



God Sees Our Heart

Luke 7

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!

*****Be sure to check for allergies today as we will be using essential oils. DO NOT PLACE OILS ON THE CHILDREN IN THE CLASSROOM IN ANY ACTIVITY****

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 Sees our Heart

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God sees our heart.

Say: What do cookies smell like? What about your puppy? What about your baby? Can you imagine what it smells like after it snows or rains? How about your mommy's perfume? We're going to talk today about a lady who loved Jesus. She had something special that smelled very good. Let's see what she did.

MAKE: Explore - *Be sure to check for allergies.*

Supplies: various essential oils

Directions: Sit with a few kids at a time.

Open each bottle one at a time and let the kids smell it. **HOLD THE BOTTLE AT WASTE LEVEL>
DO NOT PLACE IN THE CHILDS FACE.**

Say: What do you think? Do you like that smell? Which one is your favorite?

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 Be Careful Little Eyes what you see*
- *The Wise Man Build His House upon the Rock*

READ A BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read a Bible story from Luke 7.

BIG IDEA:

A woman who everyone thought was bad, showed love to Jesus. He could see her heart and knew that she loved 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: God sees our Heart

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 holding a small wooden heart.

Say: Hi Hamilton, I see you have a heart. We will be talking about our heart today. How is your heart? ***Hamilton nods happily.*** Why don't you listen in to our Bible story.

Read the Bible story from Luke 7 below.

- There was a woman who did some wrong things.
 - Do you ever do wrong things? Yes? Me too!
- She loved Jesus very much.
 - Can you hug yourself to show how much she loved Jesus?
- She had a very special gift she wanted to give Jesus.
- She had been saving this special gift for a very long time.
- She wanted to show Jesus how much she loved Him.
- She had a very special bottle of good smelling oil.
- She put it on Jesus' feet to show how much she loved Him.
- God could see her heart. He knew that she loved Jesus very much.
 - Can you give yourself another hug to remind you that Jesus loves you, too.
- Even though she had done wrong things, God could see her heart. He forgave her and was happy that she loved 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 God sees our heart. (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: Can you put your hand on your heart? Can you see your heart? No. But God can. He can see the love and sweetness you have there.

Do you do wrong things? Yes! Me too? God can see those wrong things we do.

And, He still loves us. Let's say we are sorry for the wrong things we do.

Let's say: I'm sorry that I do wrong things, God.

God still loves us.

Let's say: I love you too, God.

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.

May you always remember that God sees your heart and loves you.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

Activity: God sees our heart *Be sure to check for allergies. DO NOT PLACE OILS ON THE CHILD OR HAVE THEM USE THE OILS ON THEIR OWN.*

Supplies: wooden heart, bag, essential oil, crayons or marker

Directions:

- **Have children decorate their wooden heart.**
- **Help them put the heart in the bag**
- **Place a drop of oil on the heart in the bag.**

- **Place bag aside for the child to take home.**

Say: Here is a little wood heart. Where is your real heart? Put your hand on your heart. This wood heart can remind you that God sees your heart.

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)!"