



God is Forgiving

Jonah and the Big Fish

God Statement: God is Wisdom

KEY VERSE:

**“The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from His mouth.”
Proverbs 2:6, 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 Forgiving

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is forgiving.

Say: Have you ever gone fishing? Did you catch any fish? How big was your fish? We are going to hear a story about a HUGE fish and how God used it.

MAKE: Jonah and the Big Fish

Supplies: Pre assembled Jonah and Fish catcher

Directions: Color the fish and Jonah, then have fun trying to catch Jonah with the big fish.

Say: We are going to hear a story today about a BIG fish and how God used it.

While you are working with each child:

- Do you have a fish tank?
- What is the biggest fish you have ever seen?
- Can you believe that God can even use a fish?!



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 cleaning 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**.

- *Jonah Song*
- *Oh, Who can Make a Flower? (You could add a verse about "Who can make a giant fish?"*

READ A BIBLE STORY

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

BIG IDEA:

Nothing is too hard for God. Jonah didn't listen to God so God showed him that he should listen.

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: Jonah & The Big Fish

(Story provided below)

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 little Bible.

Say: What do you have Hamilton? Oh, is that your Bible? ***Hamilton nods. He whispers in your ear.*** Hamilton wants us to know about an amazing story in the Bible. It's about Jonah. A giant fish swallowed him! Let's hear more about this.

Share about Jonah & the Big Fish:

- God wanted Jonah to tell people about God.
- God said, "Go to Ninevah and tell people about me."
- Jonah said, "NO!" and he ran the other way.
 - Let's shake our head, "NO." Let's stand up and show Hamilton how we run in place.
 - Good, now let's sit down again.
- Jonah was wrong not to obey God.
- Jonah got on a boat to go far away from where God wanted him.
 - Let's pretend we are rowing a boat. Good rowing.
- Well, a BIG storm came up.
 - Let's pat our legs to sound like rain. Let's clap our hands to sound like thunder. Let's sway our bodies to be like the wind.
- It was a big storm.
- Jonah was thrown in the water. SPLASH!
- Guess what? God sent a giant fish to swallow up Jonah!
- Jonah was in the fish's belly 3 days!
 - Let's count to 3. 1, 2, 3!
- Jonah prayed when he was in the fish. He said, God I am sorry I didn't listen to you. I am sorry I didn't tell the people about you.
- God told the fish to spit out Jonah. And he did!
- Jonah went right to Ninevah and told all the people about God.

Say: Jonah was not very wise. He did not listen to God. God told him to go tell people about how God loves them. Jonah did not want to go. He ran away from God. Can you run away from God? NO! God always knows where you are. He loves YOU! Thanks for sharing that great story, Hamilton. See you next time. ***Put Hamilton 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 are learning that “God is wisdom.” (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: When God tells us something, we need to listen and obey. God might tell you to be kind to your friend or brother or sister or puppy. God might tell you not to take a piece of candy from the table. God might tell you to put away your toys. What will you do when you have a good idea from God? Yes, listen and obey.

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 to listen and obey. God has good things for you to do. You can trust Him. Listen and obey.*

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Listen and Obey

Supplies: none

Directions: This game is played like Simon Says or Mother May I. Have children form a line. Say, “Listen & Obey” and then give them simple directions such as hop, march, twirl. Repeat other actions: clap, nod, jump, shake your head, wiggle your fingers, tap your head, stand on tippy toes.

Say: *We’re going to play a game to practice listening & obeying. It’s kind of like Simon Says, but every time I say “Listen & Obey” you have to do the direction I say after.*

Examples:

- Listen and Obey – now march in place!
- Listen and Obey – now twirl.

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)!"