



God is Covenant Keeper

God's Covenant with Abraham

God Statement: God is Covenant Keeper

KEY VERSE: "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. And he will be called Immanuel"
(Isaiah 7:14, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 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 is Covenant Keeper

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is covenant keeper!

SAY:

Raise your hand if you remember our God Statement from last week. Who wants to say it? *Let kids respond.* That's right – God is Covenant Keeper. What does a covenant mean? A promise, a very special agreement between God and his people! Last week, we learned about how God has had a plan for us to be part of His Big Family from the very start. We talked about Adam & Eve. This week, we're looking at a special promise God made with a man named Abraham. Does anyone remember Abraham? What do you remember about Abraham?

What holiday is coming up? *Let kids respond – that’s right, Christmas!* At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of someone very special. Do you know who that is? Jesus! Today, we’re going to learn about how God’s covenant, or promise, to Abraham was just a hint at God’s greatest promise of all... Jesus. But first, let’s play a game!

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Share the Good News Telephone

Supplies: none

Say: *Today we get to learn more about the special Covenant God kept to His people! We get to learn about the good news of Christmas and find out about Jesus’ mom, Mary! Before we listen to our story today, let’s play a game!*

Directions: Have children sit in a circle. Think of something special you would like to share about Christmas. Whisper it to one child in the circle. Have them share/whisper the “Christmas Good News” to their neighbor and so on. Once it reaches the end, have that child share. Have children take turns sharing the “good news of Christmas” around the circle. This game plays like “telephone”.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**“The Lord himself will give you a sign. And he will be called Immanuel.”
(Isaiah 7:14, NIRV)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: ANGEL WITH STAR

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Interesting! Why do you think we have this **angel** in our wardrobe today? I wonder if it has anything to do with our activity we played earlier. What were we telling each other? The good news! Who is the good news? Jesus! I wonder why this angel has a star on it. Let’s find out more about how this angel relates to our story today. Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God's Covenant with Abraham

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

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 this time.

Supplies: star stickers, wooden cross station

What's our God Statement? *Let kids respond – God is Covenant Keeper.* Who were the two people from the Bible we heard about today? *Let kids respond – Abraham and Mary.* God made a very special covenant (or promise) with Abraham – this covenant was just part of God's big plan to redeem (make right) His people. In it, God told Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, to include the most important descendent of all – Jesus!

Do you remember what Miss Mindy was talking about at the end? Jesus eventually did come, right? And He did something pretty important – which was also a part of God's big plan.

Turn on soft worship music in the background before starting the activity.

STARS ON THE CROSS ACTIVITY:

What's this (point to cross)? What does it have to do with God's big plan to redeem us? *Let kids answer what they think.* John 3:16 says, ***“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but have eternal life.”***

That was God's plan all along! He used people like Abraham and Mary to make it possible for Jesus to come to this earth and die on the cross for our sins/mistakes. Why did He do this? Because, He loves us that much!

Think about that for a minute. God loves you. How does that make you feel? Safe? Happy? Warm? Excited?

- **Encourage kids to sit quietly for a few moments and think about how it makes them feel. Then, when they are ready, they can go up to their teacher and get a star sticker.**
- **As they place the star sticker on the cross, say “Thank you, Jesus!” Then they can take their seat.**
- **Remind kids to do so quietly.**

Once everyone has finished, say: God is covenant keeper. His big plan to redeem (make right) His people was not just for Abraham or other people in the Bible, but for YOU and ME too. Thank you, Jesus!

Close time in prayer.

*****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.*****

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

*****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.*****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Feeding Families

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Take a few moments to share: Gift of Love happened this weekend and so many families were positively impacted by the prayer and donations brought in! Celebrate what God did together.

Then, remind kids that one of our ongoing mission focuses is Feeding Families. Hold up a green Feeding Families bag or a food donation list to share about the important role families can play by providing food donations regularly.

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who receive food through Feeding Families.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

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.

May you know that you are a part of God’s big plan because God loves you. May you remember the gift of Jesus that God gave you.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today’s story:** Abraham talked about God’s covenant to Him and Sarah. Mary talked about being afraid, not knowing God’s plan.
 - a. **What is a Covenant?:** (An agreement between God and His people/ a person or group of people).
 - b. **What was the Covenant that God made to Abraham?** (God promised that he would have as many descendants as there were in the sky).
3. **How do you think Mary felt when she found out she was going to have a baby?** (Scared!)
4. **Abraham had to trust God’s plan and so did Mary. Can you think of a time where you had to trust God with something? Did you know how His plan was going to turn out?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE: God's Covenant to Abraham Star Ornament

Supplies: one star ornament per child, one yellow cardstock piece, one ribbon, markers/ crayons, glue sticks, metallic/sparkle crayons, rhinestone stickers

Directions: Pass out the star ornament to each child. Have them color their stars. Glue the star ornament onto a colorful piece of card stock. Add ribbon through the hole at the top of the ornament. Children can add glitter/metallic to their stars using the metallic and sparkle crayons and rhinestones stickers. Have kids (or help them) write their name, the date, and the location (Woodmen Kids) on the back of their ornament to remember it as a keepsake!



Say: *God kept His covenant to Abraham. Do you remember what He said? How many descendants would he have? As many as the stars! That's right! Those descendants lead all the way to Mary and then Jesus! Let's make a special star ornament to remind us of this covenant.*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.