



## Jesus is the Way

Acts 9

### 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: Jesus is the Way**

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how a man named Saul found out that "Jesus is the Way."

**Say:** Saul was mean and hurting everybody who loved Jesus. Jesus got his attention by showing up in a bright light. Saul was blind for a few days. Blind means you can't see anything. Close your eyes. Now you can't see. Saul learned to follow Jesus. Open your eyes. Now you can see again.

### **PLAY: Follow Jesus**

*Supplies: none*

**Directions:** Lead the kids in a short activity of following Jesus.

**Say:** Jesus wants us to follow Him. We can't see Him but we can do the things He wants us to do.

- He wants us to be kind. Let's pretend we're patting a puppy. Aww, nice puppy.
- Jesus wants us to help others. Let's hold hands and help each other walk up these pretend steps.
- Jesus wants us to love others. Let's give each other a high five.
- Jesus wants us to tell others about Him. Let's tell each other that "Jesus loves you."

**Good!** You're following Jesus by doing what He wants us to do.

## 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**.

- *This Little Light of Mine*
- *Oh How I Love Jesus*

## READ A BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read a story about how a man named Paul found out that "Jesus is the Way."

**BIG IDEA**

**Saul didn't believe in Jesus. He was mean and hurting everybody who loved Jesus. Jesus talked to Saul. Saul was sorry he was mean and learned to follow Jesus and His good ways.**

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by reading slowly and clearly, using an excited tone as needed. 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: Jesus is the Way***

*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 wearing a blindfold and turning his head this way and that.***

**Say: Hamilton, over here. What are you doing? Oh, you heard about Saul and wanted to feel what it is like to be blind? Yes, that's challenging, isn't it? Let's take off that blindfold and you can listen to our story with us. This story is from the Bible. It is true. It really happened.**

This story is from Acts 9 in the Bible.

- There was a man named Saul who didn't believe in Jesus. He tried to hurt all the people who believed in Jesus. He was mean and angry.
  - Can you make a mean and angry face? Yes, that's just what Saul looked like.
- Saul was walking down the road. He was going to hurt some people who loved Jesus.
  - Let's stand up and walk in place. Since Saul was mean and angry, maybe he stomped a little. Can you stomp your feet? (stay standing)
- Suddenly a very bright light appeared. It was so bright.
  - Let's cover our eyes!
- Saul fell down.
  - Let's fall down too.
  - Now let's sit quietly again to hear what happened next.
- Saul couldn't see. He was blind!
  - Close your eyes. Saul couldn't see anything. Now you may open your eyes again.
- Jesus talked to Saul and sent him into the city.
- Saul stayed in the city and couldn't see for 3 days.
  - Let's count to 3. 1, 2, 3.
- Jesus sent one of His friends to help Saul.
- This friend prayed for Saul. He said, "Jesus send me to help you."
- Suddenly, Saul could see again. Jesus healed him!
- Saul believed in Jesus and told everyone about Him.

- Jesus is the Way. And Saul learned to follow Him and do the things Jesus did. Hamilton, are you going to follow Jesus? *Hamilton nods happily.* That's great. Would you like to say goodbye to our friends? OK, bye friends! *Hamilton goes back to his house.*

### **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." (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:** Saul learned to follow Jesus and do the things Jesus did. He was a changed man so he even changed his name. His new name was Paul. He wrote many parts of our Bible. What are some things we can do to follow Jesus? We can do the things that Jesus does. Jesus is kind. Jesus loves. Jesus helps. How can you be kind? *Let kids answer.* How can you love? *Let kids answer.* How can you help? *Let kids answer.*

That's good. That's following Jesus. **Jesus is the Way!**

### **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 much and wants you to follow Him.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)



### PLAY: Seeing in the Darkness

**Supplies:**

*For each child: Flashlight coloring sheet*

*For each class: Black Ziplock where kids can find the hidden items with the white on the flashlight*

**Directions:**

1. Let the kids color their paper flashlight, leaving the white triangle at the end completely white.
2. Once colored, place the “flashlight” in front on the black piece of paper within the baggie.
3. Keeping the flashlight flat on the paper, show them how to move it gently around to expose the hidden pictures.
4. The light helps us see in the dark.

## 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)!”