



God Reassures

Matthew 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**.

- Jingle Bells
- Ring the Bells

You and the kids can use the bells and instruments in your classroom to play along with the song.

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 God Reassures. He comforts and reminds us to do what He wants.

SAY: We're going to think about Joseph today. He was Jesus's daddy. Joseph worked as a carpenter. A carpenter makes things out of wood.

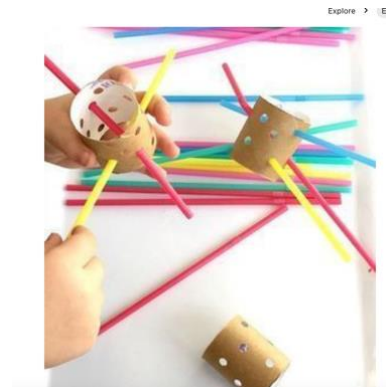
MAKE: Explore Building

Supplies: Cardboard tubes with holes, straws

Directions:

This activity will entertain 2-4 kids at a time.

- On the table, set one or 2 tubs with several cardboard tubes and straws.
- Show the kids how to poke the straw through the holes in the tubes.
- Let them explore this activity.
- Some kids will try it once, others will work for several minutes.
- Say, "Jesus' dad was a carpenter. He built things. You are building things."



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 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: Gabriel Visits Joseph

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 hammer.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? *Hamilton shows us.* A Hammer! What will you do with that? Oh, you're thinking of building something? *Hamilton nods.* Joseph is Jesus's dad. He built things, too.

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

SAY:

- We have a true story from the Bible today. This story is about Joseph, Jesus' daddy. Let's see what happens.
- Joseph loved Mary. Put your arms around yourself and give yourself a hug.
- Mary was going to have a baby. Pretend to rock a baby.
- Joseph didn't know what to do. He wanted to please God.
- The angel Gabriel came in a dream to tell Joseph that everything would be all right.
- Joseph trusted God.
- God reassured Joseph that everything would be all right.
- Mary's baby was somebody very special. Can you guess who?
- Mary's baby was Jesus!
 - Let's clap for Jesus!
- Christmas is the time to celebrate Jesus' birthday.
 - Let's tell Jesus Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday, Jesus!

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 even when hard things happen, God reassures us that everything will be ok.

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)!"