



God is Trustworthy

Jeremiah 38

God Statement: God is With Us

**“You will pass through deep waters. But I will be with you.
You will pass through the rivers. But ehir waters will not sweep over you.”**
Isaiah 43:2

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 God is Trustworthy. We can trust God.

SAY: Have you ever had anyone trick you? Here is a trick. *Hold up an empty cup.* What if I throw water on this nice LIT (or other teacher)? Pretend to dump the water on them. Oh, there was no water. I tricked you.

That's funny sometimes. But when we trick people, they can't trust us.

God doesn't trick us. He is trustworthy.

MAKE: Dig a Hole

Supplies: a tub of potting soil, gloves, spoons and shovels, a plastic tablecloth or tarp

Directions:

- We are going to hear a story about a man who got put in a hole!
- People didn't like to hear what Jeremiah said about God, so they put him in a hole!
- Lay the tablecloth on the table.
- Use the gloves in the classroom and put them on 2-3 kids.
- Allow 2 or 3 kids at a time to take turns digging a small hole in the tub with the spoons and shovels.
- Watch carefully and take away the tub if it's too messy.
- Repeat with other children.

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.

- I’m in the Lord’s Army
- I Trust in You, God (new)

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 Jeremiah 38.

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: Jeremiah the Prophet

(Summarized from Jeremiah 38)

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 picture of a hole.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? *Hamilton shows us.* Oh, that's a picture of a big hole! In our true Bible story today, a man gets put in a muddy hole! *Hamilton looks scared and surprised.* Let's find out how God helps him!

Share the story of Jeremiah using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- Jeremiah spoke God's words to His people, the Israelites.
- God's people were in a battle.
- God told Jeremiah that the people needed to leave and give up the battle, or they would be destroyed.
- But the people didn't want to leave. They didn't listen to God.
 - Cover your ears like you're not listening. Yikes!
- The people wanted the king to hurt Jeremiah.
- The king decided to put Jeremiah into a muddy hole.
 - Like the hole you showed us, Hamilton!
- Jeremiah didn't have any food or water in the hole.
 - I'll bet he didn't feel very good. Can you pretend to feel hungry and thirsty?
- But God was with Jeremiah in the hole!
- God used a man to beg the king to rescue Jeremiah.
- The king agreed to rescue Jeremiah from the hole.
- God had a plan to help the people listen to Jeremiah.
- We can trust God to take good care of us.
- God is trustworthy!

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 **God is Trustworthy**. 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 Jeremiah listened to God, but got in trouble with the people anyways.

But God rescued Jeremiah!

God is trustworthy.

Let's listen to God, just like Jeremiah did.

Let's quiet our bodies.

Let's quiet our minds and hearts.

Let's listen to God. You probably won't hear God with a loud voice.

You might hear God in your heart or your brain.

Keep quiet for a few moments.

Ask if they heard anything from God.

Let them share.

If they didn't hear anything, SAY: "That's all right. Keep listening for God."

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 God is trustworthy. He loves to take care of you and keep you safe.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

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

Do: Trust Walk

Supplies: none

Directions:

- Walk one or more kids around the room.
- They should try to close their eyes.
- Talk to them, providing directions and warnings.

SAY: Let's practice TRUST.

Will you trust me? I promise not to let you get hurt.

You can hold my hand.

Close your eyes. OK, let's walk.

We will go around the chair.

There is a friend in front of you, let's go around them. Very good.

Now you may sit down.

Repeat with all the children who want to try it.

When we listen to God, He shows us what to do.

When hard things happen, He will help us.

We can trust God. He is trustworthy.

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)!"