



## God Grows Us

John 15:1-17

### God Statement: God is Provider

KEY VERSE:

**“My God will meet all of your needs. These riches come to you because you belong to Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19, NIRV)**

## CHECK-IN

*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 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: To build relationships & prioritize 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 S’s 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.**

## WORSHIP TIME

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!*

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > EC > Babies folder.

This month, focus on singing these songs:

- The Wisdom Song
- God can Do Anything
- Be Careful Little Eyes
- I've got the Joy Joy Joy

## READ THE BIBLE STORY

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

Read the Bible story provided. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures and repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word of the story! 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!

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: JESUS IS THE VINE

*(Summarized from John 15:1-17)*

#### BIBLE STORY:

Bring Hamilton (the hedgehog puppet) out and allow the kids to interact with him before you begin the story (they can feel his soft fur, give him high fives, give him a hug, etc.). Use Hamilton to help keep the kids engaged while you share the story (he can read parts of the story, do the hand motions, ask the kids questions, etc.).

#### Share the story of Jesus Being the Vine:

- When we believe in Jesus, we are God's Child!
- When we are children of God we need to grow to be more like Jesus.
  - Can you slowly reach your hands up like your growing?
- God helps us to grow, just like fruit on a vine the fruit cannot grow without the vine.
  - Hamilton have you ever seen grapes grow without being attached to something?  
**Shake Hamilton's head no.**
  - That's right, the grapes need to be attached to grow!
- Just like the grapes, we cannot grow closer to God without seeking Him and living our lives for Him.
  - **Hamilton, do you love Jesus? Nod Hamilton's head yes. Do you want to grow closer to Him? Nod Hamilton's head yes.**
- God loves us and wants us to follow Him and allow Him to care for us.

- Friends, God LOVES you so much!
- We can be happy and feel calm because...
- God is Provider!

## LEAD AN ACTIVITY

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children by doing a variety of learning activities!!*

### TODAY'S ACTIVITY: GROWING LITTLE SEEDS

*Work one on one with each child as they work on their fine motor skills and imagination as they partake in today's activity. Help each child participate in this activity to help them remember the truth we learned about today.*

#### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Before starting, find a clear space to work where other kids cannot get into the supplies. Make sure you have supplies ready before starting!
- Bring each child over to participate in this fun activity.
- Say:
  - Today we are going to pretend to be little seeds that will grow!
  - In our story we learned that when we are children of God, God will help us grow to be more like Jesus!
  - Now we are all going to lay on the ground curled up, when I say something that will help us grow, we have to pretend to grow.
  - We need light to grow (**shine the flashlight near them**).
  - We need water to grow (**spray water near them**).
  - We need to be reading our bible to grow (**hold up the bible**).
  - We need to love others to grow, can you give your neighbor a high five?
  - We need to be praying and talking to God to help us grow (**May you always remember that God helps you grow. May you pray to Him, listen to Him, and read His word**).
  - And we need food to grow.

## BLESSING

*Purpose: To read a blessing or verse over the kids.*

***Encourage/show the kids how to hold their hands open to receive the blessing. This is a truth that they can take with them and hide in their hearts.***

### TODAY'S BLESSING:

“(Child’s name) may you always remember that God is Provider. God will always provide for you and guide you. May you look to Jesus as your example and be filled with His love. Amen.”

## 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. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

### **Suggestions of activities for Babies & Younger 1 Year Old's:**

- Play Peek-A-Boo
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball
- Roll a large car back and forth
- Take turns putting toys in a bin or bucket

### **Suggestions of activities for Older 1 Year Old's:**

- 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.)

## 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)! "