



Road to Emmaus

Luke 24

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

KEY VERSE:

“Jesus said, ‘I am the way and 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: Road to Emmaus

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus walking down the road with some friends.

Say: Jesus had to die on the cross for us. And then He came alive again! Only Jesus can do that. He was walking with his friends down the road. The friends didn't recognize Him. He told them all about the things He had done. They believed Him.

MAKE: Walking on the Road

Supplies: *a shallow box or tray, small rocks, dirt, small hand shovel, small rake, foam tiles to make road, 3 little people figures*

Directions: Let the kids experience making a road. 1-3 kids at a time

Say: You can make a road. You can spread out the dirt. Keep everything in this tray. You can make a road with the tiles. You can spread the rocks around.

While you are working with each child:

- You're making a great road.
- Where do we find roads?
- You follow roads to get to church and the store.

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 about lesson, Road to Emmaus below. Help the kids act out the scene and follow your prompts to interact with the story.

BIG IDEA: Jesus had to die on the cross for us. And then He came alive again! Only Jesus can do that. He was walking with his friends down the road. The friends didn't recognize Him. He told them all about the things He had done. They believed Him.

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)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: The Road to Emmaus

(Luke 24)

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 shovel and his Bible.

Say: Well Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton whispers to you.*** Oh, you're building a road? We were building roads too. We are talking about roads because Jesus walked down a road with His friends. You have your Bible, too. This story is true and it's in the Bible.

- Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
- He didn't stay dead. He came alive. Only Jesus can do that.
- Two of Jesus' friends were walking down the road.
 - Let's stand up and pretend we're walking down the road with Jesus. (*Lead the kids on a little walk around the room.*) 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.
- He started telling them all the stories about Him.
 - Let's use this giant egg to remember the stories that Jesus was telling. *Pull things out of the egg to tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.*
- Jesus had to go away. But His friends knew it was Him.
- They were so happy that Jesus had been with them. Let's clap and cheer for Jesus. We are happy Jesus is with us, too!

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 and 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.

While the kids are seated...

Say: Jesus loves being with His friends. We can't see Him but we know He is here with us, too. We are Jesus' friends. Let's tell Him that we love Him. We love 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 Jesus died to take away our sins. When you do a wrong thing, you can tell Him about it and He will forgive you. He loves you.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Game Following Jesus (follow the leader)

Supplies: none

Directions: Choose one child to act as the leader. Encourage the leader to walk around the room (maybe you or an LIT can lead first). The other children follow, doing what the leader does. Maybe hopping or weaving or marching.

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)!"