



God Hears Us – The Sun Stands Still

Joshua 10

God Statement: God Is Omnipresent (all-present)

KEY VERSE: “The eyes of the Lord are everywhere. They watch those who are evil and those who are good.”
(Proverbs 15:3, 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 Omnipresent – God Hears Us

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God is omnipresent!

SAY:

Who remembers our God Statement right now? I’ll give you a hint – *move hands palms up out in front of you*. God is omnipresent, that’s right! That means God is all present – everywhere, at all times!

Have you ever been really focused on something? Maybe you were playing your favorite game or painting a picture or trying to do a hard math problem or watching a good

show? When you're really focused on something, is it easy to sometimes not hear others around us? Like maybe if your parent calls you from the kitchen to help with dinner. Do you always hear them? I know I don't... I'm not always the best listener. Do you know who always hears us no matter what though? *Let kids respond – God!* That's right, God always hears us! He doesn't get distracted by video games or homework or friends – God hears us! Today, we're going to hear about a time when God's people asked for His help. And guess what? God heard them!

MAKE:

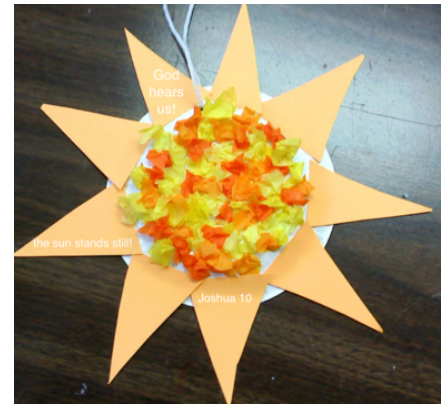
To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Sun Stands Still: Sun Craft

Supplies: small plates, triangles (3 yellow and 3 orange per child), tissue paper (yellow and orange), glue sticks

Say: *Friends, today we get to learn about something amazing! Have you ever noticed how the sun always comes up every morning and then the moon comes up at night? What if the sun stopped and it stayed light out for extra time? That would be so odd! Well in today's lesson, we get to learn about a time where God made the sun stand still! He answered a very special prayer. I can't wait to learn more about it. Let's create a sun to prepare for our lesson.*

Directions: Pass out one plate per child. Give each child 3 yellow triangles and 3 orange triangles. Have them glue the triangles around the plate, like a sun. Write the words "The sun stood still!" on the center of the plate. Have children rip small pieces of the yellow and orange tissue paper to glue around the words in the center of the plate. Place the craft aside to let it dry during the lesson.



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 "Worship" slide.****

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.

"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere. They watch those who are evil and those who are good."

(Proverbs 15:3, 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 Hears Us – The Sun Stands Still

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: chalkboard WR station, twine/wire WR Station, wooden Cross, chalk, heart die cuts, markers/pens

Prepare Ahead: Set up each station as described below prior to the start of large group. Use provided station description signs to hang up next to each station.

Wow, that was a crazy story... Can you believe what Joshua asked God to help with? What did he ask? *Let a child respond by raising hand – Joshua asked that the sun and moon would stand still.* And did God hear Joshua's request? *Let kids respond – YES!*

Did you know that God hears us too? Last week, we talked about how God is present. We used something to help us think about God's presence with us... What was it? *Move hands like wind to prompt.* The wind! God is present with us right now through the Holy Spirit. So, no matter where we are, when we tell God what is on our mind, He hears us!

TALKING TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Joshua trusted that God would hear him, so he asked for a pretty big thing. He asked for the sun to stand still! Do you trust that God will hear you? Is there something you need

to ask God for today? Is there something you need to share or confess to God? Let's take some time to talk to God right now because God hears us!

Pray to invite the Holy Spirit into this space before explaining the response activity.

Invite kids to take some time on their own to talk to God. Use the description below to briefly explain each station. Encourage them to go to one of the stations around the room to respond in prayer to God. (Kids do NOT need to participate at every station. Encourage leaders to respond at stations as well.)

Station #1 – Chalkboard Thoughts – Tell God what's on your mind. God hears you!

Station #2 – Wall of Requests – Take a heart cutout and write what's on your heart – good or bad – God hears it all!

Station #3 – At the Foot of the Cross – Sit at the foot of the wooden cross and lay down all your worries to God. God loves you no matter what, and He hears you!

After a couple minutes of response, even if some kids are still responding, say:

God really does hear each of us! No matter how big or little you think your prayer is, God knows what's on your mind and heart, and He hears you. Why does He always hear us? Because God loves us AND God is all-present! Thank you, God!

As we sing this final song, let's praise God for His love and presence!

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 – Gift of Love

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.

Say: What holiday is coming up this December? Christmas, that’s right! Raise your hand if you have something you’re hoping to get for Christmas this year. *Let kids respond.* I bet you’ll be really excited if you get that special thing. Imagine it’s Christmas morning, and you run downstairs and you find nothing under the Christmas tree. That’s the case for some kids right here in our city or even our schools or even at church with us. Their families don’t have the ability to go buy that super special gift they wanted because they don’t have enough money for it.

Say: But, that’s where Gift of Love comes in. Gift of Love is a super special event that allows families in need to shop for Christmas gifts at a very low cost! And guess how you can be a part of it? Your family can help by donating new toys/clothes/activities/games/etc. for the families to shop for. Did you notice the big Christmas trees when you came in today? When you leave, talk to your family about picking an ornament off the tree and shopping for a specific age/gender – like a 12 year old girl or a 7 year old boy. Then, bring your UNWRAPPED item back in and put it under the tree next weekend!

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who will participate in Gift of Love.

******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.

May you feel God’s presence with you today. May you trust that God hears you and you can come to Him with anything, and He loves you still.

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. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Joshua 10**
 - a. **The Gibeonites needed help. Who did they ask to come help them win the battle against the five kings of the Amorites? (Joshua!)**
 - b. **What did Joshua ask God to do? (To make the sun stand still).**
 - c. **Did God give Joshua what he asked for? What happened? (Yes! God froze the sun in place and Joshua was able to win the battle).**
3. **Joshua did a great thing by helping others and He knew to ask God when he needed help. Can you think of a time when you needed to ask for some help? What did you do? Who did you ask?**

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. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read scripture: Joshua 10: 4-7**
 - a. **The Gibeonites needed help. Who did they ask to come help them win the battle against the five kings of the Amorites? (Joshua!)**

- b. Did Joshua agree to help them? (yes!)
3. Read scripture: Joshua 10: 12-14
 - a. What did Joshua ask God to do? (To make the sun stand still).
 - b. Did God give Joshua what he asked for? What happened? (Yes! God froze the sun in place and Joshua was able to win the battle).
4. Joshua did a great thing by helping others and He knew to ask God when he needed help. Can you think of a time when you needed to ask for some help? What did you do? Who did you ask?

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.

PLAY: God Hears Us Telephone

Supplies: none

Directions: Have children sit in a circle. Pick one child to think about something they have prayed for in the past. Have them share it with the person next to them by whispering it in their ear. Then that person will tell the person next to them and so on. When it gets to the end, the last person says what they heard. Have the first child share what the original “prayer” was. Ask them if the prayer was the same? Take turns having kids play “telephone” by sharing prayers. When the game is over say: *“These prayers are so special! They got kind of messy when shared them around the circle. Sometimes we struggle to hear what others share with us or say to us. But God never struggles to hear us! He hears every word and every prayer. He is AWESOME!”*

Say: *Today we learned that God listened to Joshua! He heard his prayer, and He took care of him. He listens to us too. Did you know that God always hears our prayers? He may not answer them the way we expect. But He always hears us, and we can always talk with him. Let’s play a fun listening game to remember this wonderful promise about God. God always hears us.*

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 toys.