



Jesus is the Good News

Luke 1

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 Good News.

SAY: Have you ever gotten good news? What was it? *(wait for responses)* Today we're going to hear a story about Mary. Mary got some really good news! She was Jesus' mommy. It was a miracle that Jesus grew inside his mommy's belly. God chose Mary to be Jesus' mommy and that was great news!

PLAY: Play Doh Sensory Bag

(adapted from True Way Kids)

Supplies: printout of Mary in a Ziploc bag with play doh on her belly

Directions:

- Pull children aside a few at a time while the rest play.
- Show the children the play doh on Mary's belly.
- Let the children squish and move the play doh.
- Help them try to make the play doh into a baby-like shape.
- Ask, "Where is Mary?"
- Ask, "Where is Jesus?"
- Talk about how babies grow in their mommy's tummies and how Jesus grew in Mary's.

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.

- 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!

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 Good News. 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.

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 heard the angel, Gabriel, give Mary good news! Good news is so exciting, especially the good news that Jesus was going to be born. Jesus saved us from our sins. Let's jump for joy because we are so thankful that Jesus was born! Stand up. Jump as high as you can and say "Thank you, Jesus!" Jump to the left and say, "Thank you, Jesus!" Jump back (watch out for other people), and say, "Thank you, Jesus!" Jesus is the Good News!

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.

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.

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)!"