



God is Covenant Keeper

Adam & Eve

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 is a Covenant Keeper, He always keeps His promises.

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: God's Family Ornament

Supplies: Family ornament picture frame – preassembled, markers, stamps, markers

Directions: Bring each child over to work on the project one at a time. Use the ink pad and press one of the child's fingers into the pad. Push the child's finger (with ink) onto the blank side of the preassembled ornament (**above the sticker**), then use a wipe or paper towel to clean their finger off. Get creative and draw a face on the fingerprint. 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 that we're a part of God's family! Let's look at the back of it and see all the people who are part of God's family – read the names as you point to each person. On the front, we get to make a picture of us because we're part of God's family too!*

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.
- 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

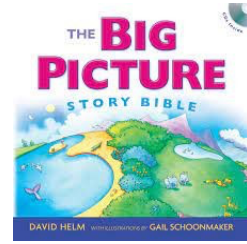
Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

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: We are all Part of God's Story
Summarized from *The Big Picture Bible*, page 239-241

BIG IDEA:

God is a covenant keeper. 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: We Are All a Part of God's Big Story

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 wearing a bit of tinsel.

Say: Hi Hamilton. You look fancy. **Hamilton nods.** What is that on your head? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Oh, you decorated your Christmas tree? It's getting to be Christmas time!

Say: We're going to hear about Adam and Eve! God told them about Jesus way back at the beginning of the Earth! God is a Covenant Keeper. He always keeps His promises.

Say: Let's hear about Jesus way back when Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden. Hamilton, would you like to read this story with us? **Hamilton nods excitedly. Use Hamilton to help share the story and keep kids engaged.**

Today, we're learning how Jesus is a part of God's big story. It all started in the beginning with Adam and Eve. They were God's very first people.

Adam and Eve did not do what God told them to do and sinned.

Can you show Hamilton your sad face?

Adam and Eve were tricked into not listening to God by Satan, who is a bad guy. Because Satan tricked Adam and Eve, God promised that he would send a Savior to rescue us from our sins and to defeat Satan.

Can you show Hamilton your happy face?

God is going to rescue us! Jesus is our Savior. He is the one God promised to send to us. God sent Jesus to us as a baby. And we celebrate Christmas because God kept His promise and sent us baby Jesus. We are all part of God's family just like Adam and Eve, and everyone else before baby Jesus. It makes me so happy to know that we are a part of God's family.

Hamilton, can you show our friends your happy dance because you are so excited that they are a part of God's family too?!

God is a Covenant Keeper; He keeps his promises!

Say: God is Covenant Keeper. God told many people that Jesus would come. And now that Jesus is grown up and in heaven with God. We can trust God. He always keeps His promises.

Say: Thanks for helping us learn about this very important part of the Christmas story, Hamilton. We can't wait to see you next week to learn more about God's gift to us, Jesus! Bye, Hamilton! ***Hamilton waves goodbye to class and goes to his house. You can decorate Hamilton's house with his tinsel.***

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. He always keeps His promises." (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: Let's take turns saying something we love about God! ***Have a few kids go around and share what they love about God by prompting them with: I love that God is _____.***

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: Promise Keeper

***Supplies:** none*

Directions: Gather everyone in a circle. Give kids different directions to follow and ask them if they promise to do those things.

***Say:** Let's play a game about promises. Remember, God keeps all His promises! Let's practice keeping our promises to each other.*

- *Will you jump? Kids answer or nod "yes." Do you promise? Kids answer or nod "yes." Then, jump!*
- *Will you twirl? Kids answer or nod "yes." Do you promise? Kids answer or nod "yes." Then, twirl!*
- *Will you clap? Kids answer or nod "yes." Do you promise? Kids answer or nod "yes." Then, clap!*

Continue with other ideas: march, nod, dance, as interest continues.

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)!"