



## Jesus is the Light of the World

John 9

### 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 Jesus is the Light of the World.

**Say:** Which do you like better: the dark or the light? Why? Let's close our eyes. Ooh, now it's dark. We can't see. Now open your eyes. Now it's light! Can you see me? Let's all make a funny face. Look around. See each other? That's great.

### Explore:

**Supplies: flashlights**

**Directions:** Allow the kids to explore with the flashlights.

**Say:** Flashlights give us light. God made the light. Jesus is the light of the world. He can even heal a blind man who can't see. After Jesus healed him, the man could see the light!

## 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 John 9.

**BIG IDEA: Jesus healed a man who was born blind. Jesus is the Light of the World! He can help us see His light.**

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: Jesus is the Light of the World**

*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. He is holding a flashlight.***

**Say:** Hi Hamilton! What are you doing with that flashlight? **Hamilton waves it around.** Oh, you want me to turn it on for you? **Turn on flashlight.** It has a bright light. You can see in the darkness when you have a light. Let's hear about Jesus healing a blind man. Hamilton, why don't you take your flashlight back to your house now. Bye, Hamilton!

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

- **Jesus is the Light of the World. He can do anything.**
- **He saw a man who was born blind. He couldn't see anything.**
  - **Let's cover our eyes. Can you see anything? No! That is how it was for that man. Now put your hands back in your lap.**
- **Some people thought that the man had done something wrong to make him blind but Jesus said "No! He didn't sin. God is going to show off what God can do!"**
  - **Can you show off? Show me your best smile! That is beautiful. Let's see what God will do.**
- **Jesus spit on the ground to make a little mud. He took that mud and put it on the man's eyes!!!**
  - **We wouldn't want to put mud on our eyes. That might hurt them. But Jesus used that mud to heal the man's eyes. Let's pretend to put mud on our eyes.**
- **Jesus told the man to wash his eyes.**
- **When he did, the man could see!**
  - **Let's cover our eyes again. Can you see anything? No! That is how it was for that man. Now uncover your eyes. You can see! Yay!**
- **The man believed in Jesus and worshipped Him.**
- **Let's clap for Jesus. Yay Jesus!**

## 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:** Remember how the man who was born blind worshipped Jesus? How can we worship Jesus? He does great things for us, too. Let's think of all the things Jesus does for us. (Let the children share.) And now let's worship Jesus. Let's clap for Him and say, "Yay Jesus!"

**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 know that Jesus is the light of the world. When things look dark and sad and scary, you can turn to Him. His love will light your heart.

**CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

**(Until parents pickup)**

**PLAY: HIDE AND SEEK WITH JESUS**

***Supplies: flashlight, Jesus plush***

**Directions:**

- Before starting, find a clear space to work where other kids cannot get into the supplies. Make sure you have supplies ready before starting!
- Have all the kiddos huddle up together while you have an LIT "hide" the Jesus plush.
- Then have the kiddos take the flashlight and go find Jesus.
- Once you find Jesus say: "Jesus is the light of the world"
- Play 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)!"