



Remember & Celebrate – Jesus Changes Everything

Galatians 1:1-24

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 remember and celebrate that Jesus is our Hope:

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life!" We can read those words in the Bible in John 14:6!

PLAY: Let's have a snack!

Supplies: goldfish snacks (fruit snacks as GF option)

Directions: Have kids gather around the table to eat a yummy snack together. As you sit together, lead kids in conversation thinking about what they've learned about God.

Say: Hey Friends, we have something special for you today. Let's have a yummy snack. Will you help get things set up? God wants us to help each other. Here you go.

Give each child a paper towel. Will you help wipe off the table? Thank you. Now let's find a seat. **After they are all seated hand a treat to one person.** Please pass this to the next person. **Keep passing the treats out, with the kids helping pass to the next person, until everyone has one.**

Say: Let's thank Jesus for our snack. **Pray a thank you prayer** That was nice that you helped each other by cleaning the table and passing out the treats. Remember some of the things we've been learning about? God wants us to share, help, serve.

When snack is over, have everyone help by putting their trash in the basket.

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.**

You can sing these songs today:

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!

Read pp. 250-251

From: Jesus Calling Storybook Bible

BIG IDEA:

Remember and Celebrate! We've learned about Easter. We learned about how Jesus is alive! We learned about sharing and helping.

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:

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.

This lesson consists of short activities to help kids remember what we've learned about God. It may look long, but the hope is that kids stay engaged with the moving parts. Adjust the lesson length as needed to fit your class best.

Say: Hi Hamilton! You have a **fancy hat** on your head! Are you celebrating? **Hamilton nods.** That's right, we're remembering and celebrating today. God has taught us so many things! Let's remember some of them.

Big Idea: **Let's remember some of the lessons we have learned lately.**

Say: Remember when it was Easter? We talked about how Jesus died for our sins on the cross. But He didn't stay dead! He is alive! And He loves us! Yay Jesus! Let's clap for Him.

Say: Remember when we talked about how God helps us grow? We planted seeds. Did your seeds grow? You have grown, too! Remember when you were a tiny baby? Let's pretend we're babies. *Act out laying down and kicking your feet. Some cute coos and tiny cries would be good.*

Say: Now let's grow like our seeds did. Get into a tiny ball. Squat down and squish yourself into a ball. Now let's grow. Grow just a tiny bit. Now a little more. Now a little more. Now all the way up. Great! You grew. We were just pretending but God has helped us grow from a tiny baby into these big kids that you are.

He will help you keep growing and get bigger and stronger. He helps our insides; our hearts grow too so we can be loving and kind like Jesus is.

Say: Remember how God helps us give to others? Let's play a guessing game.

Pretend that you are doing these actions and let kids guess:

- **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 getting money, give them some money. Encourage them to say "thank you" and "give" their money to a friend.

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.

Say: And God helps us serve others. 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. 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 else.

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

Pick up something when it falls.

Say: Wow Hamilton, we learned a lot lately. Let's celebrate!

Put some fun dance music on Plex and have everyone dance around, including Hamilton.

Say: Whew, that was fun. Hamilton, you'd better get going. Bye Hamilton.

Have kids say and wave goodbye. 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 have learned 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.

Jesus is our Hope. He rose from the dead! He helps us grow! He helps us give to others! And God helps us serve others. Let's tell Him thank you. THANK YOU, JESUS!!!

You can 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 Jesus loves you so much. You can serve Him by serving others. You can tell your friends that He loves them, too.

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:

- God loves me! That's what these letters say.
- Talk about how God loves us and helps us serve others and be kind.
- Talk about what colors you are using.

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
LOVES
ME

Galatians 1:1-24
Remember & Celebrate!