



God Sees Our Heart

1 Samuel 16 & 17; 2 Samuel 5

God Statement: God is Our Leader

KEY VERSE:

“Be strong and brave.” Joshua 1:9, 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 S's 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 is our Leader

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is our Leader and He sees our hearts.

Say: God loves us! He knows our hearts: That means he knows what we think and how we feel, all the time. God knows us even better than mommy and daddy or our family and friends!

MAKE: Valentine Heart Craft for someone special

Supplies: *Construction Paper - cut out heart shape – one per child, Stickers, markers, crayons, paints, stamps, etc.*

Directions: Pass out a paper heart to each child and encourage them to make it bright and colorful as they can to remind them of the lesson. Make sure each child takes one home to show their parents what they have learned.

Say: *Today, our story is all about love and how God loves us! He helped David to be brave and to become King because God loved David. God knows our hearts and loves us too! He cares about us and loves to hear from us.*

We are going to make hearts to show love to someone special! You can make a heart for God, for mommy, daddy, or brother/sister.

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

(5-7 minutes)

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 week, please introduce the following songs:

- *My God is so big*
- *Only God can do*

READ A BIBLE STORY

(5-7 minutes)

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

This week, read a story about how God leads the Israelites in "*Jesus Calling: Bible Story Book*" on **pages 68-71**.

BIG IDEA:

God leads and takes care of us. Let's see how God promises to take care of the Israelites when He calls them to move to a new land.

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 Hearts!

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.

Say: Hamilton! Hello! Do you have people or things that you love? **Ham nods.** What about our friends here? Do you all have things or people you love? What are they?

Do you know where we find God's words? **Hamilton nods.** (Have Hamilton or children get the bible) That's right! The Bible tells us God's word!

Today, we have a story from the Bible. It's about how God is our Leader. Let's learn more about how God loved a boy named David - it's a story from the Bible!

Read story from Jesus Calling: Bible Storybook (pg. 96-97)

Say: This is David and was very small and the youngest brother of 6 brothers! Let's all count to 6 together! **Kids count along with you.**

But that did not matter to God, He looks at the heart. The bible says, **"But God said, "No. Looks do not matter to Me. I see what is in a man's heart." (pg.96)**

Say: God looked at David's heart and saw that he would be fit to be King! And we may not ever be kings or queens, but God looks at our hearts too!

Let's pray together and thank God for seeing our hearts!

Say: Thanks for helping us with our story today, Hamilton! We can't wait to see you next time! **Wave bye 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 God is our Leader. *Point to the large poster that will be on the wall in your class all quarter:* "God is our Leader!" (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times) "He is always with us!"

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: God is our leader! Our mommies and daddies love us. Our family loves us. Our friends love us. They lead us a lot. God is always with us. We can talk to Him any time. If we listen quietly, sometimes we can hear Him. Let's lay down for a minute and think about how God is our leader. He loves us and watches over us.

Turn on soft worship response music in Plex under 2s & 3s folder while kids lay quiet for a minute or two.

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.

“Be strong and courageous. The Lord is with you wherever you go.”

Friends, remember that God is always leading us. He loves you.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Follow the Leader

Supplies: *none*

Directions: Have the kids all line up behind the designated “leader.” The leader can be the classroom teacher or LIT. The “leader” will walk around the room doing various motions (i.e. jumping, crawling, hopping, clapping, cheering, etc.) that the kids must follow as they follow the leader around the room.

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)!"