



God is Covenant Keeper

God's Covenant with Moses

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 how God keeps His covenants.

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! Do you know what the best part is? 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: Jesus in the Manger Ornament

Supplies: *Jesus in the manger ornament – preassembled, markers/crayons, stickers*

Directions: Gather everyone around the table and explain the craft for the day. Pass out a Manger ornament to each child. Give them 1 or 2 options of crayons and assist them with coloring, 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 made with His people. That promise was that God would one day send baby Jesus to come save us! God kept His promise, and that's why we celebrate Christmas!*

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. Who else is 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.**

- *Oh, What a Special Night!*
- *Ring the Bells*

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 Moses
(Summarized from *The Big Picture Bible*, page 249)

BIG IDEA:

God is Covenant Keeper – He always keeps His promises. He promised that Jesus would come. 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 Moses

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 small piece of wrapping paper.

Say: What do you have, Hamilton? ***He whispers in your ear.*** Oh, you're wrapping presents? That is a big job. That reminds me of someone else who had a big job. His name is Moses. Do you want to learn about our very special story with us today, Hamilton? ***Hamilton nods excitedly.***

Say: We are a part of God's family, and today we are going to learn about someone else who is a part of God's family. Today we are learning about Moses! Can you all say Moses? God used Moses to be a father to His chosen people. Moses helped lead the people to the Promised Land.

Say: This was a big job for Moses. Let's reach our hands out wide showing how big it was. Hamilton, can you reach your hands out wide? ***Hamilton stretches arms out.*** The job God gave Moses was a big and important job. It reminds me of the job that God gave to Joseph.

Say: Joseph was the father of Jesus! Can you say Joseph? And Joseph loved baby Jesus just like your family loves you! That was a really big job, because Jesus is the Savior, Jesus is God's promise to us.

Say: Just like Moses had a big job to be a father to His chosen people, Joseph had a big job to be a father to Jesus. God has a big awesome family, and we get to be a part of His family too! God is Covenant Keeper; He keeps his promises.

Say: Well Hamilton, your job isn't as big as the job God gave Jesus' dad or even as big as the job God gave Moses but it still is a big job to wrap presents. You'd better get back to it.

Say: Let's all tell Hamilton, "Merry Christmas!" Say "Merry Christmas, Hamilton!" **Put Hamilton back in his home.**

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 Covenant Keeper! (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times). God is Covenant Keeper!

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: Friends, God always keeps His promises to us. He is a Covenant Keeper.

Say: One promise that He made is that Jesus would come to save us from our sins. What is a sin? **Let kids respond.** Sometimes we sin when we take treats when Mommy said, no. We sin when we hit our brother or sister. We sin when we say mean things. What can we do when we sin? **Let kids respond.** Yes, we can tell the person we hurt, that we are sorry. Who else can we tell we are sorry? Yes, Jesus. Jesus we are sorry when we sin. Let's tell Him now. Jesus, we are sorry when we sin.

Say: Then what? Does Jesus forgive us right away? Yes! He sure does! He forgives and He loves us.

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: Pass the Present

Supplies: *a small wrapped present*

Directions: Sit in a circle on the floor. Have the children pass the present from person to person. Let them practice passing the present. Then put on some fun Christmas music like “Oh what a special night.” Stop the music and whoever has the present wins. Clap for them. Play again.

Say: *Today, we learned about the greatest present of all. Who was that? That’s right! Jesus! This is a pretend present. There is nothing inside. We are playing a game with it to help us remember the very best gift of all, Jesus!*

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)!"