



## God Created the World!

Genesis 1

### God Statement: God is Our Creator

KEY VERSES:

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14)*

## CHECK-IN

*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 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 S's 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

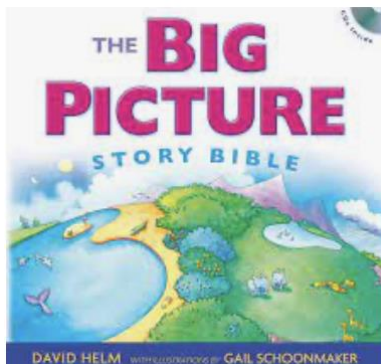
They can become **SECURE.**

## READ A BIBLE STORY

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!*

This month, read about how God created the world from *The Big Picture Story Bible* on **pages 16-23**.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! 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!



## SING SONGS

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!*

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.

**This month, please introduce the following songs:**

- Thank You God
- My Friend Noah

**Additional Songs, if you want them:**

- Jesus Loves Me
- My God is So Big
- Only God Can Do

## LEAD AN ACTIVITY

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children by doing a variety of learning activities!*

### WEEK 1: STORY CARDS

Help re-tell the story by using the 7 Days of Creation Story cards



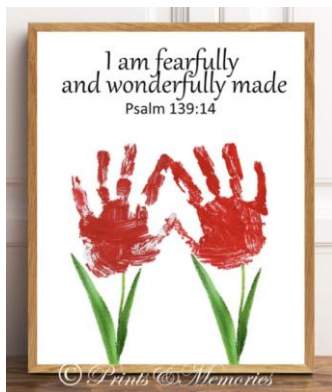
1. Let child help you tape the popsicle sticks to each card
2. (optional) Let kids color on the cards
3. Place all cards into child's Ziploc bag
4. Use a sharpie to write their name on the Ziploc bag
5. Send home with child

#### ***While you are working with each child:***

- Talk about how God created the world
- Show them each card's picture while you remind them what God created

### WEEK 2: PSALM 139 HANDPRINT ART

Work one on one with children to complete this project. This is a great project to involve LITs!



1. Carefully cover the child's hands with paint
2. Press their hands onto the paper to make 2 flowers
3. Use the wipes provided to wash their hands
4. Write their name and date neatly in the bottom corner of the paper with a sharpie.
5. Hang the pictures up to dry
6. Send home with child

#### ***While you are working with each child:***

- Talk about how they are uniquely made
- Tell them "there is only one you and only you have fingerprints like these"
- Read Psalm 139 to them!

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### WEEK 3: Psalm 139 MIRRORS

Read Psalm 139 and let the children look at themselves in the mirrors.

#### ***While the child looks in the mirror:***

- Tell them they are fearfully and wonderfully made
- Talk about their beautiful eyes, nose, the color of their hair, etc.
- Smile and make silly faces with them in the mirror!
- Tell them, "God Made You!"
- *Optional: Re-use the Creation story cards to tell the story about how God made everything!*

### WEEK 4: PUZZLES

Help kids put together the 2 piece animal puzzles

#### ***While the child matches the puzzles:***

- Talk about how God made the animals on the 6<sup>th</sup> Day
- Say the name of the animals
- Make animal sounds
- Point out the different colors

## 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 for Babies & Younger 1 Year Olds:**

- Play Peek-A-Boo
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball
- Roll a large car back and forth
- Take turns putting toys in a bin or bucket

#### **Suggestions of activities for Older 1 Year Olds & 2 Year Olds:**

- 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.)

## 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)!"

## PLEASE RETURN:

*Use this checklist of items to return at the end of the month.*

- Mirrors**
- Puzzles**
- Paint**
- Wipes**
- Tape**
- Folder**

**Note: Please keep "The Big Picture Story" Bibles at your campus**