



Flight to Egypt – Jesus is the Plan

Matthew 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

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 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 Has a Plan

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God has a plan!

SAY: What does it mean to have a plan? **Let kids respond.** When we make a plan, we create details and ways to make something happen. A plan is great for keeping track of a goal! Do you have any plans or goals? **Let a few kids respond.** Those plans sound pretty exciting.

Do you know what God's plan was for all of us? Who did He send to fulfill His plan? **Let kids respond – Save us from our sin. Jesus** God had a plan to save us from our sins. He

sent His son, Jesus to die for us! Because of Jesus we get to have a relationship with God, and God forgives our sins. Jesus was and is God's plan!

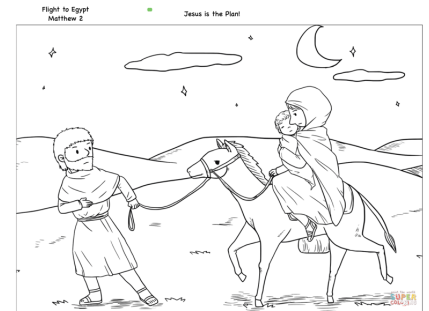
MAKE: Escape to Egypt Coloring Page

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Supplies: one coloring page per child, markers/crayons

Directions: Pass out one page per child. Allow them to color their page using the markers and crayons.

SAY: Today we get to learn about Jesus and how He is God's plan! When Jesus was a baby, something very horrible happened to the other babies where He lived. Joseph and Mary had to take Jesus on a trip! We will get to learn more about this in our story today, but first let's color a picture to take with us after our lesson!



LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Joy to The World
- Best Present Ever

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

****Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.****

***“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)***

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: A Map to Egypt

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Accept around three questions and then three guesses. You can allow the kids to whisper their guess to their neighbor to allow for more sharing before you reveal the item. Retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

SAY: What do you guys see? It’s a map. Have you ever seen a map before? **Let kids respond.** What do we usually use a map for? **Let kids respond.** That’s right, to help us get to where we need to go. When Jesus was a baby Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus needed to leave Bethlehem and go to Egypt in order to keep Jesus safe. I know this all sounds scary and confusing, but lets dive into God’s word to find out more on why God had Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus flee to Egypt.

***** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.*****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK’S LESSON: *Flight to Egypt – Jesus is the Plan*

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

*****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.*****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

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.

DO: GIFTS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS – JESUS IS THE PLAN

Supplies: present cards, pen/markers, wooden Cross station

SAY: Jesus is the plan! Whose plan are we talking about? ***Let kids respond – God's.*** God's plan to rescue His people, us, from this broken world. Did you know God had this plan from the very start of creation?

Let's take a moment and imagine that we are one of the 3 wise men who went to see little Jesus. Everyone stand up. Now pretend you're putting on your nicest robe. ***Act out putting on robe.*** And your best crown or hat. ***Act out putting on hat.*** And you're gathering up your finest gift. ***Act out wrapping a present.*** Now you've got to get the camel to ride. ***Act out getting on a camel.*** Okay, let's start on the journey.

DIRECTIONS: Direct kids to pretend to gallop on a camel around the room in a circle following you. Make a couple circles around before having everyone sit back down.

SAY: Now, you've been on this journey for a very long time and you finally make it and you're sitting in front of this little boy, maybe a couple years old, who can barely talk... And that's the king? The one who came to rescue you? Raise your hand and share how you might react. ***Let a few kids share.***

It might have seemed strange, but throughout God's Big Story, God tells us that His Son would come to be the Savior! Jesus is the plan and always has been! Let's take a moment to thank God for sending Jesus, just like the wise men did when they brought gifts.

DIRECTIONS: Have leaders pass out a present paper to each kid. Encourage them to write/draw a prayer to God to thank Him for sending Jesus for us. Then, when they finish, they can lay their card at the foot of the Cross. Allow kids to respond individually for a few minutes before gathering back together to close in prayer.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.******

OFFERING**Host**

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.

******After Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Praying for One Another**Host**

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the PowerPoint to display important announcements.

SAY: The Holiday season looks different for each and everyone of us. It's not always full of joy and laughter, some of our friends might be walking through something hard. This week, think of one person you can pray for. Take a couple minutes each day to pray for their situation and that they would find hope and peace in Jesus. If **you** are going through something hard, ask your leader or another grownup to pray for your situation!

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who might be going through a more difficult holiday season .

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING**Host**

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.

May you believe that Jesus is the plan! May you praise God for sending His Son, Jesus, because He loves you!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

If you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well, jump into the questions below. If kids need a break first, that's ok! Have them do some jumps or dances to get out some energy before doing the questions.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (Jesus is the Plan.)

2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Matthew 2:13-19**
 - What did the Angel tell Joseph in the dream (V.13)?** (Get up! Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to come back.)

 - Where did Joseph and his family flee to?** (Egypt.)

 - When it was safe to go back, where did the Angel have Joseph take his family?** (Israel, Nazareth.)

3. **As a group reread verses 14-15. God protected Joseph and his family. God had a plan all along, and Jesus was and is His Plan. Joseph's family was scared but knew they were safe with God.**
 - Knowing that Jesus is the plan how can we live our life out in this truth? What does it mean that Jesus is the plan?** Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group. This is time to be vulnerable and tell your students how you live your life out knowing Jesus is the Plan, and what this means to you.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

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

PLAY: Follow the foot print relay race

Supplies: 2 bags of foot prints (one per team)

Directions: Have children get into 2 teams. Give each team one bag of footprints. One child from each team will be the “placer”. This child will lay down the feet for their team member to step on. They have to get their team members from one side of the room to the other (one at a time) by placing down the feet for them to step on like stepping stones. Once the team member has stepped on the foot print, they can pick it up and place it in front of them to keep the trail going. Then they run back and help the next team member. Have the child who walked on the feet be the next “placer”. Once all the team members from one team make it to the other side of the room, they win!

SAY: Today we got to learn about how Jesus is God’s plan! He had to go to Egypt, and they had to follow God’s plan. Let’s play a special game to help us remember our lesson.

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.