



God Forgives

Matthew 18:21-35

God Statement: Jesus is Amazing

KEY VERSE:

**“They were amazed at His teaching, because His message had authority.”
(Luke 4:32, 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 Wise Man
- The Wisdom Song
- Only God Can Do
- God can Do Anything

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: THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

(Summarized from Matthew 18:21-35)

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 about the story of the unforgiving servant:

- Jesus had a friend named Peter. And Jesus taught many lessons to His friends, and to us!
- Peter asks Jesus how often he should forgive. Jesus says, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times".
 - Wow that's a lot!
 - Can you count that high?
 - Jesus tells us to always forgive.
- Then Jesus went on to tell a story of the unforgiving servant.
- There was a servant who did not have a lot of money.
- The servant owed money and his boss was not happy.
 - Can you show me a mad face?
- The servant begged his boss to give him more time to repay the money he owed.
 - Can you show me please hands? You fold your hands and put them in front of you.

- The boss had pity on him and forgave him the debt. So, the servant didn't owe anything!
 - **Have Hamilton do a little happy dance.**
- Jesus said, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."
- Jesus tells us to forgive from our heart! To not just say it but mean it!
- We can forgive because God forgives us!
- Jesus is in Amazing!

LEAD AN ACTIVITY

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

TODAY'S ACTIVITY: I FORGIVE YOU; I DON'T FORGIVE YOU GAME

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!
- We are playing a game called red light green light but with a twist. The teacher will say I forgive you two times and then the third time they will say I don't forgive.
- When the teacher says I forgive you the kids are allowed to move. But when the teacher says I don't forgive the kids have to freeze.
- You can play this game as a freeze dance style since they are littles.
- Play as many times as you want.

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 in control. May you have peace knowing this truth, and may you continuously feel His love.

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)! "