



God is Our Promise Keeper

Joshua 6

Getting to the Promised Land

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 Promise Keeper

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 and be with us. We can read those words in the Bible. Joshua 1:9 says "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Does God always keep His promises? Yes! Let's say this together: God is Our Promise Keeper!

PLAY: Building a Tower

Supplies: *classroom blocks or Legos*

Directions: Either individually, or as a class, pass out the blocks or Legos and have children create a tall tower. Once the tower is built, keep it somewhere visible for the rest of the Large Group time.

Say: *Let's build a tower as big as we can! Good job! You all built such a good tower, today we are going to be learning about a tower and how God led the Israelites to the Promise Land!*

While you are working with each child:

- Talk about how God gives us courage
- Repeat story recap of God using Joshua to lead & use 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, refer to *The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Warrior Leader on pages 108-111 & 114.*

BIG IDEA:

God kept His promise to Joshua and the Israelites and lead them into the new land. God also gives us courage.

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 is our Promise Keeper

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 telling us about a promise

Say: Hi Hamilton! How are you doing? **Ham whispers in your ear.** oh, your mom promised that you would get a cookie after dinner! Friends, do you know what promise means? *Pause for class response*

Promise means to keep your word.

Say: Have any of you ever made a promise before? Did you keep your word? Today, we are going to learn how Joshua and the Israelites enter the Land God had promised them.

Read The Jesus Storybook Bible (pg.108-111, 114)

Say: Kind of like the tower we built at the beginning of class, Joshua led God's people over the wall of Jericho. Finally, the Israelites were able to enter into the Promise Land. God ALWAYS keeps His word.

Can you all say that with me, "God is our Promise Keeper"

Kids repeat: "God is our Promise Keeper"

Say: Yes, Joshua followed His leader, God, and God helped Joshua to be strong and brave. God was with Joshua and God is with YOU.

Say: Thanks for helping us learn about God as our Promise Keeper, 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 gives us courage! We might have to do scary things, 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 gives us courage. 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 always keeps His word 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. Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say “Bye (child’s name)!”

God is Our Promise Keeper!
Joshua 6

