



## God is Hope

Revelation 21, 22

### The Holy Spirit is With Us

KEY VERSE:

**"The Spirit of God lives in you." Romans 8:9 & 11, NIRV paraphrased**

## 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: God is Hope

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is Hope and we will see Him in heaven.

**Say:** Let's all take turns sharing our favorite things. Maybe your favorite thing is a special stuffed animal or your favorite snack? Those are all special things that we love, right? Today, we're going to talk about how God is full of love. God loves each of us! And God is our hope!

### MAKE: Watercolor Paintings

**Supplies:** watercolor paints, brushes, paper, water cups with 1 inch of water

**Directions:** Show the kids how to dip their brush in water, then paint on the paper.

**Say:** *What is your favorite place? Do you like to go camping? Do you like to go swimming? Do you like to see animals? Let's paint the most beautiful things we can imagine.*

**While you are working with each child:**

- You are painting beautiful colors!
- Tell me about your painting.
- Heaven is the most beautiful best place of all.

## 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.**

- *Only God can do*
- *God is so Good*

## 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 John's Dream in *Jesus Calling Bible Storybook*

### **BIG IDEA:**

**Heaven is the best place of all. We love Jesus and He is in Heaven. Someday we will go there.**

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 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 holding cotton balls.***

**Say:** Hi Hamilton! What is that you're holding? Cotton balls? Why do you have cotton balls? **Hamilton whispers into your ear.** Oh, you were trying to pretend they were clouds? Why? **Hamilton whispers into your ear.** That's a good point, the clouds can remind us of Heaven! We're actually going to learn about Heaven today. It's going to be so wonderful there! Let's read about it in the Bible, or the Big God Story! Where is the Bible? **Have Hamilton grab the Bible from the shelf.**

**Read the John's Dream story from Jesus Calling Storybook Bible on page 252-255.**

**Say:** Heaven is a wonderful place. Someday we will go there to be with Jesus! What are you most excited for in Heaven?

**Say:** God thought of everything wonderful and fun and special. That's because God loves each of us so much and He wants to have a special place for us to live with Him forever. Hamilton, how does that make you feel? **Hamilton jumps up and down excitedly.** Oh, you're very excited, Hamilton! How does that make each of you feel? **Let kids respond.**

**Say:** Thanks for helping us learn about Heaven today! We can't wait to learn more about God with you next time. Bye, Hamilton. **Put him 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 "the Holy Spirit is with us." (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:** Think of the best birthday and the best Christmas all together.

**Say:** Heaven is even better than that! If we love Jesus, we'll go there someday at the right time, when God says! That makes me feel so happy, like I'm getting a warm hug. Let's all give ourselves a big hug to remind us that God loves us!

**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.*

***Say:** Friends, always remember God makes the best things for us!*

**CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

**(Until parents pickup)**

**PLAY: Dance Party**

***Supplies:** peppy music on Plex*

**Directions:** Gather kids around and turn on music through Plex or Spotify. As the music plays, encourage the kids to dance or sing or clap their hands. To take it up a level, play freeze dance by pausing the music every once and a while and having the kids stand still until the music starts.

***Say:** Let's have a Dance Party! Clap your hands, march around, dance, jump. Yay Jesus. We love 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)!"