



Samson and Delilah

Judges 13-16

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: Samson and Delilah

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is present, even when we do wrong things.

Say: How strong are you? Show me your muscles! Can you lift heavy things – like this tub of toys? *Let kids take turns trying to lift the tub.* Today, we're going to learn about a man named Samson. Let's say Samson – Samson! He was a guy in the Bible who was very very strong. God made Samson strong. Samson could lift a lion or push a strong pillar or make a whole building fall down! Wow! But Samson did a lot of wrong things too... Even though Samson did wrong things, God had chosen him to be one of God's people.

PLAY: Getting Strong

Supplies: none

Directions: Have everyone line up against the wall or in a circle in an open space of the classroom. Lead the children through some simple exercises.

Say: *Let me see your muscles. Wow, you're already very strong. Let's do some exercises to get even stronger! I will tell and show you what to do and you follow me!*

Exercise Ideas:

- March in place
- Touch your toes
- Lift your arms up and down
- Jumping jacks

While you are working with each child say things like:

- God made your body so special.
- He helps you to get strong.

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**.

- *Father Abraham – (say: “let’s exercise our muscles again!”)*
- *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 about a story about Samson and Delilah in *the Jesus Calling Bible Storybook*.

BIG IDEA:

God made Samson very strong. Even though Samson did bad things, God still helped him.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! 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: Samson and Delilah, Jesus Calling Bible Storybook p 84-87

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 holding weights.

Say: Hamilton! Have you been working out? You look so strong! ***Hamilton does a few reps.***

We're going to hear a story about a strong man who lived in Bible times. He did a lot of wrong things, but God still loved him and helped him. Let's put you back in your house, Hamilton.

You can listen to the story from there. ***Put Hamilton back in his house.***

Read Samson the Strong Guy from the Jesus Calling Bible Storybook, p 84-87

Say: Samson didn't listen to God or do what God wanted him to do. ***Have everyone make sad face.*** Even though Samson didn't always listen, God still loved Samson! ***Have everyone make a happy face.*** Samson prayed to God and God listened and helped him! God listens to us too, and God gives us strength! Hamilton, thanks for listening to our story with us. We'll see you next time! ***Wave bye to Hamilton in his house.***

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 omnipresent. He is present 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 wants us to rest and to listen to Him. We call that “Sabbath.” Let’s take a few minutes right now to rest and listen to God. You may lie down or sit quietly. We can talk to God, too.

Say: You can tell God about the good things He has done for you. Maybe You are thankful for the blessing of your family. Maybe you are thankful for the blessing of your home. It’s almost Thanksgiving. We can be thankful. What do you want to tell God? **Let kids share.**

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.

Our verse is: “The eyes of the Lord are everywhere. They watch those who are evil and those who are good.” Proverbs 15:3 NIRV

Try to speak to each child individually. Look them in the eye. If they are comfortable, put your hand on their shoulder or hold their hand.

Say: (Name,) when you do something wrong, go to Jesus, and tell Him you’re sorry. He will forgive you.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

MAKE: Prayer Color Page

Supplies: color page, crayons

Directions: Encourage the kids to use the crayons to color their pages as bright and colorful as they can. Make sure to send the paper home if they don’t have time to color, so that parents can see what they learned from the day.

Say: *Let’s color this picture of a child praying to remind us that God hears our prayers!*

While you are working with each child, ask:

- What is this boy doing?
- What is he saying?

- What color will you color his teddy bear?
- God loves when we talk to Him. You can talk to Him any time.

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)!"