



# God is Worthy of Praise

Nehemiah

## God Statement: God is the One True God

KEY VERSE:

**"Remember what happened in the past. I am God." (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: God is worthy of praise!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is worthy of praise.

**Say:** God is so great! He helps us all the time. He helped His people build a wall all around their city to protect them.

### MAKE: Make a wall

***Supplies:** any building blocks in your room. Use other toys to extend the play time. Maybe a doll, toy animal and/or car.*

**Directions:** Help the kids build a wall, using any blocks from the room.

**Say:** God helped His people build a wall around their city to protect them.

**Let's build a wall too!**

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

- What color is this block?
- Let's put one of our pretend animals or dolls behind this wall. See, now the car can't run into them. They are protected.
- God protected His people from their enemies with the wall around their city.

## 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.**

- *My God is so Big*
- *God Can do Anything*

## 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 Nehemiah and the Wall using the prompts below.

### **BIG IDEA:**

**The wall fell down. It protected God's people in their city. God helped them build it again.**

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 worthy of praise!**

*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 and wearing his party hat.***

**Say:** Hi Hamilton, we are celebrating today! God is worthy of praise! ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** Yes, there is a surprise after the story today! ***Hamilton acts excited.***

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

- Nehemiah lived a long time ago in Bible times.
- Some mean people knocked down the city walls.
- This made Nehemiah sad. Can you show me your sad face?
- Nehemiah loved God and prayed to Him to show Nehemiah the way to fix the walls.
  - Show me how you fold your hands to pray. Yes, very good.
- All the people started building the wall up again. They stacked the bricks.
  - Let's stand up and stack our hands like bricks. *Stack your fists on top of each other and then take the bottom fist to go on top of the fist. Repeat, like you're building.*
  - Good, now let's hammer some of the wall. *Use your fist to hammer on your flat palm.*
  - I think we better stack some bricks again. *Repeat your fist stacking.*
  - Now some hammering. *Repeat your hammering.*
  - Let's sit back down.
- Whew! The wall was finished. All around the whole city.
- God helped them build the wall. He protects His people.
- Let's all praise Him. God is worthy of praise. *Clap hands and yell, "yay!"*

## 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 worthy of praise." (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:** What did God do in our lesson today? (*Helped the people build the wall around the city.*) Can you think of some other things that God has done? Let's sit quietly and think about what God does for you. And then you can tell us what those things are.

*Let the kids sit quietly for a moment. Then let them share what God has done for them.*

Discussion prompts:

Who are people in your house? Yes, God has given those people to you!

How did you get to church today? Yes, God made a way for you to have your car/van.

Can you stand up and jump? Yes, God made you strong.

**Say:** God is worthy of praise. Let's praise Him. Let's say: Thank you, God!

**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, God is worthy of praise. He is kind and wise and loving. Be sure you remember to tell Him thank you when He does good things for you.

**CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

**(Until parents pickup)**

**PLAY: Snack**

***Supplies: snack, napkins***

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

**Directions:**

**Say:** Friends, do you remember that Hamilton said we have a surprise today after our lesson? Let's go to the table and enjoy our snack as we remember and celebrate that God is worthy of praise!

## 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)!"