



## 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

**(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 brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.*

*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: God is Covenant Keeper

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about God's covenant (or promise) with Abraham and what that has to do with Christmas.

**Say:** What holiday is coming up this month? *Let kids respond.* Christmas! What is your favorite thing about Christmas? *Let kids respond.* My favorite thing about Christmas is that we get to celebrate God's very special gift to us, baby Jesus! God promised for a very long time that one day Jesus would be born. Do you know what a promise is? A promise is when you tell someone you will do something – like God sending Jesus to be born! And the best part is that God always keeps his promises!

**Say:** Jesus would grow up to save the world! And that's what we read about in the Big God Story, the Bible! Another name for Jesus is Immanuel. Let's say that – Immanuel. That means God with us!

### MAKE: Star Ornament

**Supplies:** star ornament – preassembled, markers/crayons, stamps

**Directions:** Gather everyone around the table and explain the craft for the day. Pass out a star ornament to each child. Give them 1 or 2 options of crayons and assist them with coloring, as needed. Give them 2 or 3 options of stamps to decorate the ornament, assist as needed. Write the name of the child along with the date and the location (Woodmen Kids) on the child's craft so the parent(s) can keep it as a keepsake.

**Say:** Today, we're going to make a very special ornament! Where do we normally put ornaments? Our Christmas trees! This ornament is special because it reminds



*us of a very special promise, or covenant, that God gave to a man named Abraham. Can you say Abraham?*

**While you are working with each child, tell them:**

- God promised many years ago that Baby Jesus would be born to save the world.
- We are part of God's family. Abraham was part of God's family. Mary is also part of God's family.
- God always keeps His promises.

## 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.

Offering – ask: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

## WORSHIP

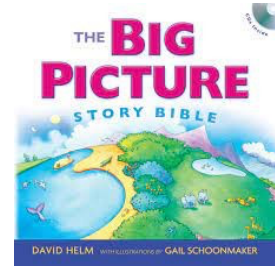
*Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!*

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.**

- *Ring the Bells*
- *Away in a Manger*

## READ A BIBLE STORY

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



THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God's Covenant with Abraham  
(Summarized from *The Big Picture Bible*, page 77-81, 249)

### BIG IDEA:

**God always keeps His promises. He promised to send Jesus. And He did!**

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: God's Covenant with Abraham**

*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 carrying a glow-in-the-dark star or star sticker.**

**Say:** What do you have there, Hamilton? Oh, I see – a star. Will that go on top of your Christmas tree? **Hamilton nods.**

**Say:** Last week we learned that Adam and Eve are a part of God's family. Who else is part of God's family too? **Hamilton points to everyone.** That's right, Hamilton. We're all part of God's family when we believe in Him!

**Say:** Hamilton, your star reminds me about somebody else in the Bible. He is part of God's family, and that person is Abraham. Would you like to hear about Abraham and how his story connects to Christmas, Hamilton? **Hamilton nods excitedly.**

**Say:** God made a promise that God was going to give him as many family members as stars in the sky. That's a big family! God promised that Jesus would be born. And He was! God is Covenant Keeper!

**Say:** Jesus was just a little baby, but He grew up and saved us! And you know who is related to Abraham and a part of Abraham's family? Jesus' mom, Mary. Mary loved her baby Jesus just like your family loves you. Can you give yourself a big hug? **Hamilton and kids give big hug to self.** God kept his promise to Abraham and gave him a big family. And Mary and Jesus are a part of Abraham's family. We are a part of God's family.

**Say:** Hamilton, can you give our friends a high five since you are so happy that they are a part of God's family. **Hamilton nods his head yes and gives everyone a high five.** I am so glad that you are a part of God's family!

**Say:** God is Covenant Keeper; He keeps his promises. Let's tell Hamilton goodbye for now. Hamilton, will you finish decorating your Christmas tree? You can put your star right on top to remind you that we are part of God's family. Bye! Merry Christmas! **Wave bye to Hamilton.**

### **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 God is a Covenant Keeper. (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:** God is Covenant Keeper. He always keeps His promises.

**Say:** Whenever you see a star in the sky, you can remember that God made YOU to be part of His family! Let's all lay down and stare up at the ceiling and pretend we're looking at the stars in the sky! How many stars can you count? **Let kids pretend to look at stars for a few moments. Turn the lights off if possible.**

**Say:** God is Covenant Keeper. He always keeps His promises, and the stars remind us of that! Thank you, God!

**Close large group time in prayer.**

### **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 God is with you. May you know that you are a part of God's family, and that God has a plan for you. Always remember that God kept His promise and sent baby Jesus to us.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

### PLAY: Find the Stars!

*Supplies: small plastic stars*

**Directions:** Have everyone close their eyes and quickly hide the stars around the room. Then, invite all the kids to try and find the stars hidden around the room. As kids find stars and bring them to you, say: You are part of God's family!

**Say:** *Let's play a game about promises. Remember, God keeps all of His promises! We're going to hide stars around the room to remind us of the promise God kept to Abraham. As you find the stars, come give them to one of the teachers!*

## 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)!"