



Jesus is Savior

John 3

God Statement: Jesus is Awesome

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.”

John 3:16, 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 Savior. A Savior is someone who saves. Jesus saves us from our sins.

SAY: In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is Savior. A Savior is someone who saves. Jesus saves us from our sins.

DO: Look in the Dark

Supplies: flashlight for each kid (or use partners), the story cards

Directions:

- Hide the story cards around the room.
- Give each kid a flashlight.
- Show them how to turn the flashlight on and off.
- Turn off the lights. (It's ok if the room is not too dark.)
- Walk around the room together, using the flashlight, finding the story cards.
- Bring the story cards back to the circle.
- Describe briefly what is happening in each card.

SAY: We will see these cards again and hear about why we needed the flashlight to find them.

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.

- Jesus Loves Me
- Jesus Loves the Little Children

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 John 3.

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: The Story of Nicodemus

(Summarized from John 3 and True Way Kids)

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 globe.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** Oh, that's a globe! This shows us the whole world. We live right here in Colorado (***do your best to find about where Colorado would be on the tiny globe.***). ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** Hamilton says in our true Bible story today, we're going to hear about how God SAVED the whole world! That's such good news! Let's listen. ***Hamilton nods.***

Share the story of Nicodemus using the story cards the kids found around the room.

SAY:

- Nicodemus was a very important man.
- He led God's special people, the Israelites.
- He read the Bible and did his best to listen to it.
 - Pretend to get out your Bible and read it.
- One night, Nicodemus went to talk with Jesus in secret. It was dark.
- He walked down the street quietly.
 - Can you stand up and creep quietly around the room with me, like Nicodemus did?
- When Nicodemus found Jesus, Nicodemus knew that Jesus was special.
- Nicodemus asked Jesus lots of questions, and Jesus answered them.
- Jesus said, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." John 3:16, NIRV
 - Hamilton, do you know what eternal life is? ***Hamilton nods and whispers in your ear.*** Yes! Eternal life means living forever and ever with God! That sounds like such a wonderful life!
- Well, Nicodemus thought so, too.
- He believed and trusted Jesus, so Nicodemus had eternal life!
- We can believe and trust Jesus, and have eternal life, too!
- Jesus saves us.
- Jesus is Savior!

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 Savior. 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 heard that Nicodemus believed and trusted in Jesus, and now he has eternal life!

Nicodemus can live with God forever.

We can live with God forever, too!

You can ask Jesus to forgive you for your sins.

You can believe what Jesus says and trust him.

If you want to hear more about this, you can talk to your grown up!

We love Jesus and He is our Savior.

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 Jesus is Savior. He died on the cross and rose again so that you can live with him forever! He loves you so much.

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.



COLOR: A Coloring Page of John 3:16

Supplies: Color page, crayons

Directions:

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

SAY: Let's color this picture.

- What is this a picture of?
- Yes, our world. And a cross.
- The Bible says: God love the whole world so much that He sent Jesus to save us!
- Nicodemus believed and trusted Jesus, so Nicodemus had eternal life!
- We can believe and trust Jesus, and have eternal life, too!
- Jesus saves us.
- Jesus is Savior!

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)!"