



The Last Supper

Matthew 26

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

KEY VERSE:

“Jesus answered, ‘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

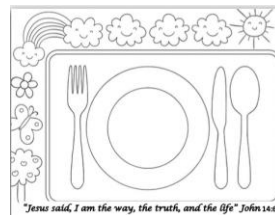
(10 minutes)

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: The Last Supper

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about Jesus' Last Supper.

Say: Do you ever have special meals at your house? Maybe for your birthday? Is it almost your birthday? Most kids will love to talk about their birthday and how it's coming soon and how old they will be. Invite these conversations. Or at Christmas? Maybe you have special people come to your house for dinner? Maybe you decorate and make the table look beautiful. Well, Jesus had a special dinner for His friends. Let's make a special craft and learn more about it!



MAKE: Placemat

Supplies: placemat and crayons or markers

Directions: have the class sit at the table with you. Give each child a placemat to decorate.

Say: Jesus was going away to heaven. He invited all of His friends to come to a special dinner. We're going to make a placemat to help us think about this special dinner.

While you are working with each child:

- Let's all color the forks. What could you eat with a fork?
- What about the spoons? Color your spoon. What do you eat with a spoon?
- Chat about the utensils and other parts of the placemats. Ask about favorite foods.

Set aside the placemats to use again at the end of the meal.

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 The Last Supper.

BIG IDEA:

Jesus was going away. He invited His friends to dinner. They ate together and talked about important things like how much Jesus loved them. He was going away but they would see Him again.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or 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)**The Last Supper**

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 a fork.

Say: Hamilton, what do you have there? You heard we were having a special meal? You brought your own fork? You are prepared.

Read the Last Supper story below.

- Remember how we talked about Christmas and Birthdays and special food?
- Today we are learning about a special dinner that Jesus had with His friends.
- Jesus knew that He would have to leave soon so he planned a special dinner.
- Together Jesus and His friends ate some yummy food, like bread.
 - Can you pretend to eat?
 - Bread smells so good. Smell your pretend bread. Now let's tear it into smaller pieces. Pop one in your mouth. Mmmm, now rub your tummy. That was tasty.
- Jesus and His friends also had some yummy drinks.
 - *Teacher, pretend to have a pitcher with liquid.* Can you all hold up your pretend cup? Good. Now I'll pour you each something pretend to drink. What do you have? Milk? Orange juice? Tea? Mmmm. Now let's drink together.
 - Can you pretend to drink?
 - Mmm, delicious.
- Just like Jesus had a special dinner we have special dinners too.
- We usually decorate the tables and use fancy plates for our special occasions.
- Remember the special decoration we made? Do you remember what it was?
 - Yes, the place mat!
- Jesus had the special dinner to remind his friends that God has a plan. Even though Jesus had to leave, God still has an amazing plan.
- That's because... Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

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 Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life! (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: Jesus is the Way. He can show us which way to go if we are mixed up.
Jesus is the Truth. He tells us the truth in the Bible and in our hearts.
Jesus is the Life. We have life through Him.
Let's tell Him thank you. All: 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, 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.*

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Snack

Supplies: placemat, Peeps, napkins, cups (in cabinet)

****Check children's tags for allergies before doing snack****

Directions: Give the kids their placemat. Encourage them to put the napkin and cup in the correct spots. Give each child a peep (gluten free as necessary). Pour a small amount of water in their cup.

**** If you would prefer to do graham crackers, please send a peep home in a plastic bag for each child at the end of class instead****

Say: We are going to thank God for our food. *Pray a short blessing.* Now we will celebrate Jesus with a special meal right here in class.

Enjoy the food and fellowship.

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)!"