



## Jesus Saves

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; and John 12:12-19

### God Statement: Jesus Saves

**“He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness. He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven.”**

**Colossians 1:13-14, 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 Saves. What does Jesus save us from?

**SAY:** Jesus Saves. What does Jesus save us from? He saves us from our sins, the things we do wrong. In our story today, we will learn that all the people were so happy that Jesus was in their town that they waved palm branches before Him.

### MAKE: Palm Branch

**Supplies:** white palm branch, green tissue paper and green construction paper pieces, glue sticks

#### Directions:

- Invite the kids to sit at the table.
- Give them the supplies.
- Put some glue on each kids' palm leaf.
- Let them put on the green pieces.
- Don't forget to write their name on their project.

**SAY:** we will hear a true Bible story today about how Jesus saves. The people were so happy that Jesus was in their town. They wanted to make Him king. He saves!

## 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 is our Hope
- Jesus Loves the Little Children

## 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 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; and John 12:12-19.

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: Palm Sunday**

(Summarized from Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; and John 12:12-19)

**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 palm branch.*

**SAY:** Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? *Hamilton shows us. Hamilton waves the palm branch around.* Hey we made those, too! Right kids? We're going to use our palm branches in a little while, but first, let's read about why we have palm branches today. Let's read this true story about Palm Sunday in the Bible! Ready? *Hamilton nods.*

*Share the story Palm Sunday using the story cards in your folder.*

**SAY:**

- Jesus was going to a special city called Jerusalem.
- Jesus rode into the city on a donkey.
- This was special because a loooong time before Jesus was born, the Bible said that our King would ride a donkey into Jerusalem.
- The Bible is always right!
- As Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem, the people waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna!", which means "Praise God!"
  - **Everyone, including Hamilton, get your palm branch ready.** Let's wave our palm branch and shout "Hosanna! Praise God!"
- We can celebrate that Jesus came to save us.
  - **Hamilton, let's celebrate! Everyone do a happy dance!**
- Thank you, Jesus, for coming to save us!
- Jesus Saves!

**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 Saves. 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 (middle finger to palm of each hand) is King (put a crown on your head).

**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 King.

What does a King do? (*wait for responses*)

- He helps people.
- He leads people.
- Jesus will help us.
- He will lead us.

God sent Jesus to earth to be our king.

We love Him, and He loves us.

Let's tell Him that we love Him. We love you, 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 your King. He loves you more than you know!

**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.

**DO: Have a Parade**

**Supplies:** Palm Branches that the kids made

**Directions:** Line up with palm branches Follow the leader, waving the palm branches and shouting, "Jesus Saves!"

**SAY:** Jesus Saves!

He saves us from our sins.

He loves us.

He wants us to be part of His family.

Jesus Saves!

## 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)!"