



Prayer in the Garden Gethsemane

Matthew 26

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: PRAYER IN THE GARDEN

(Summarized from Matthew 26, Prayer in the Garden)

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 Jesus praying in the Garden:

- After Jesus was done with his special dinner with His friends, He went to a garden to go and pray.
- Jesus knew what was about to happen. Jesus was about to go to heaven.
- Jesus was going to die on the cross for us to take away our sins.
 - Only Jesus can take away our sins because He is the Savior!
 - Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- Even though Jesus knew what was about to happen He was still scared
 - **Hamilton can you show me your scared face? (Have Hamilton hide his face in his hands).**
- So, Jesus prayed to God.
 - God is the best person to go to!
- We can pray to God too!

- We can pray about anything!
- So, let's pray now and thank God for sending Jesus.
 - Dear God thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for us. Help us to remember how much Jesus loves us.
- 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: PAINT A CROSS

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 color their craft.
- Give them 1 or 2 options of color crayons or paint if they are the older ones and assist them with coloring on the paper, as needed.
- Write the name of the child along with the date and the location (Woodmen Kids) on the child's craft so the parent(s) can keep it as a keepsake.

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)!"