



God is the One True God

Daniel 6

God Statement: God is With Us

**“You will pass through deep waters. But I will be with you.
You will pass through the rivers. But their waters will not sweep over you.
You will walk through fire. But you will not be burned.
The flames will not harm you.”
Isaiah 43:2**

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 God is our Leader. We follow what He tells us to do.

SAY: See if you can guess what I am. ***Give a big roar and see if the kids can guess you are a lion.*** Yes! I am a lion! We will have some lions in our true Bible story today. Have you ever seen a lion at the zoo? Let's pretend you are lions.

MAKE: Pretend Lions

Supplies: None

Directions:

- Tell the kids to crawl like a lion.
- Next, ask the child to give a loud "roar".
- Explain that you want the child to crawl around and pretend to be a lion, but when you say "sleep," they must lie down and stay still.
- Repeat as long as there is interest.

From www.TruewayKids.com

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.

- My God is so Big!
- God Can Do Anything

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 Daniel 6.

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: Daniel & the Lion's Den

(Summarized from Daniel 6 and True Way Kids)

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 lion figure.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? *Hamilton shows us.* A lion! Does anyone know what a lion says? (*wait for responses*). Yes, let's roar like a lion! Today in our true Bible story, there are some hungry lions! Let's listen. *Hamilton nods.*

Share the story of Daniel & the Lion's Den using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- Daniel was a man who loved God.
- He was a hard worker and he told the truth.
- The king really liked Daniel.
- He gave Daniel a lot of power.
- Some of the other people were jealous of Daniel.
 - Hamilton, do you know what it means to be jealous of someone? *Hamilton nods and whispers in your ear.* That's right! When you're jealous of someone, you want what they have and you're not nice about it.
- The people who were jealous of Daniel weren't nice to him.
- They tricked the king into making a law that said that people could only pray to the king, not to God!
 - Oh, no way! Can you shake your head no? Can you say, "No, way!" We don't pray to anything or anyone but God!
- He's the one true God.
- Daniel knew that he shouldn't pray to the king and only to God.
- So Daniel kept praying to God everyday, but this meant that he broke the king's new law.
- Because he broke the law, Daniel had to be thrown to the hungry lions! Yikes!
 - Can you make a scared face?
- Daniel was in the lion's den all night.
- Remember, the king liked Daniel. The king was worried that the lions would eat Daniel because they were hungry!
 - Do you think the lions will eat Daniel?
- The next morning, the king rushed to the lions' den.
- He shouted, "Daniel, are you there?"
- Daniel shouted back! He said, "Yes! My God sent an angel, and He shut the mouths of the lions, so they couldn't eat me!"

- The king was so happy!
 - **Let's do a happy dance, Hamilton!**
- God had protected Daniel because Daniel had only prayed to God.
- Daniel listened to God.
- God is the One True God!

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 God is the One True God. 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.
- God (hand vertical in front of face) is the one (one finger held up) true (thumbs up) God (hand vertical in front of face).

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 Daniel loved God so much that he prayed everyday.

He did what was right and listened to God because God is the one true God.

How do we pray? **(wait for responses)**

- We can fold our hands and close our eyes to be respectful to God.
- We can get on our knees to pray, if we want to.
- We can talk to God all the time, and He'll listen!

What are some things we can pray for? **(wait for responses)**

- We can pray for our families to stay safe.
- We can pray for people to be sick.
- We can ask to learn more about God!

Let's pray right now. Repeat after me: "Dear God...thank you for listening to us...you are the one true God...we love you...Amen."

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 God is the one true God. He's the only one who can do powerful and amazing things that no one else can.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

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

COLOR: Feed the Hungry Lion

Supplies: box with lion head and open mouth, small blocks (legos, wooden, etc.) from classroom to feed the lion

Directions: Invite the kids, one at a time, to feed the lion by putting the blocks in his mouth.

SAY: That was quite a story about Daniel and the Lions.

Those lions were very hungry. Did you think they would eat Daniel? God is the One True God and He protected Daniel. He shut the mouths of the lions and Daniel was just fine!

From www.truewaykids.com

**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)!"