



## God is Provider

Matthew 25:14-30

### 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

**(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:

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about God gives us talents to use to serve Him.

**Say:** Can you do something special? Are you kind? Do you sing? Are you very gentle with animals? Can you run really fast?

God give you special talents you can use to serve Him.

### Play: What's your talent?

**Supplies:** none

**Directions:** Kids sit in a circle on the floor. Pick one kid to go in the middle. Sing a song while they do their special trick. Clap your hands in rhythm. You can chant it if you don't know the tune. Repeat until each child has a chance.

**Sample chant:** *Mindy, Mindy, jump up and down, jump up and down, jump up and down.  
Mindy, Mindy, jump up and down, now sit down.*

**Say:** God made you special. You can do special things for Him.

## 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 to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder**. Choose some songs to sing.

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

## READ A BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read about a Bible story from Mathew 25:14-30

**BIG IDEA: God gives us gifts we can use to serve Him.**

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: The Parable of the Talents**

*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.*

***Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton has a little shovel. (or spoon)***

**Say:** Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? Are you digging? **Hamilton nods.** Are you planting something? **Hamilton nods.** I hope it grows well for you. We're going to hear a story from the Bible about digging a hole. It didn't turn out so well for that guy. Want to listen? **Hamilton nods.**

**Read the Bible Lesson below.**

**Share the Parable of the Talents:**

- God always provides and gives us exactly what we need.
- We are called to be wise with what God has given to us.
- We must not be foolish and waste away what he gives us.
  - Can you make a funny face? Let's not be foolish.
- We should be smart and use what He gives to us to help others.
  - Can you point to your head where your smart brain is?
- There's a story in the Bible that teaches us to be smart with what God gives us.
- 3 men were given some money to take care of.
  - 3 men. Let's count to 3. 1, 2, 3!
- One of the men got 5 bags of money. (Show 5 fingers.)
  - Let's count to 5. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5!
- He worked hard and made 5 more bags of money!
  - Let's count to 5. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5!
- The second man got 3 bags of money. (Show 3 fingers.)
  - Let's count to 3. 1, 2, 3!
- He worked hard and made 3 more bags of money!
  - Let's count to 3. 1, 2, 3!
- The third man got 1 bag of money. (Show 1 finger.)
- He was very foolish with his money. He just dug a hole to hide away his money.

- Can you pretend to dig a hole in the ground? Now hide your pretend bag of money in the hole. Now cover it up.
- He didn't work hard and he didn't get any more money. (Make a zero with your thumb and fingers.)
- None. No more money. Swish your hands like "no more money."
- God wants us to be wise and to bless others with what we have. We can do this because...
- God is Provider!

Bye Hamilton, have fun digging your hole!

### **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 God is Provider. (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:** What are some ways we can bless others with what we have? *Let kids answer.* Let's pray for opportunities to love well and help others to see Jesus.  
Pray.

### **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:** Friends, may you always remember that God provides you with gifts. He wants you to be wise and help other people with your gifts. He is our provider.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

### PLAY: Coloring Page

**Supplies:** *coloring page and crayons*

**Directions:** Sit with the kids and all color the picture.

Discuss how what gifts they might have and how they can help other people.

They can give their beautiful colored picture to someone as a gift.

## 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)!"