



Remember and Celebrate

God Statement: Jesus is Awesome

KEY VERSE:

“With God, all things are possible,” Matthew 19:26, 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: Remember & Celebrate

In today's lesson, we are going to remember all the things we have talked about Jesus this summer.

Say: Jesus is so great! We are going to celebrate Him and all we've learned this summer. What does it mean to celebrate? What do you think we could do to celebrate Jesus? *Let kids respond.* Those are all great responses. Sometimes celebrating looks like throwing a birthday party or giving someone a gift. Sometimes we put up fun decorations to celebrate!

Say: Let's celebrate Jesus because He has taught us so much and loves us even more!

MAKE: Party Hat

Supplies: 1 hat per child, stickers and crayons or markers

Directions: Write child's name on hat. Encourage them to decorate as desired with stickers and crayons.

Say: *Let's make these fancy hats together! What do they look like to you? That's right, they are party hats (or birthday hats). We're celebrating someone very special today... Who do you think it is? Jesus, that's right! Jesus is our teacher and He is awesome, and we want to celebrate all that He has done for us!*

While you are working with each child, say:

- Jesus is awesome! Jesus is our teacher!
- What is something that you learned about Jesus this summer?
- How much does Jesus love you? Show me with your arms! That's a lot. Jesus loves you SO much!

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*
- *Jesus Loves Me*

READ A BIBLE STORY

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

BIG IDEA:

Jesus is Awesome & Jesus is our teacher! We can celebrate all that Jesus has taught us and how much He loves us!

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or 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: Remember & Celebrate***

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.

AHEAD OF TIME: Place pictures provided in folder around the room to be used during the story.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is wearing his party hat.

Say: Hamilton, you look ready to party. We are too! Do you want to watch us play a game together, Hamilton? ***Hamilton nods excitedly.***

Say: We're going to remember some of the stories Jesus taught us this summer. Look around the room. Does anyone see a picture that reminds you of a story Jesus taught?

Repeat until all stories have been remembered. Stories don't have to go in order, but end on the Prodigal Son story with a dance party.

Picture 1: Farmer and Seed – Jesus said we should have good soil to plant

Say: What if we plant seeds on a road? The roots have nowhere to grow. The birds can come along and gobble them up. What if we plant a seed on a rock? Do you think a seed can grow on a rock? It can't grow very well. What if we plant the seed right here, among all these flowers? ***Set the seed on top of a flower or among a crowd of flowers.*** Hmm, that seed doesn't really have room to grow. Let's clear an area in this nice soft dirt. Ooh, this looks just right for planting a seed. ***Plant the seed nice and deep.*** That seed should grow big and strong.

Say: Our hearts can be hard like the road. If we are angry and feel mean, our hearts are hard and we can't hear Jesus speaking to us very well. If we are busy and don't take time to listen, we won't be able to hear God's voice. If we are praying to Jesus and singing songs about Him and taking time to listen to Him, our hearts are nice and soft and Jesus will help us love Him and love others.

Picture 2: the Good Samaritan – Jesus wants us to help our neighbors. Our neighbors can be anybody around us.

Say: A man was walking down the road. One robber hurt him and took his money. The man cried and moaned. One neighbor looked at him and walked away. Another neighbor looked at him and walked away. The Good Samaritan (or neighbor) looked at him. The neighbor patted the man's shoulder, wrapped a bandage around him and covered him with a blanket. He took him to an Inn to get better.

Say: Jesus wants us to be like the neighbor. He wants us to help the people around us.

Picture 3: The Lost Sheep – Let’s play a game about a lost sheep. Who wants to be a sheep?

Say: Have all the kids cover their eyes. Tell one child to go hide in another part of the room. If they need help, suggest a spot.

Say: Where is my little lost lamb? (*Encourage hidden lamb to say “baa, baa.”*) Oh hooray, there she is! (*Go get the lamb and bring back to the fold. An LIT would be a great one to get the lamb.*) Let’s all say “Hooray! Our little lamb is found.”

Repeat until everyone has a turn to be the little lost lamb.

Say: Our Father God is like a shepherd. He doesn’t want any of His little lambs (that’s YOU) to be lost from Him. Just as a good shepherd leads his sheep home, God will lead to heaven everyone who says they are sorry for their sins and believes in Jesus. *From Jesus Calling Storybook Bible.*

Picture 4: The Prodigal Son

Say: The son ran away. He made lots of wrong choices. He did bad things. He decided to go home again. That dad missed his son every day. When he saw his son coming home, he RAN out to meet him. He gave him good food and had a party for him. Everyone danced and was happy. You know, that is how God is. Like the dad in our story. He is so happy when we come to him. He loves us so much.

Say: Let’s have a dance party now! ***Choose a peppy happy song and dance along with all the kids.***

Say: Whew, let’s sit down and rest. Jesus is a great teacher. He teaches us about love and forgiveness and keeping our hearts soft. He loves us. Thanks for listening to our story today with us, Hamilton! We can’t wait to see you next time. Let’s all say – Bye, Hamilton! ***Hamilton waves goodbye.***

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 Awesome!!!** (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: Jesus you are awesome! You are a good teacher. And You love us. Let's tell Jesus thank you for all He does. Ready? THANK YOU JESUS!

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:** May you always remember that Jesus is awesome. He loves you and wants you to talk to Him.*

CLOSING ACTIVITIES – FREE TIME

(Until parents pickup)

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)!"