



Jesus is our Teacher

Matthew 5-7

God Statement: Jesus is our Example

KEY VERSE:

“I have given you an example, you should do as I have done for you.”

John 13:15 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: Jesus is our Teacher

In today's lesson, we are going to learn that Jesus is our Teacher.

Say: Do you have a teacher? Maybe at preschool, maybe your mom. How about ME? I am your teacher, too. All of these teachers know so many things. Do you know who knows EVERYTHING??? Yes, JESUS! Jesus is our teacher. We can learn from Him when we pray and read from the Bible and listen to Him.

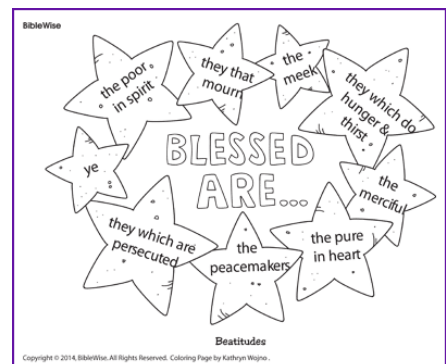
MAKE: Beautitude Coloring

Supplies: hand cut-outs, background paper, glue sticks

Directions: Help toddlers color the coloring page.

While you are working with each child:

- Talk about what the pictures say. These are the attitudes Jesus wants us to have.
- What are some things you do like these pictures. Can you be a peacemaker? Can you show mercy. What is mercy? Are you sad sometimes?



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.**

- *Jesus Loves Me*
- *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

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 Jesus is our Teacher from the Bible.

BIG IDEA: Jesus is our teacher. We can learn from Him when we pray and read from the Bible and listen to 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)

Matthew 5

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is our Teacher

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 little present.

Say: Hi Hamilton, I see you have a present. ***Hamilton nods and whispers in your ear.*** Oh, the present is for your teacher? How nice. Is she very smart? ***Hamilton nods.*** We're going to hear about Jesus today. He is our teacher. He is the smartest of all! Why don't you listen from your house right here, Hamilton. ***Put Hamilton away.***

Jesus was talking to the people. He told them they would be blessed when they do things God wanted them to. Jesus said,

- "Blessed are those who are spiritually needy.
 - What are some things we need? (yes, food and water and people to love us. We need Jesus.)
 - The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.
- Blessed are those who are sad.
 - Can you show me your sad face?
- They will be comforted.
 - Give yourself a hug.
- Blessed are those who are humble.
 - They will be given the earth.
- Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty for what is right.
 - Rub your tummy. Are you hungry?
- They will be filled.
 - Let's see your happy face.
- Blessed are those who show mercy. They are kind to others.
 - Can you shake your neighbor's hand? That is being kind.
- They will be shown mercy.
- Blessed are those whose hearts are pure.
 - Put your hand on your heart. That's right.

- They will see God.
- Blessed are those who make peace.
They will be called children of God.
- Blessed are those who suffer for doing what is right.
The kingdom of Heaven belongs to them.
- Blessed are you when people make fun of you and hurt you because of me. You are also blessed when they tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me. Be joyful and glad. Your reward in Heaven is great.

Say: Jesus taught the people all these things. We can read what He said in the Bible.

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 our Teacher. (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.

Say: Let's think of some of the things Jesus said. Remember He said that you will be blessed when you are these things that He said. He said if you want what is right, if you show mercy, if your heart is pure.

Let's listen to God for a moment. Does He have anything He wants you to know right now? (Sit quietly for a moment.) Do you want to share what you heard from God? (Allow them to share.) If you didn't hear anything, that's ok. Maybe next time.

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 Jesus is our teacher. May you always remember to listen to Him.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Beautitude Charades

Supplies: none

Directions: Act out some of the characteristics of the Beautitudes. See if the children can guess what you are doing.

- Hug yourself (the kids will guess “Hug” or “hugging” or “giving a hug.”)
- Shake someone’s hand
- Smile very big
- Put your hands together as you would to pray
- Cry
- Dance

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)!”