



Jesus is the Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6b, Luke 2

God Statement: Jesus is the Good News

**“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

(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 brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.

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: Building relationships & prioritizing 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 Ss 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.

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton’s house for Large Group time.

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

Offering – ASK: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

WORSHIP

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 > 2s/3s folder**. Choose some songs to sing.

- 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 Christmastime, 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!

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

SAY: Today our God statement is Jesus is the Prince of Peace. We are going to say our God statement in fun ways to help us remember it.

- Have the kids say it in a fun voice.
- Have them say it in a whisper.
- Have them say it in a loud voice.
- Motions: Jesus (each middle finger touched to palm of each hand) is the Prince (crown on head) of peace (finger to mouth; like shhh)

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

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.

SAY: In our Bible story today, we learned Jesus was born and He brings peace.

He helps us feel calm and safe.

Jesus can bring us peace when we pray.

He can bring us peace when we worship and sing to Him.

I'm so glad Jesus was born! Let's sing Happy Birthday to 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 Jesus is your peace. He loves to take care of you and help you feel calm and safe.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

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

MAKE: Popsicle Stick Baby Jesus



Supplies: half of a jumbo popsicle stick, square piece of construction paper, markers/crayons, glue sticks, tape, star sticker

Directions:

- Sit with the children at the table.
- Give them a popsicle stick and show them where to draw a face for Baby Jesus (at the rounded top). Yes, there will be some fun faces! 😊
- Help them wrap/glue the paper around Baby Jesus as pictured.
- Tape the back.
- Help the child put a star on the front of Baby Jesus.
- Make sure the child's name is on their Baby Jesus.

SAY: Let's celebrate Jesus' birth!

Draw a cute face for Baby Jesus.

Let's wrap Him up so He's safe and warm!

I'm so glad Jesus was born and that He saved us so we can have peace!

Jesus is the Prince of Peace!

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

Suggestions of activities:

- 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.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

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)!"