



God is Our Source of Wisdom

Daniel 2

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.
You will walk through fire. But you will not be burned.
The flames will not harm you.”
Isaiah 43:2, 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 God is our Source of Wisdom. He helped a guy named Daniel in the Bible and He can help us too.

SAY: In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is our Source of Wisdom. He helped a guy named Daniel in the Bible and He can help us too. The king had a bad dream when he was sleeping. God helped Daniel tell the king about his dream.

DO: Sleep Game

Supplies: none

Directions:

- **Lie down on the floor like you are sleeping.**
- **SAY:** Did you ever hear anyone snore?
 - It sounds like this: **Make a snoring noise.**
 - All right, good night, everyone.
 - We are pretending that we are asleep.
 - Night, night.
- After a moment, **SAY:** Wake up! **Stretch and yawn.**
- **SAY:** Time for sleep again. Night, night.
 - Can I hear some snores? Oh, very good.
- Wake up!

- Night, night.
- Repeat a few times for fun.

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 can Trust God – music video from LifeKids
- God is With Us – music video from UpStreet

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 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: Daniel Interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

(Summarized from Daniel 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 pillow.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** A pillow! Are you going to take a nap, Hamilton? ***Hamilton shakes his head no and whispers in your ear.*** Someone has a special dream in our Bible story? ***Hamilton nods.*** Oh, you need to be asleep to dream, and we usually have a pillow when we sleep! That's why you have a pillow! ***Hamilton nods.*** Let's listen to this true Bible story.

Share the story of Daniel interpreting the king's dreams using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- Once there was a king who was having terrible dreams.
- The dreams scared him so much he could not sleep.
 - Can you make a scared face?
- The king wanted the dreams to go away!
- He asked some magicians to tell him what the dreams meant, but no one could.
- Then, God told a man named Daniel what the king's dreams meant!
- Daniel praised God for telling him what the dream meant.
 - He probably said, "Thank you, God!"
 - We can praise God, too. Let's say, "Thank you, God!"
- Daniel went to the king and told him that his dreams meant God was building a strong kingdom that would never go away!
- The king thought Daniel meant his own kingdom, so he gave Daniel more power.
- God and Daniel were really talking about God's kingdom!
- God's kingdom will never go away!
- God gave Daniel wisdom so he would know what the king's dreams meant.
- God is wisdom!

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 Wisdom**. 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: God (hand vertical in front of face) is wisdom (tap your head and look like you're thinking).

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 wisdom to know what the king's dreams meant.

How do we get wisdom from God? **(wait for responses)**

We can listen to our parents. **(cup your hand at one ear)**

We can listen to our teachers at church. **(cup your hand at your other ear)**

We can read the Bible. **(open your hands like you're reading)**

We can go to church. **(gesture around the room)**

We can pray. **(make praying hands)**

All of those things can give us wisdom from God!

Let's do those motions again! **(repeat with the kids)**

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 wisdom. He loves to help you know more about Him.

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.

DO: God's Wisdom

Supplies: none

Directions:

- Sit with the kids facing you.
- Ask questions to help the kids know what is wise and what isn't.

SAY:

- God has wisdom and He helps us be wise.
- Is it wise to run out in the street? **NO**
- Is it wise to let a puppy out of the house without a leash? **NO**
- Is it wise to give your sad friend a hug? **YES!**
- Is it wise to eat candy for dinner? **NO**
- Is it wise to wash your hands before lunch? **YES!**
- Is it wise to hold your grownup's hand when you're in the store? **YES!**
- It sounds like God has helped you be wise. Well done!

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)!"