



Road to Emmaus

Luke 24

God Statement: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

KEY VERSE:

"Jesus Said, I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

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 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: To build relationships & prioritize 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 S's 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.**

WORSHIP TIME

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 folder.

This month, focus on singing these songs:

- He is Alive!
- King of Me
- Hosana Rock
- Happy Day

READ THE BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!

Read the Bible story provided. 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 ROAD TO EMMAUS

(Summarized from Luke 24)

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 read parts of the story, do the hand motions, ask the kids questions, etc.).

Share about the story of The Road to Emmaus:

- Last week we celebrated Easter!
 - So happy late Easter to all of you, my friends.
- We celebrate Easter, because Jesus did something very special for us.
- Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
 - Do you remember what a cross is? **(Have Hamilton hold up cross)**
- He didn't stay dead. He came alive. Only Jesus can do that.
- Two of Jesus' friends were walking down the road.

- Let's pretend we're walking/crawling down the road with Jesus. (Lead the kids on a little walk around the room.) **Hamilton can you pretend to walk/crawl with us? (Pretend to walk with Hamilton)**
- Now let's all sit down.
- The friends were talking about all that had happened to Jesus.
- Suddenly, Jesus was walking with them!
- But they didn't recognize Him.
 - Can you cover your eyes like you can't, see? Watch me! Where did all my friends go. Oh, there they are!!
- Jesus' friends were so happy that Jesus had been with them and that He came back!
 - Let's clap and cheer for Jesus.
- We are happy Jesus is with us, too because... Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!



LEAD AN ACTIVITY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by doing a variety of learning activities!!

TODAY'S ACTIVITY: TOUCH AND FEEL SENSORY EMMAUS BOX

Work one on one with each child as they work on their fine motor skills and imagination as they partake in today's activity. Help each child participate in this activity to help them remember the truth we learned about today.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Before starting, find a clear space to work where other kids cannot get into the supplies. Make sure you have supplies ready before starting!
- Bring each child over individually to explore in this sensory dirt box.
- Say things like
 - This is dirt, and God made dirt.
 - Jesus friends walked on a road, can you pretend to have the little people walk on the road?
 - Can you feel all that is in our box? Does it feel cool?
 - This box reminds me of our Bible story from today!
- Repeat as many times as you like, and carefully monitor the kiddos as they play.

BLESSING

Purpose: To read a blessing or verse over the kids.

Encourage/show the kids how to hold their hands open to receive the blessing. This is a truth that they can take with them and hide in their hearts.

TODAY'S BLESSING:

“(Child’s name) may you always remember that God loves you so much that he sent Jesus to us to be the savior of the world. May you never forget that Jesus is the way, the Truth and the Life.

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. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities for Babies & Younger 1 Year Old's:

- Play Peek-A-Boo
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball
- Roll a large car back and forth
- Take turns putting toys in a bin or bucket

Suggestions of activities for Older 1 Year Old's:

- 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.)

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)!”