



God Helps Us Give

Matthew 25:37-40

God Statement: Jesus is Our Hope

KEY VERSE:

“Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” John 14:6a, 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 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 Our Hope!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn that Jesus is Our Hope!

Say: God loves us so much – hold out your arms to show how much God loves you. He loves everyone! Even people we don't know, God loves SO much. Let's think about what God has given us – animals, trees, flowers, a house, yummy food, friends, this church, so much more! That makes me happy – show me your happy faces! Sometimes when I get something, I get so excited to share it with others. That's exactly what Jesus wants us to do – share His love with others!

MAKE: Giving Coloring Page

Supplies: coloring page, crayons

Directions: Invite kids to gather around the table and color the Giving Page together. As you color with the kids, talk to them about the paper.

***Say:** Friends, would you like to color with me today? Let's look at our coloring page. What do you think these two kids are doing? It looks like they are giving a present! Have you ever given a present to someone before? It's very fun to give someone a present because it makes them happy. It's also fun to get a present! God gave us the greatest present of all, Jesus! Jesus loves us SO much!*

While you are working with each child:

- Talk about what presents the kids have given/gotten before and what they would like to get.
- Talk about who we could give presents to and what we could give. (cookies, toys, money, hugs, time, etc.)
- Talk about how God gives us the greatest present – He loves us! How does that make you feel?

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.

This month, please introduce the following songs:

- *Thank you, God*
- *God is So Good*

READ A BIBLE STORY

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

BIG IDEA:

God Helps Us Give. He gives us everything and then we can give to others. God loves us so much, and He wants us to share that love with others.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as your 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 Helps Us Give

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 present.

Say: Hi Hamilton! What do you have there? Ooh, a present? What will you do with that?

Hamilton motions like he's giving the present to someone. Oh, it's for your mom? She will love it. God is helping you to be very good at giving. Will you give her a kiss, too? **Hamilton nods.** She will love that. Why don't you go see her right now. **Put Hamilton away in his house.** Bye Hamilton! **Class waves bye to Hamilton.**

Say: Friends, Let's play a guessing game. Can you guess what I am doing?

Do the following actions one at a time. Act them out and let the kids guess what you're doing.

- **Drinking** - when they guess, hand an invisible cup to each child and encourage them to say "thank you" and drink some pretend water.
- **Eating** - when they guess, hand them some invisible food and encourage them to say "thank you" and eat the pretend food.
- **Opening a gift** - when they guess that you're opening a gift, give them a pretend present. Encourage them to say "thank you" and open the present.
- **Take out your wallet and count money to hand to people** - when they guess that you're giving money, give them some pretend money. Encourage them to say "thank you" and "give" their money to a friend.

Say: You guessed all the things! These are things God will help us do.

Say: God wants us to give to others. Maybe you can take a can of food from home and bring it to church for people who don't have much food. Maybe you can take a little money from your piggy bank and put it in the offering to help others. Maybe you have some clothes that are too small for you and you can give those to your little cousin.

Read this verse from your grown up Bible – Matthew 25:37-40

³⁷ "Then the good people will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you alone and away from home and invite you into our house? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear?' ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?"

⁴⁰ "Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth. Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me.'

Say: Jesus says when we help people by giving them things, it's like we are doing it to Him. He loves that!

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 Jesus is our Hope. *Point to the large poster that will be on the wall in your class all quarter: “Jesus is our Hope!” (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: Let’s stand up and jump 3 times. Now turn around and sit back down. Let’s clap together 3 times. Now let’s settle down to have our worship response time to listen to God.

Say: Let’s think about all the things God gave us. ***Have kids name some things. Help them think*** – What is outside? Sun, trees, flowers, puppies. What about our family?

Say: God gives us so many things. What can we give? Can you give a smile? Can you give a hug? Let’s try to give this week.

Ask: What will you give this week?

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.

Friends remember that God has given us everything. He gives to you and you can give to others.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Jesus Loves You Telephone

Supplies: none

Directions: Have kids sit in a circle together. The teacher will start by saying (or whispering) “Jesus loves you” to the kid to their left. Then, that kid will turn to the person next to them

and say “Jesus loves you” to the next kid and so forth until everyone has gone. Even if only a few kids want to participate, encourage the kids to practice telling others that Jesus loves them as a way to give love to others.

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)!”

God helps us give to others!
Matthew 25:37-40

