



Jesus is the Good News

Luke 1

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.**

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**.

- Joy to the World
- Mindy Songs_I've Got the Joy
- An Angel Came From Heaven

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 Luke 1.

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: Gabriel Visits Mary

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 an angel (from the Who's Hiding Game bag).

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? **Hamilton shows us.** An angel! Angels are God's special helpers. **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Are we going to hear a story about an angel today, Hamilton? **Hamilton nods.** Let's listen to this true Bible story.

Share the story of Mary and Gabriel using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- Mary was a young woman who lived in a place called Nazareth.
- God sent an angel named Gabriel to visit Mary.
- Gabriel had an important message for her.

- He said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary! I have good news for you! You are going to have a baby. He will be the Son of God. You will name him...”
 - Do you know what Mary’s baby’s name is? It’s Jesus! The angel, Gabriel, told Mary she was going to have a baby and name him Jesus.
- Mary was surprised, but she was also so happy!
 - Can you make a surprised, happy face?
- Jesus is the most special baby of all because He grew up and saved us from our sins.
- That was some good news Gabriel gave to Mary!
- Jesus is the Good News!

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 Minutes)

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: Who’s Hiding?

Supplies: figures of Mary, baby Jesus, Joseph, and the angel Gabriel

Directions:

- Hide the figures around the room.
- Let the children search for them.
- When they find one, celebrate and explain who it is.
- Make sure all figures make it back into the curriculum bag!

SAY: I’m going to hide Mary, baby Jesus, and the angel Gabriel. Can you find them?

Mary: You found Mary! She was Jesus’s mommy.

Joseph: You found Joseph! He was married to Mary.

Gabriel: You found Gabriel, the angel that visited Mary and told her good news!

Baby Jesus: You found baby Jesus! He was born to save us from our sins. He is the good news Gabriel gave to Mary.

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 jump for joy every time you hear the good news about the birth of Jesus! He saved you from your sins and loves you always.

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)!"