



## Jesus is the Plan

Matthew 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 Plan. We follow what He tells us to do.

**SAY:** Have you ever gone on a trip? You usually need a suitcase or a bag or a backpack. Did you know that Jesus went on a trip? We're going to hear more about that in our story today.

### PLAY: Suitcase Game

**Supplies:** suitcase/ backpack/ shopping bag, hat, and mittens

#### Directions:

- Show the kids the bag and what is inside.
- Show them how to put on the hat and mittens.
- Put the items back in the bag.
- Have the kids sit down in a circle.
- Put the bag in the middle of the circle.
- Let them take turns going to the middle and taking the items out of the bag and putting them on.

**SAY:** I wonder what kind of bag Jesus' mom and dad took on their trip. What kind of things do you think they took on their trip?

## 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.

- Jingle Bells
- Ring Ring the Bells

It’s a fun time to use the instruments in your class room.

## 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 Matthew 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: Flight to Egypt**

(Summarized from Bible passage Matthew 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 small suitcase or box.**

**SAY:** Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? **Hamilton shows us.** Why do you have a suitcase? Are you going somewhere? **Hamilton whispers to you.** Oh, you're visiting your Grandma? Baby Jesus had to go on a trip when he was just a little guy. Let's listen to this true Bible story. **Hamilton nods.**

**Share the story of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus moving to Egypt while using the story cards in your folder.**

**SAY:**

- Have you ever moved to a new house?
- What was that like?
- Were you a little nervous to move? Sometimes we look like this when we are nervous or afraid.
  - **Make a nervous face.** Now encourage the kids to make a nervous face.
- After Baby Jesus was born, there were some people who didn't like Him.
- One of them was King Herod. He wanted to hurt him.
- An angel came to Jesus' dad, Joseph, and told him it was time to move to keep Jesus safe.
- They packed their bags and left for Egypt.
  - Let's pretend to pack our bags. What do you want to take with you? **Let the kids answer. Pretend to take that item that a kid mentions and pretend to put it in a suitcase.**
- Do you know that many years before Jesus was even born, the Bible said that Jesus would come out of Egypt? The Bible is always right!
- King Herod tried to hurt Jesus, but he couldn't.
- God protected Jesus.
- Jesus is the plan to save the world. Jesus is the plan!

### **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 Plan. 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 learned that Jesus is the Plan. God protected Jesus by having His family move to another place. Sometimes we must do hard things. What are some hard things you might do?

Is going to the doctor sometimes a hard thing?  
Is going to a new babysitter or school a hard thing?  
Is going to bed sometimes a hard thing?  
Is waiting for a treat sometimes a hard thing?

Yes, these are hard things. What can you do when you have a hard thing?

You can pray. Remember that Jesus is with you.

### **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 when hard things happen in your life, Jesus is the plan and He is with you.

## RESPOND ACTIVITY

(15 minutes)

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

### COLOR: A Coloring Page of Mary and Joseph and Jesus moving to Egypt

**Supplies:** Color page, crayons

**Directions:**

- Sit with the kids at the table.
- Give them the coloring page and a few crayons.

**SAY:** Let's color this picture.

Can you find Jesus?

Do you see what Joseph is carrying?

What is Mary riding on?

What does a donkey say?

God had a plan to protect Jesus. He has a plan for you, too.

FLIGHT INTO EGYPT



Then God sent an angel to tell Joseph to flee to Egypt with Mary and Jesus. There they were safe.

## 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)!"