



## God is Faithful – Remember & Celebrate

Previous Stories

### 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

*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 Faithful

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

**Say:** God is our leader! Let's say that together, ready? God is our leader! God is faithful, which means God always shows up and we can always rely on him. That makes me feel so safe, kind of like a warm blanket. What makes you feel safe? Maybe a special blanket? A stuffed animal? Your grownups? A special snack? Those are all great things that can make us feel safe, but the most important one, that is always with us, is God!

### PLAY: Follow the Leader

**Supplies:** the emergency rope with colorful handles (found in the green bag), *children's Bible*

**Directions:** Have the Kids hold onto the emergency rope and for the first round, lead them around the room. Emphasize that you have a Bible in your hand as you're leading the class. Ask a few questions as you lead them. Pause every now and then to ask questions below (as you hold the bible - making it clear that the leader has the Bible).

**Say:** *We are remembering today, how God is our leader and He is faithful! Let's play a game we've played recently to see how good we are at following the leader! Let's line up! As we go around the classroom, make sure to follow the leader wherever they may go!*

**Idea:** *Try and let the kids be the line leader! It's a great way to get them more involved and engaged!*

#### **While you are working with the children:**

- **What is a Leader?** They show us where to go.
- **How does God lead us?** The Bible!
- **When do we talk to God?** When we pray!
- **When should we follow God?** All the time!
- **Who is our Leader?** God is our Leader!

## 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.

**You can sing some of these songs today:**

- *Ring the Bells (Christmas)*
- *My God is so big*
- *Only God can do*
- *God is so Good*
- *Thank you, God*

## READ A BIBLE STORY

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

### BIG IDEA:

**God is our Leader! Let's remember and celebrate how God leads us and is faithful always!**

### BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

#### **THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God is Faithful**

*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.*

***Make sure Hamilton is holding jingle bells before coming out. Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class.***

**Say:** Hi Hamilton! What do you have there? ***Hamilton jingles the bells.*** Oh, I remember. Friends, remember when we celebrated Christmas? Baby Jesus was born! Let's celebrate Jesus! ***Hand out bells or classroom instruments to all the kids.*** Let's sing a song about Christmas! ***Sing: Ring the Bells or another Christmas song about baby Jesus.*** Yay! Jesus was born.

**Say:** Remember when we made a big tower and knocked it all down? We learned about God knocking down the walls of Jericho so His people could have their new land. ***Build a tower from classroom blocks and let Hamilton knock it down.*** God is Powerful!

**Say:** Remember when we talked about David? This is David and he 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."***

**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!

**Say:** We remember all the stories and verses we have learned. We celebrate that God is our leader and He is so faithful. We can pray to Him. We can ask Him for help. We can tell Him thank you for loving us. We can say "we love you, God" Let's do that right now: "We love you, God!"

**Say:** Hamilton, thank you for coming and helping us remember all God has done for us! Now, it's time to celebrate! Let's have a special snack to celebrate. Hamilton, do you want to join us? ***Hamilton nods.*** Okay! But first, let's pray.

**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) "*

**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 this time.

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

**Say:** Remember how we have been learning to pray? We can fold our hands to keep them quiet. We can close our eyes. Let's put our hands together, just like we practiced! ***Wait for quiet to pray.*** Thank you, God for listening to us. We love to pray to you. We will follow you, God. Amen!

**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, always remember that God is your leader. You can talk to Him anytime. He listens to you and loves you.***

**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)!"