



Jesus is Crucified

Matthew 26

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 God Saves. Who needs to be saved?

SAY: We do wrong things. Jesus came to save us.

PLAY: Save the Toys

Supplies: Pan or tray, tape, toy animals or people

Directions:

- Gather materials.
- Tape toys to the tray.
- Encourage kids to save the toys.



SAY: Will you help the toys by saving them from being trapped? *(Use words like sin, trapped, rescue, help, save, free).*

Jesus saved us when He went to the cross to take our place. We were trapped by our sin, but He saves us when we believe that He took our place by dying on the cross and raising to life again. He took our sins and what we deserve and saved us by doing so. Jesus 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 > Babies OR 2s/3s folder**.

- Jesus Saves!
- Jesus is Alive!
- Jesus Loves Me

READ A 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 26.

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: Good Friday

(Summarized from Matthew 26 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 cross.

SAY: What do you have there, Hamilton? ***Hamilton shows us.*** Oh, a cross! Today is a special day, Hamilton. ***Hamilton nods.*** It's Good Friday. This is the day we remember that Jesus died on a cross, just like this one. Let's listen to this true Bible story.

Share the story of Good Friday using the story cards in your folder.

- Jesus was praying in a garden, when, suddenly, some soldiers came to take him away!
- Jesus went with them.
- He wasn't angry and didn't fight them.
- Jesus obeyed rules and did everything the right way, but the people were mad at Him.
- They chose to hurt Jesus.
- They hung Him on a cross and He died.
 - That makes me so sad, Hamilton! ***Hamilton nods and wipes his eyes.*** I love Jesus and I don't want Him to die!
- But wait! Something else happened!
- Jesus died and they put Him in a tomb.
- Three days later, on Easter, He came back to life again!
 - Jesus is alive! Yay! Let's celebrate, Hamilton!
- That was God's plan all along!
- Jesus is God's son.
- God sent Jesus to save us from our sins.
 - What is a sin? ***Let kids answer.*** Yes, when we hit or take things from our friends. Those are some sins.
- Jesus took all of our sins on Himself so we could be forgiven forever!
- He died on the cross to take away our sins.
- But Jesus came back alive! He did not stay dead!
- And only Jesus can come back alive because He is God's son.
- Jesus saved us from our sins!
- 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.

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.

Supplies: white paper cross, black marker, heart stickers

SAY: Let's think of some sins that kids do. ***Let kids share.***

Make some suggestions if needed: say things that aren't true, hit, take things that don't belong to you.

Each time someone says a sin, invite the child to make a small mark on the cross. Don't worry if sins are repeated. Be sure there are several marks on the cross.

SAY: Jesus died on the cross for those sins. He loves you and forgives you. He saved us! He didn't stay dead. He is ALIVE and loves you!

Invite each child to put a heart on the cross, covering up the marks.

SAY: Jesus loves each of us so much, He saved us from our sins! Let's give ourselves a hug to remind us that Jesus loves us. Thank 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, always remember to run to Jesus. Tell Him what you do wrong and remember that He loves you and forgives you. Jesus saved you.

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.

COLOR: A Coloring Crown of Thorns

Supplies: Color page Crown of Thorns, crayons



Directions:

- Sit with the kids at the table.
- Give them the color page and a few crayons.

SAY: Let's color this picture. This looks very sharp and ouchy. The bad people made Jesus put this on his head. Jesus wore this crown of thorns because He loves us. He died for us because He loves us. What happened after He died? Yes! He came alive again. Jesus died to save us. 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)!"