



Jesus is Our Teacher – The Farmer & the Seeds

Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23; Luke 8:14-15

God Statement: Jesus is Our Teacher

KEY VERSE: “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.’
(Matthew 19:26, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 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 Our Teacher

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God inspires us to serve others.

SAY:

Do you like reading or listening to stories? What’s your favorite story to read? Well, Jesus is the best storyteller and teacher of all! We can read many of Jesus’ stories in this book right here... What is this called? The Bible, the Big God Story, that’s right!

Jesus taught people stories to help them understand about Him. These stories are called parables. Let’s say that word together, parables. For the next couple of weeks, we’re going to learn about a few parables from the Bible that Jesus told. Remember, parables are stories

that Jesus would use to teach a bigger truth about who He is and how He calls us to live! Today we're going to hear about a farmer, some seeds and some different places to plant the seeds.

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Seed Relay Race

Supplies: one bag of seeds, two cups

Say: *We're going to play a game today to help us get ready to hear about the parable of the farmer and the seeds. Are you ready?*

Directions: Have children get into two teams and make two lines on one side of the room. Place the cups across the room (one for each team). Have an LIT or leader hold the bag of seeds by the starting line with the two teams. The leader will give the first child in each line a seed. The children need to put the seed on the tip of their finger and walk with it as fast as they can to the other end of the room and drop it into the cup. Then they run back to their team and the next person takes a seed and walks it to the cup. Set a timer for 1 minute and see how many seeds each team can get to their cups!
play as many times as needed to make sure all children have had a turn

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Bible Challenge slide..****

BIBLE CHALLENGE

Host

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

New Testament Books of the Bible

Share with the kids about our current Bible Challenge:

Our current Bible Challenge is for kids to memorize the Books of the NEW Testament. Use the song provided in the PowerPoint to help the kids practice the song each week. Encourage kids to take a “Bible Challenge” card home to remind them to practice at home as well!

****After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the “Worship” slide.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.’
(Matthew 19:26, NIRV)**

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it’s not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is Our Teacher – The Farmer & the Seeds

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

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.

Supplies: baskets/bowls with rocks, trays with balls of playdough

Prepare ahead: *place baskets/bowls of rocks and playdough trays around the room; make a few balls of playdough on each tray ahead of time*

Jesus talked about the good soil and the rocky soil. That soil is like our hearts.

How is your heart today?

Think about your heart.

- Is it soft or hard when God talks to you? How can you tell if your heart is hard or soft?
- What are some characteristics/signs of a hard heart? *Let kids answer.*
- What are some characteristics/signs of a soft heart? *Let kids answer.*

Take some time to sit quietly. If your heart is hard, how could it become soft? Talk to God about it. If your heart is soft, how can it stay soft? Ask God to talk to you about it.

Explain the rock and playdough stations around the room.

There are several stations around the room. While you are in front of the station, pick up a rock. Squeeze it. It's hard. It can't be squeezed or changed. Is that how your heart is, a little hard? If yes, put it in the rock basket. If not, you can place it back and move to the playdough station. Pick up some playdough. Is your heart soft like the playdough? Do you listen to what God tells you? Make a heart and put it in the heart basket.

Encourage kids to take turns quietly at each station reflecting on their heart. Turn on soft worship music. When kids finish, they can sit back down quietly and pray.

When you are finished come back and sit down.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

******After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Back to School Bash

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: Can you believe it's almost time to start back to school shopping? Raise your hand if you like shopping for school supplies! Well, we have an awesome opportunity to help families in our community.

Say: The 2022 school year will be here before we know it and we're excited to

partner with @cos_loveyou for this year’s Backpack Bash! The Backpack Bash is a citywide effort that seeks to provide access to all things back-to-school for thousands of families in need in El Paso County. Next time you’re at the store, talk to your parents or grownups about picking up a backpack and a few school supplies to donate.

Say: This weekend, we are collecting backpacks and school supplies at our Greeter Desks. Backpack Bash would not be possible without the support of many. Your city needs YOU!

Invite a kid to come up and pray for families receiving backpacks through Backpack Bash.

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING

Host

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.

Friends, may you always remember to keep your heart soft before God. He loves you and has things for you to do.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

As part of Remember & Celebrate, use this time to chat with kids about all they have to be thankful for and enjoy a snack together.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

- 1. What did you learn about God from our story today?**
- 2. Recap today’s story: Matthew 13:1-9**

What happened to the seeds thrown on the path? (The birds ate them!) **Did they grow?** (no)

The seed in the rocky soil grew! What happened to the seeds thrown on the rocky ground? (They were burned by the sun). **Did they survive?** (no)

What happened to the seeds that fell on the thorns? (They were choked). Did they grow? (no)

3. **What happened to the seeds that fall on good soil? (They grow and grow) Did they survive? (yes)**
4. **God wants us to grow and grow just like the seeds in the good soil. We want to be good soil, allowing God to grow in us and we can grow in His truth. How can we grow with God/ Jesus?**

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Recap today’s story: Matthew 13:1-9**

What happened to the seeds thrown on the path? (The birds ate them!) Did they grow? (no)

The seed in the rocky soil grew! What happened to the seeds thrown on the rocky ground? (They were burned by the sun). Did they survive? (no)

What happened to the seeds that fell on the thorns? (They were choked). Did they grow? (no)

3. **What happened to the seeds that fall on good soil? (They grow and grow) Did they survive? (yes)**
4. **God wants us to grow and grow just like the seeds in the good soil. We want to be good soil, allowing God to grow in us and we can grow in His truth. How can we grow with God/ Jesus?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE: Farmer & The Seed Mini Book!

Supplies: 1 mini book per child, crayons or markers

Directions: Pass out one mini book per child. Have them sit with a buddy and color their books together. For children who are able to read, have them take turns reading their mini book to their partner/friend. See if they can remember the parts of the story from today.

Say: *Today we learned about the parable of the farmer and the seed! Let's color a mini book to take with us to remind of this story.*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.