



Jesus Appears and Returns to Heaven

Matthew 28:18-20

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: Have you ever had something really exciting you wanted to tell someone? Show me your excited face! Maybe you were excited because you just got a really awesome new toy? Or you found out you were going to get a baby brother or sister? Or you get to go on a special trip? Well, we're going to learn about some really exciting news today that we can find in the Bible. The Bible is God's Word to us. Before we find out more in the Bible, let's make a craft to help us think about this good news.

MAKE: Heart Coloring Page

Supplies: heart coloring page, red and pink crayons

Directions: Invite kids to come to the table to work on this heart craft. Pull out mainly red and pink crayons from your supplies for them to color with.

Say: We all like to hear good news. Right? Good news makes us feel happy and excited! Well, Jesus is our Good News! The good news is that Jesus loves YOU! We can tell others that Jesus loves them too. Can you say, "Jesus loves you!"? This happy heart shows love to help us remember that Jesus loves us. Let's color it very nicely with lots of pretty red and pinks.

While you are working with each child talk to them:

- Talk about how Jesus loves them - Jesus loves you. He loves your heart. He loves your fingers and toes. That is good news. Jesus loves everybody.
- Talk about how Jesus loves each child.
- Talk about sharing with others that Jesus loves them, too. Who can they tell that to? (mom, dad, friend, neighbor, etc.)

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:

- *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 Good News through the **provided handouts**.

BIG IDEA:

Jesus loves us and wants us to tell others that He loves them. It’s such good news we can share with others!

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! ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** What? ***He whispers again.*** Oh, Hamilton, thank you! Jesus loves you, too! That was nice. Hamilton told me that Jesus loves me.

Say: Let's tell our friends that Jesus loves them. I will tell the first person. ***Turn to the first kid and say their name and Jesus loves you.*** Hayley, Jesus loves you. Now Hayley, will you tell Michael? ***Keep going until all the kids have shared that Jesus loves you to each kid.***

Use the provided handout in folder.

Say: Look at this picture. Here is Jesus and here is the world. Jesus wants us to tell everyone in the whole world that He loves them. Who can you tell? ***Teacher, prompt them with people in their family, their friends at preschool and their neighbors.***

Say: Hamilton, Jesus loves YOU. ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** Oh, that's great. Friends, Hamilton is going to tell his friend that Jesus loves him. That's a great idea. Let's tell Hamilton bye for now. Bye Hamilton. Don't forget, Jesus loves you!! ***Wave goodbye to Hamilton, and put Hamilton 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. *Point to the large poster that will be on the wall in your class all quarter: "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 through the time.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: Let's think about how much Jesus loves us. He cares for us. He watches out for us. He wants us to do what is right. Let's sit quietly and think about Jesus.

*You can play Worship Response music from Plex.
go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.*

Say: Thank you, Jesus, that you love us. We love you too. Help us tell our friends that you love them, too.

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.

Always remember that Jesus loves you. And you can tell your friends that Jesus loves them, too!

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Tell the Good News

Supplies: none

Directions: Invite kids to practice sharing the good news that Jesus loves you with each other in the class. Take turns going around, like we did in the story, and telling others that Jesus loves them. Get creative and have kids practice whispering, singing, shouting, motioning the news.

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

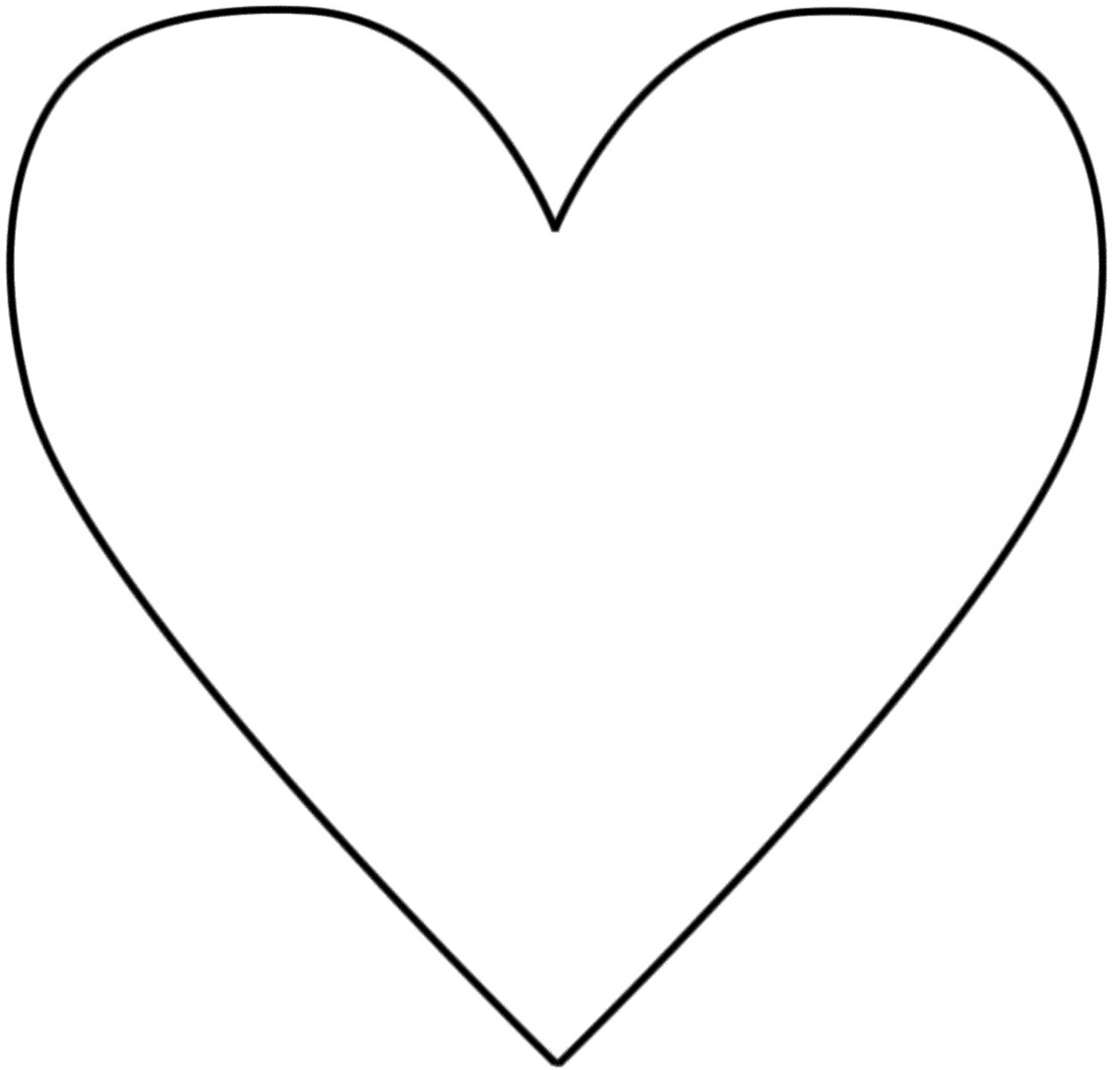
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

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)!"



The Great Commission



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