



We Serve Others Because We Love

Galatians 5:13-14

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

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: We all have people who help us! Who helps you get dressed in the morning? Who helps you get a snack? Who helps you learn new things? Who helps you learn about Jesus? We have lots of people in our life who help us, but the most important one who helps us is God! He loves us so much that we can share that love with others. Last week, we talked about how God helps us to give. God also helps us to serve others. What can we do to help others? (*give hugs, help clean up toys, say nice things, tell them Jesus loves them, etc.*).

Say: God says in the Bible that He gives us gifts so we can help others with them. Who can we help? How can we help them? We just talked about some ways, but let's practice helping.

PLAY: Little Helpers!

Supplies: *box or bin of toys from classroom*

Directions: Dump the toys out on the floor or table. Have the kids gather around and help you clean the toys up. Repeat a couple of times or put kids in groups to clean together and practice serving together.

Say: *Friends, serving can mean helping. How can we help put all these toys in the basket? Everyone can pick one up and put it in the basket. Let's do that. Ooh, there are still more blocks on the floor. Will you help put the rest away? God made you strong so you can help. Let's see your muscles. Yes, God made you very strong. And you can help others.*

While you are working with each child:

- Talk about how God made us so we can help serve others.
- Talk about how it makes you feel when someone helps you.
- Talk about how much God loves each of us.

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.

“Thank you, God, that you made us strong and helpful. Help us to remember to help others. Amen”

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*
- *Only God can do*

READ A BIBLE STORY

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

Read in the Bible about Paul writing letters to teach people how to love and obey God and to serve others. Use the Jesus Calling Storybook Bible and read p. 246-247

BIG IDEA:

God helps us serve. He gives us gifts like we talked about last week. He makes us strong. He gives us ideas, and we can serve 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: We Serve Others Because We Love***

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.

Say: Hi Hamilton! **Hamilton has a list in his hand from your curriculum folder.**
What do you have there? **Hamilton shows you.** Ahh, this looks like a list. May I read it?
Hamilton nods.

List says:

Pick up toys

Make a sandwich

Take out trash

When I come home, we'll make cookies and take them to our neighbor.

Say: Oh, is this from your mom? **Hamilton nods.** It looks like you can serve your mom by doing all the things on the list. **Hamilton nods.** Have you started yet? **Hamilton shakes his head no.** Well, do you think you'd better get going? Let's all wave to Hamilton. **Hamilton nods. He waves bye. Put him back in his house.**

Say: It sounds like Hamilton is going to serve his mom by helping her with all the things on his list. Can you help your mom, friends? Yes, you sure can.

Say: Let's think of things you can do to help your mom. **Let kids answer. Prompt them with some of the things on Hamilton's list.**

Say: God made you strong so you can serve. Let's read this story from the Bible.

Read p. 246-247 in Jesus Calling Storybook Bible.

Say: God told Paul how to tell people to serve others. He told them: **Don't give up. Be joyful. Work for Him.** We can help people because God gives us the strength and joy to do it. I love helping others because it makes me feel happy! Show me your happy face! **Make happy face.**

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 sit quietly and think for a moment. How can we serve others? Do you think you're too little to help? NO! God made you and gave you special abilities that you can use to help others.

Say: What are some things YOU can do? ***Let kids answer.***

Prompt them with:

Help your mom and dad.

Sing a song to cheer up someone.

Pray for your cousins, your grandma and grandpa, your neighbors.

Pick up something when it falls.

Say: These are all things you can do. Be sure to listen to God. If He gives you an idea to help someone, you can do it!

Play Worship Response music from Plex.

Go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.

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, may you always remember that God made you to serve others. Listen to Him and do what He tells you.

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:

- Ask – How does God help us? How can we help others?
- Talk about how it makes you feel to help others.
- Talk about who we can serve.

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)!"



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I can follow Jesus by helping others!