



## 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

**(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: The Sun Stands Still

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God made the sun stand still.

**Say:** Can you name some things you see in the sky? *Let kids respond.* Sun, moon, clouds, stars... Yes! That's great! Have you ever noticed how the sun comes up every day? What happens at night? Where does the sun go? What comes out at night?

**Say:** God can do anything! Once He even stopped the sun. It stayed in the sky all day and night. Wouldn't that be amazing? If we could pause the sun? Well, that happens in our story today. Before we learn about our special story, in God's word, let's make a special craft!

### MAKE: Sun puppet

*Supplies: small paper plate, crayons, popsicle stick*

**Directions:** Have kids sit around classroom tables. Have them color the yellow paper plate. Help each child make a face on the sun plate. When finished, attach the popsicle stick to the back of the plate with tape. Place aside for kids to take home with them at the end of class.

**Say:** Today, we're going to talk about how God did something amazing! Something happened to the sun. God helped Joshua by stopping the sun!

**While you are working with each child say things like:**

- It's a sunny day today. (Or rainy day if appropriate.)
- Did you see the sun?
- The sun gives us light and warmth.
- God made the sun.

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

- *I'm in the Lord's Army*
- *God can do Anything!*

## READ A BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read your story below.

### BIG IDEA:

**God is omnipresent! (ahm-ni-pre'-sent). (Spread your hands and arms in front of you.) God is everywhere! He watches the evil and the good. He watches YOU! He loves you.**

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by using lots of expression in your voice. Act out the parts and have the kids act it out too. 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!

### BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

#### ***THIS WEEK'S LESSON: The Sun Stands Still***

*Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.*

***Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is wearing sunglasses.***

**Say:** Hi Hamilton, the sun is so bright today. Good thing you're wearing your sunglasses.

**Hamilton nods.** Did you know that God stopped the sun once? A long time ago, when Joshua was fighting for God, God made the sun stop in the sky. The sun stayed out all day and all night! Only God can do that! Would you like to hear our story with us today, Hamilton?

**Hamilton nods excitedly.**

**Read the Lesson below. God Stops the Sun.**

**Say:** Joshua and God's people were going into the land God had prepared for them. Some of their enemies didn't like that. **Put your thumbs down.** They fought with God's people. **Punch the air a few times.** God told Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them; **Shake your head "no."** I have given them into your hand. None of them will be able to withstand you."

**Say:** God helped His people win. Have you seen hail during a storm? Hail is usually small white pellets of ice. God made giant balls of ice. **Put your hand out about the size of a basketball.** He sent so much large hail that it knocked all the bad guys down. **Clap your hands down.** But the bad guys were still fighting. **Punch the air a few times.** And it was getting dark. God had promised that His people would win.

**Say:** Joshua prayed to God. **Put your hands in prayer formation.** He asked God to keep the sun out all night until the battle was over. God did it!!! Only God can stop the sun from moving across the sky. And He did it for Joshua and His people. The battle was over. God's people won!! **Yay, hands up in the air.**

**Say:** God hears the prayers of His people. He heard Joshua ask to keep the sun out all night. He hears you, too! God is omnipresent! (ahm-ni-pre'-sent). ***Spread your hands and arms in front of you.*** God is everywhere!

**Say:** Thanks for joining us today, Hamilton. I can't believe how powerful God is! God is so awesome! We can't wait to see you next time for our story. See you later! ***Wave bye to Hamilton.***

### **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.*

We are learning that "God is omniscient." He is present with us. He is everywhere. (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

### **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.

***Encourage class to sit quietly.***

**Say:** God hears the prayers of His people. He heard Joshua ask to keep the sun out all night. He hears you, too!

**Say:** What do you want to say to God? Here are some things you can say to God. Use these stickers and put them on the paper to tell God what you want to say.

**Heart – I love you**  
**Star – you're special**  
**Dot – thank you**

Repeat a couple of times. Encourage the kids to choose a sticker and stick it on the paper. Say, Ahh, you're telling God "I love you." Or "You're special, God." Or "Thank you, God."

**Close large group time in prayer.**

### **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 you can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything! He will hear you!

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

**(Until parents pickup)**

### **PLAY: Sun Hokey Pokey**

**Supplies:** *the sun each kid made earlier*

**Directions:** Play Hokey Pokey using the sun craft. Get the kids and teachers in a circle. Have children play the game utilizing the song below.

“You put your sun in” (put sun in center of circle)

“You put your sun out” (put sun out of circle)

“You put your sun in and you shake it all about, (shake your sun)

You do the Hokey Pokey, and you turn yourself around. (turn around)

Only God can stop the sun!”

**Play a couple of times.**

## 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)!"