



God is in Control

Matthew 8

God Statement: Jesus is Amazing

KEY VERSE:

“They were amazed at his teacher, because his message had authority.”

Luke 4:32 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: God is in Control

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is in Control.

Say: God made the world. He made everything. He is in Control. Have you ever seen the ocean? How about a big lake or pond? What do you think would happen if a big wind started blowing? What about lightning or thunder? We'll hear more about that in our story.

MAKE: Water Exploration

Supplies: a small tub filled with water, toy boats, small cups

Directions: Let the kids play and explore.

- **Ask: Have you been in a boat?**
- **What did you think?**
- **You can blow on the boat. What happens?**
- **We'll hear more about a boat in our story.**

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**.

- *Oh Who Can Make a Flower?*
- *My God is so Big!*

READ A BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read about a story about how God is in Control.

BIG IDEA:

Jesus and His friends were in a boat on a big lake. A storm came and shook the boat. Jesus made the wind and rain stop. Only Jesus can do that. God is in control.

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: God is in Control***

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 is wearing sunglasses.

Say: Hamilton, what are you up to? ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** You get to go in a boat?? How fun. Hope you have good weather. I see you're ready with your sunglasses on. We are going to hear a story from the Bible about a boat and a big storm. But don't worry. God is in control.

Read the Bible story below.

- Jesus was talking to His friends. He had been talking all day long.
- He was tired.
 - Can you yawn with me? Ooh, big yawn.
- He went in a boat with His friends.
 - Have you been in a boat?
- Well, Jesus got in that boat and went right to sleep.
 - Put your hands together like a pillow and go to sleep too. OK, wake up to hear the rest of the story.
- Jesus' friends were rowing the boat.
 - Let's pretend we are rowing too. ***Lean back and forth, using your hands to pull pretend oars.***
- All of a sudden, the wind started to blow!
 - Can you all blow like the wind? Yes, now we'll stop blowing.
- Then there was a clap of thunder.
 - Let's give the biggest clap we can. Ready? 1, 2, 3 CLAP!!
- There was even some lightning.
 - Can our lights work like lightning? Let's try it. ***Turn the light switch off and on.*** Well, not so great but you get the idea.
- The rain came down.
 - Let's pat our legs fast to make them sound like rain.
 - Let's try it all at once. Blow, clap, pat. Wow, what a storm!

- The disciples were afraid.
- They said, “Jesus, save us!”
 - Let’s say that too. “Jesus, save us!”
- Do you know what happened? Jesus woke up. He stood up and shouted, “Peace, be still!”
- The rain stopped.
- The lightning stopped.
- The thunder stopped.
- The wind stopped.
- All was quiet and peaceful.
- Jesus stopped the big storm.
- God is in Control.

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 Amazing! (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: We are all afraid sometimes. I am afraid sometimes, too. (*Teacher share something you are afraid of.*) What is something you are afraid of? (*Let kids talk about it.*). We learned today that God is in Control. God loves us. He wants us to listen to Him and to love Him. He will help us when we are afraid.

We can pray. God, please help us when we are afraid.

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 when you are afraid, God is in Control.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Parachute Play

Supplies: blue tablecloth, a toy boat

Directions: Like a parachute, have all the kids hold onto the tablecloth.

Put the boat in the middle and lift the tablecloth up and down to pretend there is a big storm.

Say: Jesus told the storm to STOP! Be still.

Everyone stop shaking the tablecloth and make it very still.

Let's say: God is in Control!

Repeat as many times as you want.

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)!"