



## God is With Us

Acts 2, Luke 24, Matthew 28

### 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

**(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: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

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

**Say:** Sometimes we have to say goodbye. Sometimes Daddy has to go on a trip. Sometimes your grandma goes back home. It's hard to say goodbye. Jesus spent lots of time with His friends. It was time for Him to go back to heaven. He and His friends had to say goodbye.

### **MAKE: Coloring Page**

*Supplies: color page and crayons*

**Directions:** Sit down with kids to color the page.

**Say:** Let's sit down and color this picture. These words say "God is always with us."

**While you are working with each child:**

- What is happening in this picture?
- These words say, "God is always with us." God is always with you!
- God is with you at school. God is with you at church. God is with you when you go to sleep. He loves you.

## 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 folder**.

This month, focus on singing these songs:

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

## READ A BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read about a story below about how God is always with us.

### **BIG IDEA:**

**It was time for Jesus to go back to Heaven. He promised His friends that He would always be with them. He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us, always.**

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! 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 is with us**

*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. Hamilton is holding his Bible. He has his head down. He is sad.**

**Say:** Hi Hamilton, what's wrong? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.**

Oh, I'm sorry, Hamilton. Your grandma was visiting and she had to go back home? **Hamilton nods.** Yes, that would make me sad, too. You know, our story talks about something like that. The story is from the Bible. I see you have your Bible today. Let's listen.

### **Read the story below.**

**Say:** Jesus had some good friends. He called them His disciples.

- They worked together to tell people about God. They walked together and laughed together. They were good friends.
- Do you remember that Jesus died? Did He stay dead? NO! He came to life again.
- He still loved His friends but it was time for Him to go back to Heaven.
- He told His friends, "I will always be with you."
- How could this be? He was going to Heaven, but He would always be with them?
- God can make a way. He sent the Holy Spirit to be with Jesus' friends always.
- The Holy Spirit is God. Jesus is God and God is God!
- God is always with us, too. He loves us.
- God is with us when we go to school.
  - Let's stand up and pretend we are walking into school. Now sit back down.
- God is with us when we eat lunch.
  - Let's pretend we are eating our lunch. Do you have a sandwich? Do you have soup? Don't forget to drink your milk.
- God is with us when we sleep.
  - Make your hands into a pillow and put your head down. Can you snore like you are sound asleep.
- Time to wake up! God is always with us.

## 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 always with us!". (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.

**Say:** God is always with us. That means He is with us right now. We can't see Him. We usually can't hear Him talking out loud to us, but He is here. Sometimes we can hear Him quietly speaking in our hearts or our brains. Let's sit quietly and see if He talks to us today.

***Encourage the kids to sit quietly for several moments. (30 seconds-1 minute) They can lay down. Give them a chance to see if God speaks to them.***

All right. Let's sit back up. Did you hear anything in your heart or your brain? Did God say anything to you?

***Give kids a chance to share.***

Say things like "Wow, God really loves you." If kids did not hear anything say, "That's ok. Maybe next time."

### **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 that God is always with you. He loves you so much.

## **CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

**(Until parents pickup)****PLAY: God is always with you game**

*Supplies: Hearts with the words: God is always with you*

**Directions:** Give each child a heart. Read the words to them. Say: “Manuel, God is always with you.” “Luna, God is always with you.”

Encourage them to sit in a group and have a teacher or an LIT stand across the room. One at a time, the kids can run to the teacher. The teacher will give a big hug or high 5 (give kids the choice) and say, “child’s name, God is always with you!” Then they can sit back down.

**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)!”