



God Is Present – The Walls of Jericho

Joshua 6

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 is Present

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

SAY:

We’ve got a new God Statement today. But before I tell you what it is, can anyone tell me what the last two were? I will give you a hint... They started with omni. *Let kids respond.* That’s right – God is omnipotent (all-powerful) and God is omniscient (all-knowing). We’ve got one final “omni” word for our God Statement today, and it is God is Omnipresent. Who thinks they know what it might mean? *Let kids respond.*

It means God is all-present – He is everywhere, all the time. We’ve got a motion to learn with it – when we say God is omnipresent, we will hold our hands out in front of us and spread them out. Let’s practice!

We’re going to hear more about that leader we learned about last week today. Does anyone remember his name? Joshua, that’s right! Joshua and his men had a very important job God gave them to do. It involved some big walls, some loud noises, and a lot of marching. Does anyone know this story? Well, we will find out more later, but first, let’s play a game!

PLAY:

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

Party Horn March

Supplies: party blowers (one per child)

***Say:** Today we get to learn about a great story! God used Joshua and his men to march around some very sturdy walls! I wonder what happens in our story today. Let’s pretend to march around walls too! Let’s see if we can knock down our imaginary walls with our party trumpets!*

Directions: Pass out one party blower per child. You can label the middle of the party horn with their name. Have children pretend there is a big wall in the middle of the room. Tell them to march around the invisible wall and blow through their horns as they march.

****after 5-10 minutes of pretending to march and having a party horn parade, have children place their horns in the back of the room****

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

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

WORSHIP & CHLOE’S RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

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!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing

them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

CHLOE'S RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Chloe's Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Chloe's Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

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)

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the "What's It" is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to "spy" on the What's It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What's It in the host's ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What's It: BRICKS/BLOCKS

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What's It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What's It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Hmm.. this is interesting. Looks like someone is trying to do some building today in the wardrobe. Why do you think we've got these **bricks/blocks** in here today? I wonder if it has to do with that game we played at the beginning of our lesson. Let's find out more. Do you know what time it is? It's time for us to dive into God's Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to 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 Present – The Walls of Jericho

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 this time.

Supplies: 1-2 fans, verse cards

Prepare Ahead: Put one fan on the stage facing out. Put the other fan at the back of the room/side of the room and ask a teacher to turn it on when you give them the cue.

God is present! He was with the Israelites as they marched around the walls of Jericho, and He is with us right here, right now. What is that BIG word we learned today? *Pause for response.* God is omnipresent – which means God is everywhere at all times! Isn't that crazy?

One way I like to think about God being omnipresent is by looking out the window when I ride in the car. Let's pretend we're in a car for a minute. Everyone, close your eyes and imagine with me. You are riding in the car to church. As you look out the window, what do you see? ***Call on a few kids with hands raised to share.*** You know what I see? A tree... and it's moving, but how? The wind! I also see a leaf roll across the sidewalk... but how? The wind! Oh, and there's a flag waving around... but how? The wind! Open your eyes.

Can we see the wind? No! But can we feel the wind? Yes! We can feel the wind, and we can see what happens because of the wind. Just like the wind, we can't always see God, but God tells us that He is omnipresent – all present. Not only that, but even though we can't see Him, God has given us a way to feel His presence. Do you know what that is? The Holy Spirit!

Let's take some time today to be still and feel God's presence with us. This may be kind of hard for some of us, but we are going to do our best to quiet our bodies and minds, so we can feel/hear God.

BE STILL IN THE WIND ACTIVITY:

Invite kids to lay down around the room – with their eyes closed if it helps them not be distracted. Then, explain that you are going to turn on some fans around the room. As the kids lay there, encourage them to think about how the wind feels as a reminder that God is present right now.

Say: As you feel the wind, think about what God is telling you right now. Maybe He's been trying to tell you something for a while. Maybe He wants to remind you of something. Maybe He just wants to say hi. Listen to God. Feel His presence. Be reminded that He is here with you and He loves you.

Then, allow kids to sit in silence with the wind blowing for a couple minutes (or as long as the group allows). After that, gather everyone back together and have the kids sit up on their spots.

Would anyone like to share what they experienced or felt God saying in that time?
Allow a few kids to share.

Can you believe that same God who is present right now is the same God who was with the Israelites as they marched around Jericho? As you leave today, you will get one of these verse cards (***hold up card as sample***). On the front it says "God is omni-present!" and the back has our remember verse right now. Take it home as a reminder that God is always with you!

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.******

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 – ACTS Thanksgiving Baskets

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 do we celebrate in November? Thanksgiving, that’s right! What are your favorite foods to eat at Thanksgiving? *Let kids respond and share.* Mmmm, those all sound so yummy. My favorite Thanksgiving food is _____.

Say: Did you know that there are families in our church, neighborhoods, and schools who might not get to eat some of those really yummy foods this Thanksgiving? They can’t just go to the store and buy those items because they don’t have enough money. Right now, our missions focus is ACTS Thanksgiving Baskets. Remember all those yummy foods you mentioned earlier? Well, you can share those yummy foods with people who need them this Thanksgiving by shopping for food items and bringing them on the weekends to our Feeding Families bin. We will be collecting items until November 13!

Say: Let’s take a moment to pray for our missions focus. Let’s pray that God would provide the food needed to give a Thanksgiving Basket to everyone who needs one. Pray that God’s love will show through those delivering Thanksgiving Baskets.

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who will receive food through ACTS Thanksgiving Baskets.

******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 know that God is everywhere always. May you feel His presence today. He is with you right now and He loves you!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

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 6**
 - a. **What did God ask Joshua and the soldiers to do?** (March around the wall!)
 - b. **Who gave this city to Joshua and his soldiers? Did they take this city all on their own? Who helped them?** (They had God! They did not need anyone else. God helped them take the city).
3. **How many days did they walk around the wall before it fell down?** (7 days)
4. **Joshua was right! They didn't need any super strong soldiers to do this big task. They had God! What is a "big task" in your life? How can God help you with it?**

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: Walls of Jericho Coloring Page

Supplies: 1 coloring page per child, markers and crayons

Directions: Pass out one page per child. Have children color their coloring pages and discuss what they remember about today's lesson.

Say: *Wow! Can you believe it!? Those walls crumbled!! God had such an awesome plan for Joshua and for us too! He is always with us. No matter what. Let's color a picture to remember our lesson today.*

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.