



God Gives Us a Purpose

Acts 9

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 Gives Us a Purpose

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God gives us a purpose.

Say: Let's learn a new word today – special. Do you have a favorite toy or hat or book? What makes it your favorite? Because it has something special or unique about it. Maybe it's special because it makes you think about your grownup. Special is a word that means different than others, unique, and extraordinary. God made us for something special. There is a friend in the Bible named Paul, but first his name was Saul! God made him for something special. And God made us for something special too!

PLAY: Touch & Feel Guessing Game

Supplies: *objects for kids to feel – feather, small animal/insect toy, cotton ball, tea candle, clothespin, other objects from classroom to use*

Directions: Gather kids around in a circle or a few at a time. Have kids take turns touching the objects with their eyes closed. They can try and guess what each object is. Feel free to use more objects around classroom in addition to the provided ones.

Say: *Let's play a game. Can you guess what I have? The tricky part is that you will close your eyes. Can you close your eyes? Good. Now open your eyes. Watch me. Now my eyes are closed. (close your eyes) Now I can see you! My eyes are open.*

While you are working with each child, say:

- Close your eyes. Keep them closed. Can you guess what this is? You can hold it.
- What is it? You can open your eyes now and see what it is!
- Which is easier to guess? Eyes open or eyes closed?

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.**

- *Oh, Who can make a flower?*
- *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 God Gives us a Purpose in **Jesus Calling Bible Storybook.**

BIG IDEA:

**God made Paul for a very special purpose. God makes each of us for a very special purpose too.
God loves us!**

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 Gives Us a Purpose***

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 on a blindfold.

Say: Hamilton, what's going on? Why do you have on a blindfold? ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** Oh, you want to play a game? ***Hamilton nods yes.*** OK, friends, let's play a game with Hamilton. Remember when your eyes were closed and you guessed what you were touching? Let's do that. Maybe he can guess who you are! ***Hamilton touches a child on the head.*** Who is this? Why yes, Hamilton, it is (say child's name)! ***Play with each child, and help Hamilton guess. If the kids would enjoy it, you could guess wrongly a couple of times. Guess "mommy?" or "a puppy?"***

Say: Well Hamilton, you are a good guesser. It's more difficult to guess when you can't see. Let's take off your blindfold now. We're going to read a story about a man who couldn't see for 3 days. Hamilton, would you like to listen with us? ***Hamilton nods excitedly.***

Read the Saul story from Jesus Calling Bible Storybook on page 234-235.

Say: Jesus really wanted to get Saul's attention. He loves Saul and wanted him to follow Him. God had a purpose for Saul. He wanted Saul to tell all the other people about Jesus.

Say: Hamilton, it's time for you to go back to your house. Let's say goodbye to Hamilton. OK, see you next time! ***Put Hamilton back 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: God really loved Saul. He really loves you, too. He loves everybody.

Say: Let's use our eyes to see other people around us. We can tell them that Jesus loves them. Can you make binoculars with your hands? ***Make fists with your hands, then open the fingers***

enough to peek through. Let's look through our binoculars and see someone. Good. Tell them, "Jesus loves you!"

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.

Teacher - make binoculars with your hands. Look through them at one child at a time.

Say: Name, Jesus loves you.

Do this for each child.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

MAKE: Coloring Page

Supplies: coloring pages, crayons or markers

Directions: Sit with the children and color the page about the lesson from the day. Encourage kids to get creative with how much color they use. If there isn't time, be sure to send the coloring page home so parents have something to talk to their kids about.

While you are working with each child:

- The first picture shows that Saul is grumpy. *Ask kids to make a grumpy face.*
- The second picture shows the light coming from heaven.
- The third picture shows Saul when he can't see. He had to wait 3 days.
- The fourth picture shows that Saul is healed! He can see. He loves Jesus now. He wants to tell everyone about Jesus! He is happy. *Ask kids to make a happy face.*

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)!"

Acts 9

God Made Us For a Purpose

