



## God Is With Us – Israelites Wander in the Desert

Deuteronomy 2:1-7 & 31

### God Statement: God is Our Leader

**KEY VERSE:** “Be strong and brave...I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.”  
(Joshua 1:9, NIRV)

## CHECK-IN

*Classroom Teacher*

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.*

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(15 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: God is Our Leader & God is With Us**

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is our Leader.

**SAY:**

We're starting a new series today, which means we have a new God Statement. This series, we are going to look at how “God is Our Leader,” as we look at specific traits of God's leadership. What do you think it means to be a leader? What makes a good leader? God is the very best leader of all!

Today, we're going to keep looking at the Old Testament when God led Moses & the Israelites through the desert. He was with them the entire time. God is with us as well! I

can't wait to learn more about this in our lesson today, but before we do that, let's play a game.

**PLAY:**

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

**Follow Moses (Follow the Leader)**

**Supplies:** Bible costume headpiece

***Say:** God is our leader. He guides us and protects us! Have you ever played Follow the Leader? In our Bible lesson today, we will see how God led Moses, and then Moses led the Israelites. We're going to pretend to follow Moses in our game.*

**Directions:** Pick a child to be the "leader". Have the child wear the costume headpiece and pretend to be Moses. Children can take turns being Moses and leading the Israelites (playing follow the leader).

## LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

*Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.*

### WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

*Host*

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

**Expectations Slide**

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

*\*\*\* After Expectations, transition the power point to the Key Verse slides.\*\*\**

**BIBLE CHALLENGE****Host**

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

**Books of the Bible Song**

The current Bible Challenge is for Woodmen Kids to learn the Books of the Bible Song! Use the song provided in the PowerPoint to help the kids practice the song each week. Encourage kids to take a “Bible Challenge” card home to remind them to practice at home as well!

***As kids begin to learn the song, invite kids up to come show what they know during Large Group.***

***\*\*\*After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the “Worship” slide. Invite the worship leader up to lead the group in worship.\*\*\****

**KEY VERSE****Host**

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

***Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.***

**“Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you wherever you go.”  
(Joshua 1:9, NIRV)**

***\*\*\* After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.\*\*\****

**OPENING WORSHIP****Worship Leader**

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it’s not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

***\*\*\* After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.\*\*\****

**BIBLE STORY****Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

***THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God is Our Leader – Israelites Wander in the Desert***

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

*\*\*\*After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.\*\*\**

**WORSHIP RESPONSE****Host**

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.

**Supplies:** glowsticks – 1 per kid

God was leading His people to a new land. They didn't listen to Him very well, so it took a long time to get to that new land. He kept leading them. For forty years! 40! Maybe your mom or dad is 40. That's their whole lifetime! It's like more than 4 times your lifetime! Every day the people followed God. God led them by the light of the fire at night and a cloud by day. The whole time they were wandering in the desert, God was with them. He didn't just leave them to find their way on their own, He led them because God is our leader!

Did you know that God is with us too? He's even with us right now. Just like the Israelites followed God's light, God wants us to follow His light today, too. What are some ways we can follow His light? ***Pause for responses first.***

Those are all great ideas - Reading the Bible, listening to Him, listening to people who love God, coming to church, praying, asking for His guidance are all ways we can follow His light.

What are some things we need God's help with? ***Pause for responses first.***

Being kind, memorizing His words, loving well, staying at dad's house when I want to be with mom or staying at mom's when I want to be with dad, stop watching something I shouldn't be watching, obeying my parents and leaders, defending a kid who other kids are being mean to. These are all things we need God's help with.

God is our leader and He is with us. When things are hard, when they are good, when they are scary, and all the in between, God is with us! He is with us right now, too.

***Have teachers pass out glow sticks to each kid. OPTION: Pre-break glowsticks before handing them out. Turn off extra lights in classroom besides TV.***

As you get a glowstick, look at the light coming from it. Look at how it shines through the darkness around it. This glowstick is like God's light shining through the darkness reminding us that God is with us and He leads us. All we have to do is follow Him.

We're going to use these glowsticks to praise God and dance to our final worship song, Shine the Light. Remember to follow God's light, even when it's hard. ***Play final worship song on PowerPoint.***

***Close time in prayer.***

***\*\*\*After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.\*\*\****

## **CLOSING WORSHIP**

### ***Worship Leader***

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

***\*\*\*After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the "Compassion International" slide.\*\*\****

## **COMPASSION & OFFERING**

### ***Host***

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

***Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.***

***\*\*\*After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.\*\*\****

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS

### Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

*\*\*\*After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.\*\*\**

## BLESSING

### Host

*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.*

*Friends, may you always remember to follow God. He is our leader, and we can trust and listen to Him because He loves us so much.*

## SMALL GROUP

### Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

*The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they’ve just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.*

### Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (Deuteronomy 2:1-7, 31).**
2. **How did God take care of the Israelites when they were traveling through the wilderness?** (He protected them and gave them everything they needed).
3. **Who was leading the Israelites during this time?** (Moses). **Who was going to lead the Israelites after Moses died?** (Joshua).
4. **Did the Israelites listen to Moses, well, when he lead them through the wilderness? How was God present with them in the wilderness?** (Pillar of fire, cloud of smoke)
5. **Who is the true leader over the Israelites, Moses, and Joshua?** (God).

6. Even though the Israelites were wandering in the desert, God was with them through it all. God is with us too. How have you felt God with you when you've gone through hard things?

Close small group in prayer.

**Older Kids:**

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Read Deuteronomy 2:1-7**

**What were the Israelites doing?** (Wandering in the desert). **How did God take care of the Israelites when they were traveling through the wilderness?** (He protected them and gave them everything they needed).

2. **Read Deuteronomy 31**

**Who was going to lead the Israelites after Moses died?** (Joshua)

3. **Joshua was told to be a certain way. What were the two things God called Joshua to be?** (Strong and courageous).
4. **What did God give Moses to give to the Israelites?** (the book of the Law). **Who is the true leader over the Israelites, Joshua, and Moses?** (God).
5. **Did the Israelites listen to Moses, well, when he lead them through the wilderness? How was God present with them in the wilderness?** (Pillar of fire, cloud of smoke)
6. Even though the Israelites were wandering in the desert, God was with them through it all. God is with us too. How have you felt God with you when you've gone through hard things?

Close small group in prayer.

## RESPOND ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(10 minutes)**

### **DISCUSS:**

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

### **MAKE – God Is With Me Necklace**

**Supplies:** circle charm (God Is With Me), string, beads, straw pieces

***Say:** Wow! It is so wonderful to know that God is always with us! Let's make a necklace that we can wear to remember this promise!*

**Directions:** Pass out a circle to each child and a string. Give children beads and straw pieces to put on their necklace. Help the children tie their necklaces at the end.

## CHECK-OUT

*Classroom Teacher*

**(end of service)**

*As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and*





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