



## Jesus is Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6b, Luke 2

### God Statement: Jesus is the Good News

KEY VERSE:

**“She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus.  
That’s because he will save his people from their sins.”**

**Matthew 1:21, NIRV**

## CHECK-IN

*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 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: To build relationships & prioritize 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 S’s 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:

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

**SAY:** Do you get worried or nervous sometimes? Everybody does. Sometimes we worry about the dark or get nervous around people we don't know. Today, we'll hear a story about how Jesus brings us peace. We feel peace when we feel calm and safe.

### PLAY: Noise and Peace Game

**Supplies:** musical instruments in classroom

#### Directions:

- Hand out a musical instrument to each child.
- Tell the children that when you say "GO" they can play their musical instrument, but when you hold up your hand (show them what you mean), they should freeze and be totally quiet.
- Afterward, talk about how crazy the noise was from the instruments. We couldn't hear each other or anything else.
- Talk about how when everyone froze, there was peace. It was calm, quiet, and safe.
- Jesus gives us peace. Trusting God and knowing He's there for us gives us peace.
- We can have that peace no matter what's happening in our lives.
- Collect the instruments after doing this a few times.

## WORSHIP TIME

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

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > Babies folder**.

- Away in a Manger
- Born is the King
- Oh What a Special Night

## READ THE BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read about a Bible story from Isaiah 9:6b and Luke 2.

Read the Bible story below. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures and repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word of the story! 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!

### **THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is the Prince of Peace**

(Summarized from Isaiah 9:6b and Luke 2)

### **BIBLE STORY:**

Bring Hamilton (the hedgehog puppet) out and allow the kids to interact with him before you begin the story (they can feel his soft fur, give him high fives, give him a hug, etc.). Use Hamilton to help keep the kids engaged while you share the story (he can do the hand motions, ask the kids questions, etc.).

***Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a baby (from the nativity set in your classroom).***

**SAY:** Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** What a cute little baby! At Christmas time, we celebrate the birth of a very special baby. ***Hamilton nods and whispers in your ear.*** You're right, Hamilton! We celebrate the birth of Jesus! Let's listen to this true Bible story. ***Hamilton nods.***

***Share the Christmas story using the story cards in your folder.***

### **SAY:**

- Mary was going to have a baby. Mary and Joseph left their home and went to Bethlehem.
- Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place to have the baby, but every place was full!
- So, Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept and that is where Mary had her baby.
  - I'll bet that was a noisy place! What kinds of sounds do you think Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus heard there? ***Have children share noises of animals***
- Nearby, some shepherds watched their sheep.
- Suddenly, an angel appeared!
  - Wow, what a surprise! Make a surprised face.
- The angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news! Today a savior was born!"
- The shepherds went to find Baby Jesus and give Him gifts.
- Then, they told other people about Jesus.
- Everyone was surprised and amazed!
- Jesus was born in a noisy place, but brought peace to our lives when He grew up and saved us from our sins.
- We can ask Jesus for peace so that we can be calm and safe.
  - Let's take a deep breath and let it out. Ahhhh, thank you Jesus for bringing us peace.

- Jesus is the Prince of Peace!

### **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 loves you so much that He had a plan and sent Jesus – for you!

## **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. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

### **Suggestions of activities for Babies & Younger 1 Year Old's:**

- Play Peek-A-Boo
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball
- Roll a large car back and forth
- Take turns putting toys in a bin or bucket

### **Suggestions of activities for Older 1 Year Old's:**

- 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.)

## **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)!"