



God Teaches Us – Solomon

1 Kings 3-11

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 gives us courage

In today's lesson, we are going to learn that God is our leader:

Say: Have you ever made a promise with someone? A promise is when you say you are going to do something and then you do it! God promises that He will give us courage. We can read those words in the Bible. Joshua 1:9 says "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

PLAY: Find The Bible

Supplies: Bible (found in classroom)

Prepare Ahead: Have a few places that are age-appropriate to "hide" the Bible.

Directions: Have each child sit on the carpet or chairs. Hide the bible as you instruct each child to close their eyes for 5 seconds. (You can help them count) once you have hidden the bible, the class has to work together to find it!

Say: Friends, can you tell me what we call God's Word? **Kids answer: the Bible** That's right! God's Word is called the Bible. The Bible teaches us all about God and how to live. Today we are going to learn how God teaches us. But first, let's play a game!

We are going to practice finding the Bible so we can learn from God!

While you are working with each child:

- Talk about how God gives us courage
- Repeat story recap of God using Joshua to lead & scripture
 - God used Joshua to lead the Israelites
 - "Be strong and courageous."- Joshua 1:9

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

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

This week, read from "Jesus Calling: Bible Storybook", *Solomon's Wisdom*, on **pages 106-107**.

BIG IDEA:

God loves us and wants to teach us. Like Solomon we can ask God to give us wisdom so we can make the right decisions.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as your 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 Teaches Us

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 has a bible and a small object. He is puzzled and trying to decide.

Say: Hi Hamilton! Are you doing okay today? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** **Say:** Oh! you are trying to decide on what to do?! your mom gave you this new toy and she told you to share it. But you don't want to?. **Hamilton nods.** Wow, that is a hard choice! But we can look at God's Word, and He tells us we should listen and obey our parents.

Say: The Bible is a great way to learn and for God to teach us! Today, we are going to learn about a King who asked God to help him make the right decisions.

Read the "Jesus Calling: Bible Storybook" Solomon's Wisdom (pg. 106-107)

Say: If you could ask God for anything what might you ask Him for? **Kids answer.** Those are some good answers! King Solomon got to ask God for anything He wanted. And Solomon asked for wisdom!

God wants us to make the right choices, like listening and obeying our parents. And we can always trust that God will lead us and teach us how to do the right things!

Say: Let's pray together and ask God to help us do the right things! **Pray with class.** Thanks for helping us learn about how God teaches us Hamilton. Bye, Hamilton! **Hamilton waves goodbye to class.**

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! We might have to make hard choices, but 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 can give us wisdom. 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 and gives us the courage. He loves you.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

MAKE: Coloring Page

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.

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 playing with the classroom games and toys.

