



Jesus is Resurrected

Matthew 28:1-10

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: Growing Beans

Supplies: ziploc bags, paper towels, 2-3 bean seeds per kid, spray bottle for water OR sink access, sharpie/craft tag

Directions: As you talk through the demonstration, give each child a ziploc bag with their name on it. Fold paper towels to fit in the bag and dampen using spray bottle or sink – have kids help with this part. Place the damp towel in the bag and have each child add their seeds. Zip the top and allow the kids to hold the bags as you discuss.

Say: *Look at your bean seeds in your hands. Do you think they are dead or alive? They sure look dead. They are dry and crunchy. They are stiff and cold. Could they be alive? Jesus died for us. He was killed on the cross and buried. But did He stay dead? No way! When Jesus rose from the dead, when He became alive – that was a miracle!*

Say: *We're going to plant these bean seeds as a kind of picture to remind us that Jesus was dead and now, He is alive! When you get home, tape the bag to a sunny window or close to a window with sunlight. Check it every morning. In a few days, you should see some sprouts beginning to grow! Let these beans remind you that Jesus is alive!*

While you are working with each child say:

- Talk about what you think the beans will look like in a few days.
- Talk about how it must have felt to see Jesus come back to life.

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*
- *Only God can do*
- *Thank you, God*

READ A BIBLE STORY

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

Read about Jesus is Resurrected in *Jesus Calling: Bible Story Book*.

BIG IDEA:

Jesus is Alive! He died for our sins, and all of the wrong things we do. He didn't stay dead. He came back to life. He is our Hope!

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! ***Show Hamilton some of the beans in a bag – one of the kid's bags.*** What do you think Hamilton? Do you think these will grow? ***He nods his head vigorously.*** Well, we'll see, won't we?

Say: Hamilton, we have a really exciting story that I can't wait to share with you today! Do you remember how we learned about Easter? ***Hamilton nods.*** Well, today, we're going to learn about the most important part of Easter – that Jesus is alive! Let's say that together, friends. Ready? One, two, three – Jesus is alive! Let's read the story out of our Bible.

Read the God's Wonderful Surprise story out of the Jesus Storybook Bible on pg. 310-317.

As you read the story, have children make happy/sad faces based on what is happening in the story. Every time you say "Jesus is alive!", have the kids raise their hands up and shout that statement.

Say: Wow, that is so exciting! Jesus is Alive! Remember our bean seeds from earlier? We'll see if our beans will grow. That will remind us that Jesus is Alive! Right, Hamilton? ***Hamilton nods, excitedly.*** OK, friends, let's tell Hamilton goodbye. Bye Hamilton! ***Wave goodbye to Hamilton.***

Put Hamilton away in his house.

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. *Jesus is our Hope – shout it out with the kids a few 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: Let's pretend we are little seeds. Can you curl up like a ball. Be very still and quiet. Shh. Now, start to grow. Some seeds grow very slowly. Move your arm out, now your other arm. Now lift your head. Now raise up your body veeerrry slowly. Yes! You grew! You're alive!

Say: Let's grow fast this time. Curl up like a little seed. Be very still and quiet. Shhhh. Now jump up! You're alive!

Say: Jesus was dead. Now He is ALIVE!!! Thank you, Jesus, that You are alive! You love us and take care of us! You are 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, may you always remember: God can do anything! And He loves YOU!!!

Let's say our verse together: Romans 5:8, "When we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

MAKE: Coloring Page – Take Home Activity

Supplies: Coloring page- one per child, crayons

Directions: Pass out one coloring page to each child and encourage them to color the page as bright and colorful as they can to remind them of the lesson from today. Make sure each child takes their coloring page home to show their parents what they learned.

As kids color, talk about the lesson from the day:

- Talk about how Jesus is alive.
- Talk about how much He loves kids, each kid.
- Talk about what the figures on the page are doing.
- Talk about what they might be saying.
- Talk about what colors you are using.

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)!"

**Jesus is alive!
Jesus is our Hope!**

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