



Jesus is Our Firm Foundation

Matthew 7:13-27

God Statement: Jesus is Our Example

KEY VERSE:

"I have given you an example, you should do as I have done for you."

(John 13:15, 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:

- Only God can Do
- My God is so Big
- Happy Day
- King of Me

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 BEING OUR FOUNDATION (SALVATION)

(Summarized from Matthew 7:13-27)

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 why Jesus is our Firm Foundation:

- Hey Hamilton! You know how we have been learning about how Jesus is Our Example?
 - **Nod Hamilton's head.**
- Today we are going to learn more about that!
 - **Nod Hamilton's head in excitement.**
- Jesus was with His friends and taught many lessons.
- Jesus taught them how we should build our life on the firm foundation.
- Jesus said: Everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock.
 - Can you point to your head? Good job!
- The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against the house on the rock.

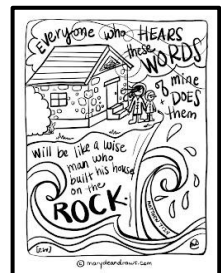
- We are now going to make rain with our fingers. Can you all spread your fingers apart like this (show the kiddos)? And now we are going to put them up and bring them down while wiggling our fingers. Watch me (demonstrate for the kiddos).
- But the house does not fall. It is built on the rock.
 - Can you show me a thumbs up?
- But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand.
 - Can you shake your head and finger, no?
- The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against the house on sand.
 - We are going to do our rain fingers again!
- And it falls with a loud crash.”
 - Now were going to swing our arms in front of us like a loud crash.
- Jesus finished saying all these things. The crowds were amazed at his teaching.
- Jesus taught this lesson so everyone would know that He is the firm foundation.
- We should build our lives on Him, trusting and following Him. And when we do that, we will be wise just like the wise man from the story.
- There’s a song called the Wise Man and the Foolish Man. Now let’s sing it all together to help us better understand what we just learned!
 - Lyrics for the song is located in your folder.
- Singing with you guys is so much fun!
- Listening to Jesus’ words and doing what God wants us to, asking God for His help is a way we can help build a foundation on Him!
- Jesus taught the people all these things. We can read what He said in the Bible.
- Jesus is Our Example!

LEAD AN ACTIVITY

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

TODAY’S ACTIVITY: WISE MAN COLORING SHEET

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 work on the project one at a time.
- Give them 1 or 2 options of crayons and assist them with coloring, as needed.
- Write the name of the child along with the date and the location (Woodmen Kids) on the child’s craft so the parent(s) can keep it as a keepsake.

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 Jesus is Our Example. May you grow up to love Jesus with your whole heart and follow Him. May you know that He loves you and has a plan for you.

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)! ”