



God is Hope

Revelation 21-22

God Statement: God is the One True God

KEY VERSE:

**"Remember what happened in the past. I am God. There is no other God 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: God is Hope

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about Heaven!

Say: Heaven is an amazing place that God made. It is beautiful and perfect. Let's look for some things that remind us of heaven.

Play: Find the heavenly things

Supplies: assorted things that remind us of Heaven

Lion, lamb, small box of jewels, gold, fruit, angel

Directions: Hide these heavenly items around the room.

Say: Let's look around the room. Can you see anything that reminds you of Heaven?

Let the children take turns finding the items.

- **Can you find a lion?**
- **Can you find a lamb? Bring them to me.**

The Bible says all the animals will get along in Heaven and there will be no fighting.

The lion and the lamb will be friends.

- **Can you see a box of jewels? Bring it to me.**

The Bible says the city of heaven will be made of jewels. They are very beautiful and sparkly.

- **Can you find some gold? Bring it to me.**

The Bible says the streets in Heaven will be made of gold! How beautiful that will be.

- **Can you find some fruit? Bring it to me.**

The Bible says there is a special tree of life that has wonderful fruit on it.

- **Can you find an angel? Bring it to me.**

The Bible says the angels in heaven worship God all the time.

Heaven sounds like a wonderful place. We'll hear more about it in our lesson.

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.**

- Jesus Loves Me
- Thank You God

READ A BIBLE STORY

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

BIG IDEA:

God made Heaven for us. It is an amazing place!

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) by standing up or marching in place or clapping. 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 Hope

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.

Share about the story of how God is going to make All Things New:

- When we believe in Jesus, we are one of God's children.
- And God has an amazing plan for us!
- We can find out about God's amazing plan for us in the Bible!
 - **Bring out Hamilton holding his Bible.** Hamilton did you bring your Bible with you today? *Nod Hamilton's head.* Oh good! Can you show our friends your Bible?
 - That's right we can find God's amazing plan in the Bible!
 - Friends, let's pretend we each have a Bible. Hold out your hands together like a book. Now open your book (*open your hands*). Now, close your book again. Good.
- In the Bible there is a book named Revelation.
- John (one of Jesus' followers) gets a special message from Heaven about what will happen in the future.
 - Heaven is going to be beautiful!
 - There will be no more darkness and no more sadness.
 - The Bible even says there will be streets and gates of gold!
 - Can you make a very happy face? Good.
- God tells us what heaven looks like to help us know that He goes before us.
- God also tells us what Heaven will look like to help us to have hope about what happens in the future.
- **We can have hope for the future because... 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 the one true God."** (Have the kids shout it out together)

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: Heaven is a very wonderful place. Let's tell God thank you for making Heaven. When we love Him and believe in Jesus, we can go there someday.
Let's say "Thank you, God!" *Say it together.*

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 is the One True God. There is no one like Him. He loves you so so much and has an amazing plan for your life.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Coloring

Supplies: *color sheet of Heaven, glitter crayons*

Directions: Encourage kids to color the picture of heaven.

Say: this is an idea of what Heaven may look like. The Bible says that there will be streets of gold. God is the light so we don't need a sun or moon any more.

Ask: What other wonderful things do you think will be in Heaven?

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)!"