



## God is With Us

### KEY VERSE:

You will pass through deep waters.  
 But I will be with you.  
 You will pass through the rivers.  
 But their waters will not sweep over you.  
 You will walk through fire.  
 But you will not be burned.  
 The flames will not harm you.  
 -Isaiah 43:2, 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 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.**

## USE THE POSTER

**Locate the poster hanging in your classroom.** As you interact and play with children, change diapers, or sooth a fussy child, refer to the poster. Sing or play the worship songs. Use the explore activities to relate to this month's God statement and play with the children. Read the prayer, verse, and/or blessing over the child you are holding. Follow the instructions below to help a child create a keepsake each month. **Remember, babies love repetition!**

## WORSHIP

Sing some of the songs on the poster yourself or use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing these simple songs with your class each week. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > Babies folder.**

This month, focus on singing these songs:

### God is With Us

(to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)  
 God is with us, God is with us, God is with us all  
 the time  
 Winter, Spring, and Summer, and Fall  
 God is with us through it all  
 God is with us, God is with us, God is with us all  
 the time

### Thank You God

Thank you, God for loving me  
 Thank you, God for my family  
 Thank you, God for all my friends  
 Thank you, God

### Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me this I know  
 For the Bible tells me so  
 Little ones to Him belong  
 They are weak, but He is strong  
 Yes, Jesus loves me x3  
 The Bible tells me so

### Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of  
 the world.  
 Every color, shape and size, they are precious in  
 his eyes.  
 Jesus loves the little children of the world

**More on Plex:**

- UpStreet God is With Us
- I Can Trust God

## EXPLORE

Use the poster to play one or all of the following activities each week to share the God statement of the month with the children.

### MIRROR PLAY

**Supplies:** handheld mirror

**Directions:**

- Angle the mirror so the baby can see themselves in it.
- Angle the mirror so the baby can see both of you in it.
- Talk to the baby about how God is with us, just like you are with them in the mirror.

**SAY:** Look at you in the mirror! And there's me! God is like that. He's right next to you all the time. He loves you. God is with you.

### PEEK-A-BOO

**Supplies:** a soft blanket

**Directions:**

- Hold the blanket in front of the baby and ask where they went.
- Hold the blanket in front of your face and ask where you went.
- Talk to the baby about how God is with us even when we can't see Him.

**SAY:** Where's (baby's name)? There he is! Where's (your name)? There she is! God is like that. You can't see me, but I'm still here. We can't see God, but He's still here.

### WALK THE LINE

**Supplies:** a long piece of tape on the floor

**Directions:**

- Ask the child to hold your hand and walk on the tape.
- Talk to the baby about how God is with us while we walk and play.
- For younger babies, you can hold them and help them "walk" down the tape.

**SAY:** Can you walk on this line? Hold my hand, let's do it together! God is with us while we walk and play, just like I'm with you while we walk this line!

## PRAYER, VERSE, AND BLESSING

Use the poster to read the prayer, verse, and/or blessing over the children or pray your own prayer/blessing each week. It's okay if the children act like they're not listening or understanding.

Take home some of the children's prayer tags to remind yourself to pray for them this week.

### PRAYER

**SAY:** I pray that your hands and feet would be guided by God. I pray that you will be healthy and strong as you grow up and do big things for God. I pray that you love God more and more every day. Amen

### VERSE

**SAY:** You will pass through deep waters.  
But I will be with you.  
You will pass through the rivers.  
But their waters will not sweep over you.  
You will walk through fire.  
But you will not be burned.  
The flames will not harm you. (Isaiah 43:2, NIRV)

### BLESSING

**SAY:** May you always remember that God is with you. He keeps you safe and loves you more than you know.

## MONTHLY KEEPSAKE

Use the supplies, until they run out, to help the babies make a keepsake each week. It's okay if the same baby makes it twice or even more; parents can decide if they will keep it or not. It's okay if not all the babies make the keepsake each week.

Once the supplies run out, children may color the coloring page instead.

### MAKE: Footprint Heart

**Supplies:** red paint, heart shaped cardstock, baby's feet, pen



**Directions:**

- Paint ONE foot with paint.
- Position the child's foot on the paper like half a heart.
- Wash the foot.
- Paint the other foot.
- Position the other half of the heart.
- Wash the second foot.
- Write the child's name on the keepsake.

## 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)!"