



## Easter

Matthew 26

### God Statement: Jesus is Our Hope

KEY VERSE:

**“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8b, 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 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 Hope!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is our Hope.

**Say:** Can you say hope? Hope! It's a small word, but it has a BIG meaning. Maybe you've heard your grownup or brothers/sisters say things like – I hope it doesn't rain today or we hope it snows or I hope we get a puppy! Those are little hopes compared to what Jesus does for us. Jesus IS our hope! He saved us! How does that make you feel? Happy? Calm? Excited? Let's read our Bible verse together. Romans 5:8 says, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us!" Thank you, Jesus! Let's make a craft to celebrate what Jesus did for us.

### MAKE: Resurrection Story Craft

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, do this activity!

**Supplies:** Resurrection story printouts, scissors, brads, crayons or markers

**Say:** *Today we get to make a very special craft. When Jesus died on the cross, he was buried in a tomb. But what happened 3 days later? He was alive! We're going to make a craft to help us remember this special story.*

**Directions:** Have kids color their resurrection story craft. Then, if not already cut out, cut the circles out along the lines. Use the metal brad to connect the two circles together, with the Easter one on top. Show the kids how to spin the wheel to tell the story together.



#### **While you are working with each child:**

- Talk about how it feels when someone has to go away for a long time – sad. Is it exciting when they come back?
- Talk about what hope means and how Jesus came to be our hope. We don't have to be afraid. He loves us. He gives us hope. He IS our hope.
- Talk through the Easter story with the completed craft.

## 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.

## 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.

**This month, please introduce the following songs:**

- *My God is so big*
- *Jesus Loves Me*
- *Thank you, God*

## 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 Hope through the **provided handouts**.

### **BIG IDEA:**

**Jesus is our Hope! He came to save us because He loves us SO much!**

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 Our Hope***

*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 sad.***

**Say:** Hi Hamilton! Why do you look so sad? Oh yes, we are talking about some sad things today. Let's all show Hamilton our sad faces too. ***Hamilton looks happy at the kids.*** Oh, now you look happy! That's good because we are going to also talk about something very happy today! Kids, show me your happy faces.

**Say:** Are you ready to hear our story today, Hamilton? We're learning about how Jesus is our hope! ***Hamilton nods excitedly.*** Okay, well Jesus wanted to get together with his friends. Do you like to spend time with your friends? ***Allow kids to respond.*** Me too! Let's make a happy face.

***Show picture of last supper provided.***

**Say:** They look so happy eating together. But, sadly, this was the last time they would eat dinner together. Jesus had to go away. I bet that was sad for them. Let's make a sad face. Let's read what happened after that special dinner together.

***Read the Easter story handout provided in folder.***

***As you read the story, have children make happy/sad faces based on what is happening in the story.***

**Say:** Jesus had to go away to save us... While it might have felt sad at the time, Jesus did this because He loves us. Can you make a happy face?

**Say:** We all do bad things. Sometimes we don't listen to our grownup. Sometimes we say mean things. We all make mistakes. Well, the good news is God found a way to save us from our bad things! But Jesus had to die on a cross to save us...

**Say:** But Jesus didn't stay dead. Make the happiest face you can. Yay Jesus! He is our hope. Hamilton, are you happy that Jesus is our hope? ***Hamilton nods excitedly.*** Yes, you are! Thanks so much for helping us tell the story of Jesus saving us, Hamilton! Time to go! See you next time. ***Wave goodbye to Hamilton.***

### **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 Hope. He saved us from the bad things we do. He took our punishment, so we don't have to. "Jesus is our Hope!" (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.

***Encourage class to sit quietly.***

**Say:** We all do bad things. That makes us sad. This makes us feel bad inside.

Jesus came to give us hope. We can tell him we are sorry when we do something bad. Maybe we don't listen to mommy. Maybe we hit our sister. Maybe we tell a lie.

**Say:** We can tell Jesus we are sorry. Let's do that now. "Jesus, we are sorry we do bad things." Can you say "sorry?"

**Say:** Jesus loves you so much. He forgives you. He loves little children. He loves YOU. Let's say our God Statement one more time. Jesus our hope!

***Pray to close Large Group time out.***

### **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.*

***Friends, always remember that Jesus loves you so much that he died on the cross for you. But he didn't stay dead – He is alive!***

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

### PLAY: Praise Jesus Dance Party

*Supplies: music on Plex – Easter songs*

**Directions:** Invite all the kids to dance along to the music to celebrate Jesus! Praise Jesus for saving us! Turn the game into freeze dance if time permits, by pausing the music every once in a while and having kids freeze.

## 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)!"



