



God is Faithful

Daniel 1

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 their 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 Faithful. He always knows us and helps us.

SAY: We're going to hear a true Bible story about Daniel today. He loved God and wanted to please Him. Daniel listened to God and God was faithful to help him. God told Daniel not to eat the king's food but to only eat vegetables to stay healthy.

PLAY: Guess the Vegetable

Supplies: pictures of various veggies: carrot, potato, lettuce, tomato

Directions:

- Describe vegetables and see if the kids can guess what it is. Then show the picture.
- **SAY:** This vegetable is orange. It is long and pointed. It is crunchy. Do you know?
 - It is a carrot. **Show picture of carrot.**
- **SAY:** This vegetable is kind of round. You can boil them, mash them, put them in a stew. Do you know? It is a potato. **Show picture of potato.**
- **SAY:** This vegetable has a lot of leaves. It is green. You use it to make a salad. Do you know? It is lettuce. **Show picture of lettuce.**
- **SAY:** This vegetable is round. You can slice it for a sandwich. You can cook it to make spaghetti sauce. It is red. Do you know? It is a tomato. **Show picture of tomato.**

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.

- Oh, Who Can Make a Flower?
- I'm in the Lord's Army

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 Daniel 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: Daniel Trained in Babylon

(Summarized from Daniel 1)

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 vegetable.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** A vegetable! I'll bet your grown ups that take care of you, tell you to eat your vegetables. Those are good directions they give you. It's important to eat our vegetables, they make us strong! In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a man who only ate vegetables because he wanted to listen to God. Let's listen to this true Bible story. ***Hamilton nods.***

Share the story of Daniel training in Babylon using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- Daniel was a smart, strong man who loved God.
- The king chose the smartest and strongest men to leave their homes and come work for him in the palace.
- Daniel was one of those men.
- Daniel had to go through special training.
 - Hamilton, do you know what training is? ***Hamilton nods and whispers in your ear.*** That's right, Hamilton! Training is when you have to work really hard to get ready for something. If you want to run really fast to win a race, you have to train to get ready for it. You have to work hard.
- Part of Daniel's training was eating the royal food the king gave him.
- But something was wrong with the food.
- God had told Daniel not to eat some of the king's foods.
- Daniel knew it wasn't right to eat the food, so he asked the king if he could only eat vegetables and drink water for ten days!
 - Wow, that's a long time! Let's count ten days!
- For ten days, Daniel ate only vegetables and drank only water.
 - Hamilton, get your vegetable ready! Let's eat some vegetables and drink some water. ***Pretend to eat a vegetables and drink some water.***
 - What vegetable did you eat?
- After the ten days were over, Daniel was even stronger than all the other men who had eaten the royal food!
- God was faithful to Daniel and helped him grow strong because Daniel listened to God and followed his directions.
- God loves us and takes care of us.
- It's important for us to listen to God and follow His directions.
- God is faithful!

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 Faithful**. 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 God gave Daniel directions about not eating the food that was given to fake gods.

Daniel listened to God's directions, and God made Him strong!

God is faithful!

What are some directions God asks us to follow? **Let kids respond**

God wants us to love Him.

Let's say, "We love you, God!"

God wants us to love each other.

Let's follow God's directions:

Can you give your neighbor a high five or a gentle hug to show that you want to love them?

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 faithful and loves to take care of you. May you follow his directions and show Him that you love Him.

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: Special Training

Supplies: none

Directions: Lead the kids in a few calisthenics and stretches.

SAY: You know that Daniel went through special training to help the king. Let's do some training, too.

We will train to make our body strong and flexible.

- Put your hands in the air and stretch high.
- Touch your toes.
- March in place.
- Put your hands on your hips and twist your body.
- Keep one hand on your hip and stretch the other hand way up in the air.
- Now the other side. Put the other hand on your hip and stretch the other hand way up in the air.
- Ask: How do you feel? Stretched and Strong?
- Repeat as desired.

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)!"