



God is Love

Galatians 5:13-19

God Statement: God is the One True God

KEY VERSE:

**"Remember what happened in the past. I am God. There is no one 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 serve others because we love God.

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about Serving Others.

Say: Who do you love? Wait for answers. Your mommy, daddy, grandma? Puppy? Friend? God? When we love people, we want to help them. When we love God, we want to help others.

MAKE: Helping Hands

Supplies: paint, a crayon or a marker, paper with "Helping Hands" "I serve others because I love God."

Directions: Draw around both hands for each child or smooth paint onto palms and fingers of hands and push gently onto paper to make handprints. Wipe off immediately with a damp paper towel and send child to the sink to wash hands. Station an LIT or another teacher to help with handwashing.

While you are working with each child:

- Look at your strong hands. I think they can do many things.
- You can help with your hands. You can set the table, you can carry a bag, you can pet your dog, you can give a hug, you can pray for others.
- When we love God, He helps us want to serve others.

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."

Say: Thank you for serving by cleaning up our toys!

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!

BIG IDEA:

The Bible tells us to serve one another in love. We can do this by the Holy Spirit's power.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) with a clear strong voice. 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! Bring them back to the lesson by having them stand up and sit down or start clapping together.

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: We serve others because we love.

(Summarized from Galatians 5:13-18)

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 small broom (paintbrush)

Say: Hamilton! What do you have there? ***Hamilton shows off his broom.*** What will you do with that broom? ***Hamilton shows how he can sweep.*** Oh, I see. You will sweep the sidewalk, so no one trips. It will look so nice and clean. You are good at serving others. Thank you for sweeping. See you later. ***Put Hamilton back in his house.***

Read the Lesson

- Last week we learned, when we believe in Jesus, we become a child of God.
- We are all children of God, and we are told by God to "Love your neighbor as yourself."
 - What are some things God wants us to do?
 - *Let the kids answer.*
- God wants us to love Him. In His Holy Spirit's power, He will help us serve others.
 - What are some things we can do to help others?
 - *Let the kids answer.*
 - What if we pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show us who we can serve and how we can serve?
- We will talk more about this during our Worship Response time.
- Let's say our God statement now: 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 Love! (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: Let's ask the Holy Spirit/God to show us how we can serve others.

Pray: *Holy Spirit/God, we love you. We want to do what you want us to do. Can you show us who you want us to serve?*

Sit quietly for a moment. Ask kids to share who God wants them to serve.

Say: *Now let's pray again. God, what do you want us to do for this person?*

Sit quietly for a moment. Ask kids to share what God wants them to do.

Let's remember what God told us and do it. If you didn't hear from God, that's ok. Maybe you will 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 will help you. You can serve others because you love Him.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Helping Charades

Say: Let's play a game! See if you can guess what I am doing.

Directions: Have the children sit down facing one direction. Act out various helping actions so the kids can guess what you are doing.

Try: sweeping, shoveling snow, carrying heavy bags, setting the table, cooking and stirring a pot. Then let the kids take a turn acting out a helping action.

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)!"