



God Unifies (Brings Together)

Galatians 3:26-29

God Statement: God is the One True God

KEY VERSE:

**“Remember what happened in the past. I am God. There is no other God like me.”
(Isaiah 46:9, 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: We are one in Christ

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God Brings us Together.

Say: God makes us a family. He brings us together. We'll make a craft to link us all together. We're going to work together and leave the paper chain here so we can remember that we are all One in Christ.

MAKE: Paper Chain UNITY LINK

Supplies: paper links, crayons, stapler

Directions: Let each child color their "link."

Bend into a circle, then staple to make the circle.

Wrap another child's link into the first circle, staple to make another link.

Continue until the whole class's circles are linked together. Hang somewhere prominent so the class can remember we are all one in Christ.



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 (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.**

- *Thank you God for my Family*
- *Oh How I Love Jesus*

READ A BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read about a story about lesson from Galatians 3:26-28

BIG IDEA:

God unifies, or brings us together. We are one in Christ.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by reading slowly and clearly, using an excited tone as needed. 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!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Unifies- Galatians 3:26-28

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class.

Say: Hamilton is holding his Bible. Hi Hamilton, I see you have your Bible. We are going to hear about some verses in the Bible. We are all one in Christ Jesus.

Share about the story of how we Belong to Christ:

- Last week we learned about how God changed a man named Paul.
- Paul believed in Jesus.
 - Today we are going to learn the sign for Jesus. First you take your middle finger of your right hand and touch it to the palm of your left hand (**demonstrate to children**) then you will repeat on your opposite hand. Good Job! Now let's put it all together. (**Demonstrate to the kiddos and help as needed**).
- Paul became a child of God when he believed in Jesus.
 - Can you show me the sign for Jesus again (**demonstrate to children**)? Good job!
- When we believe in Jesus, we become children of God.
- While the world may tell us we're different on the outside, God tells us that when we become children of God, we're all one in Christ.
 - Can you hold up 1 finger? That's right we are all 1 in Christ!
- When we know Jesus, we become Children of God!
- And when we are children of God, we are all friends, and all 1 in Christ!
 - Can you give your friend a high five?
- **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.

We are learning that God is the One True God! (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

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.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: We are one in Christ. What are some things we can do to follow Jesus and be one big family? We can do the things that Jesus does. Jesus is kind. Jesus loves. Jesus helps.

How can you be kind? *Let kids answer.*

How can you love? *Let kids answer.*

How can you help? *Let kids answer.*

That's good. That's following Jesus. **We are one in Christ 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 God is the One True God. When we follow Him, we are part of His big family. We are one in Christ Jesus!

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: In today's lesson, we learned about how God Brings us Together.

Say: God makes us a family. He brings us together. Let's play a game to show we are all one in Christ.

PLAY: We are one in Christ

Supplies: none

Directions: Line up kids on one side of room.

Adult or LIT (leader in training) stands on other side of room.

Call out to one child at a time to come over and be "one in Christ" by standing together with arms linked.

Say: We look like one big family. We like to help each other, we like to spend time together, we like to be kind to each other. We are one in Christ.

One more activity:

FLOWERS FOR SOMEONE YOU LOVE

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Decorate tag with crayons.
- Tie tag onto individual flower.
- Send the flower home with each child to give to someone special in honor of the special day



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)!"