe what Jesus says.

You can trust Jesus.

And then you can live with Jesus forever!

If you want to hear more about this, you can talk to your grown up!

We love Jesus and He is our Savior.

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 the Way. He saved us when He died on the cross and rose to life again. He takes good care of us.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

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

GAME: Follow the Shepherd

Supplies: none

Directions:

- Encourage the class to make sheep sounds and follow the shepherd.
- Kids can take turns being the shepherd.

SAY: Can you all pretend to be sheep?

Let's hear you baa.

You could walk like a sheep, if you want.

Choose a child to be the shepherd.

Will you all follow "child's name"? "child's name", lead your sheep around the field (the classroom).

Encourage lots of baa-ing.

We want to follow Jesus by doing what He wants us to do. What are some things Jesus wants us to do?

That's right: Love others, be kind, sharing.

Would someone else like to be the shepherd?

Repeat and allow other children to take turns being the Shepherd.

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)!"