



Jesus is the Good News

Matthew 28:16-20

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: Jesus is the Good News

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is the Good News.

Say: We have some good news today! Do you like good news? How does it make you feel? Excited, happy, nervous, energetic? Well, today we're going to hear the greatest news of all! Are you ready? If you're ready to hear the good news, can you touch your head? If you're ready to hear the good news, can you sit down criss-cross apple sauce with a bubble in your mouth? Okay... Here it is! **Jesus loves YOU** and that is the good news!

MAKE: Megaphone

Supplies: 1 sheet of construction paper per child, stickers, crayons

Directions: Kids can color and decorate their paper. Then, teachers can help them roll the paper into a megaphone shape. Tape or staple it so the megaphone stays in shape.

Say: We just heard some pretty amazing news! You know what I think we should do? We should go and tell others! We can tell our friends that Jesus is the good news! We can tell them that Jesus loves them! Let's practice that.

While you are working with each child say:

- Jesus loves you!
- We can tell our friends.
- Can you talk into your megaphone and say, "Jesus is the good news!"

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.**

- *My God is so Big!*
- *Thank you, God*

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 Jesus Goes to Heaven in *Jesus Calling Bible Storybook* p. 226-227

BIG IDEA:

It was time for Jesus to go back to heaven. He told his friends to tell everyone that He loves them. Jesus is the Good News and we can tell others!

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: Jesus Goes to Heaven – Jesus is the Good News

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 a megaphone.

Say: Hi Hamilton. I see you have a megaphone. We have megaphones too! Can you say toot toot into your megaphone? Now let's all toot toot! Now let's all say "Jesus loves you!" Put your megaphones down while we read the story. **Teachers, collect the megaphones before you read.** Hamilton, will you listen to the story with us?

Read "Jesus Goes to Heaven" in the Jesus Calling Bible Storybook on pg. 226-227.

Say: Wow, Jesus went right up to heaven! He loves us so much that He came to earth to die for our sins. But He didn't stay dead! He is alive!

Say: He wants us to tell everyone that Jesus loves them. Let's get our megaphones again and say that. "Jesus loves YOU!"

Say: Hamilton, we're glad you shared our story with us. 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.

When Jesus left the earth, he sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us. We are learning the words "The Holy Spirit is with us." Let's say that together. (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: Jesus loves you so much!

Say: Is there someone you can share that with? Let's think about who we can tell that Jesus loves us. Who can you tell? **Let kids respond – if no response – give clues: "who lives in your house?" "who is your friend?" Can you tell them? Yes, you can.**

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, may you always remember that Jesus loves you! And, you can tell others that Jesus loves them!

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Red Light/Green Light

Supplies: none

Directions: Kids line up on one side of room. Remind them that Red means STOP, Green means GO. Practice. GO – kids can come toward you. STOP – kids stop.

Play a few rounds, sending them back to start over again once they reach you. Introduce saying “Jesus loves you” when they stop for the red light.

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)!”