



## 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

**(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 how God forgives.

**Say:** Sometimes we do wrong things. Sometimes others do wrong things.  
God always forgives us. He wants us to forgive, too.

### MAKE: Explore A Lot or a Little

**Supplies:** : scale, rocks or blocks,



**Directions:** Let the kids explore the scale, putting in one rock or small block at a time. See if they can balance the scale. Then try putting in one on one side, then several on the other side. See what happens.

**Say:** Whether we sin a lot or a little, God always forgives us. Let's forgive others, too.

## 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 Wise Man
- The Wisdom Song
- Only God Can Do
- God can Do Anything

## 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 Matthew 18:21-35.

**BIG IDEA: Jesus was telling a story. He wants us to forgive each other from our hearts.**

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 Forgives**

*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.***

**Say:** Hi Hamilton. Will you listen to our Bible story with us today? ***Hamilton nods yes.***

### **Read the Bible Lesson below.**

- **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? Let's count to seven. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7! What about 77??? That's too many for today.
  - Jesus tells us to always forgive.
  - Then Jesus went on to tell a story about a servant and his boss.
  - There was a servant who did not have a lot of money.
  - The servant owed money to his boss and his boss was not happy. He wanted his money back.
    - Can you show me a mad face? Yes, that's what the boss looked like.
  - 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!
  - He was so happy. Hamilton, what do you do when you are very happy? ***Have Hamilton do a little happy dance.*** Let's dance with our hands. (take a moment to have everyone dance with their hands.)
  - Jesus said, "...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 Amazing!

**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:** Sometimes we are mean and not nice to others. What are some things we do that are not nice? *Let kids answer. (Hit, take toy, make a mean face).* What should we do if someone is not nice to US? What did Jesus tell us in His story? Yes, to forgive from our hearts. Next time someone is mean to us, we can say “stop that.” Then, we can forgive them from our heart.

**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 forgives us when we do wrong things. May you always remember that you can forgive too.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

**(Until parents pickup)**

**PLAY: Game Forgive/Don't Forgive (Red Light/Green Light)**

***Supplies: none***

- **Directions:** We are playing a game called red light green light but with a twist. The teacher will say “I forgive” two times and then the third time they will say “I don't forgive.”
- When the teacher says “I forgive” the kids are allowed to move toward the finish line. But when the teacher says “I don't forgive” the kids have to freeze.

- Play as many times as you have interest.
- Be sure to end the game with “I forgive” and let them run to the finish line.

## 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)!”