



God Hears Us

1 Samuel 10-13

God Statement: God is Our Leader

KEY VERSE:

“Be strong and brave.” Joshua 1:9, NIRV

CHECK-IN

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 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 S's 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: God Hears Us

In today's lesson, we are going to learn that God is our leader and how He spoke to Samuel:

Say: Let's all sit very still for a moment and listen to what's around us. Find a quiet spot in the room and close your eyes. Let's listen! *After a few seconds of quiet, gather the class back together.* What did you hear? Did you hear – a grownup talking, a door closing, music playing, kids laughing, a baby crying? Good listening! God is our leader, and He always listens to us!

PLAY: Follow the Leader

Supplies: the emergency rope with colorful handles (found in the green bag)

Directions: Have the Kids hold onto the emergency rope and for the first round, lead them around the room. Emphasize that you have a Bible in your hand as you're leading the class. Ask a few questions as you lead them.

Say: *Let's play a game! Let's line up! Today we are going to play follow the leader. As we go around the classroom, make sure to follow the leader wherever they may go!*

Idea: *Try and let the kids to be the line leader! It's a great way to get them more involved and engaged!*

While you are working with the children:

- **What is a Leader?** They show us where to go.
- **How does God lead us?** The bible!
- **When do we talk to God?** When we pray!
- **When should we follow God?** All the time!
- **Who is our Leader?** God is our Leader!

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.

WORSHIP

(5-7 minutes)

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.

This month, please introduce the following songs:

- *My God is so big*
- *Only God can do*

READ A BIBLE STORY

(5-7 minutes)

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

This week, read about how God heard the Israelites when they prayed in "*The Jesus Storybook Bible*" on **pages 116-117**.

BIG IDEA:

God listens to our prayers. God is the ultimate leader over His people – He had a plan to bring the Israelites a new king who would trust and follow Him.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as your 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: God Hears Us

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. Have a Bible in your hands.

Say: Hi Hamilton! Where can we find God's Word? ***Grab the Bible***

That's right! We can find what God says by reading the Bible! God leads us by giving us His word.

Say: How can we talk to God? ***Have kids answer "prayer"*** Yes! We can talk to God through praying, and He hears us! Today, we are going to read a story from the bible where people talk to God, and He hears them!

Read from "the Jesus Storybook Bible" (pg. 116-117)

Say: Israel, God's people, prayed for a King they could see, and God heard their prayers! He gave them a king named Saul!

Say: Saul didn't listen to God and obey him which made God very sad because He had heard the people begging for a king and did what they asked. God still heard the people's requests and was the ultimate leader over the people – He had a plan to bring the people a new king who would trust and follow Him.

Say: Let's pray together now! Would anyone like to pray? ***Allow kids to have a chance to pray.***

Idea: If a child decides to pray, have Hamilton "help" them pray if needed.

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.

Say: We are learning that God is our Leader. *Point to the large poster that will be on the wall in your class all quarter: "God is our Leader!"* (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times) "He is always with us!"

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 is always with us. We can talk to Him any time. If we listen quietly, sometimes we can hear Him. Let's lay down for a minute and think about how God listens to us. He loves us and watches over us.

Turn on soft worship response music in Plex under 2s & 3s folder while kids lay quiet for a minute or two.

Pray to close Large Group time out.

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.

"Be strong and courageous. The Lord is with you wherever you go."

Friends, remember that God hears us. Even though we cannot see God, we can trust Him because He hears us! He loves you!

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

MAKE: Coloring page

Supplies: *paper, markers, and stickers*

Directions: Pass out the coloring pages and have children color them to remember how God always hears us. Make sure each child takes their coloring page home to show their parents what they learned.

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:

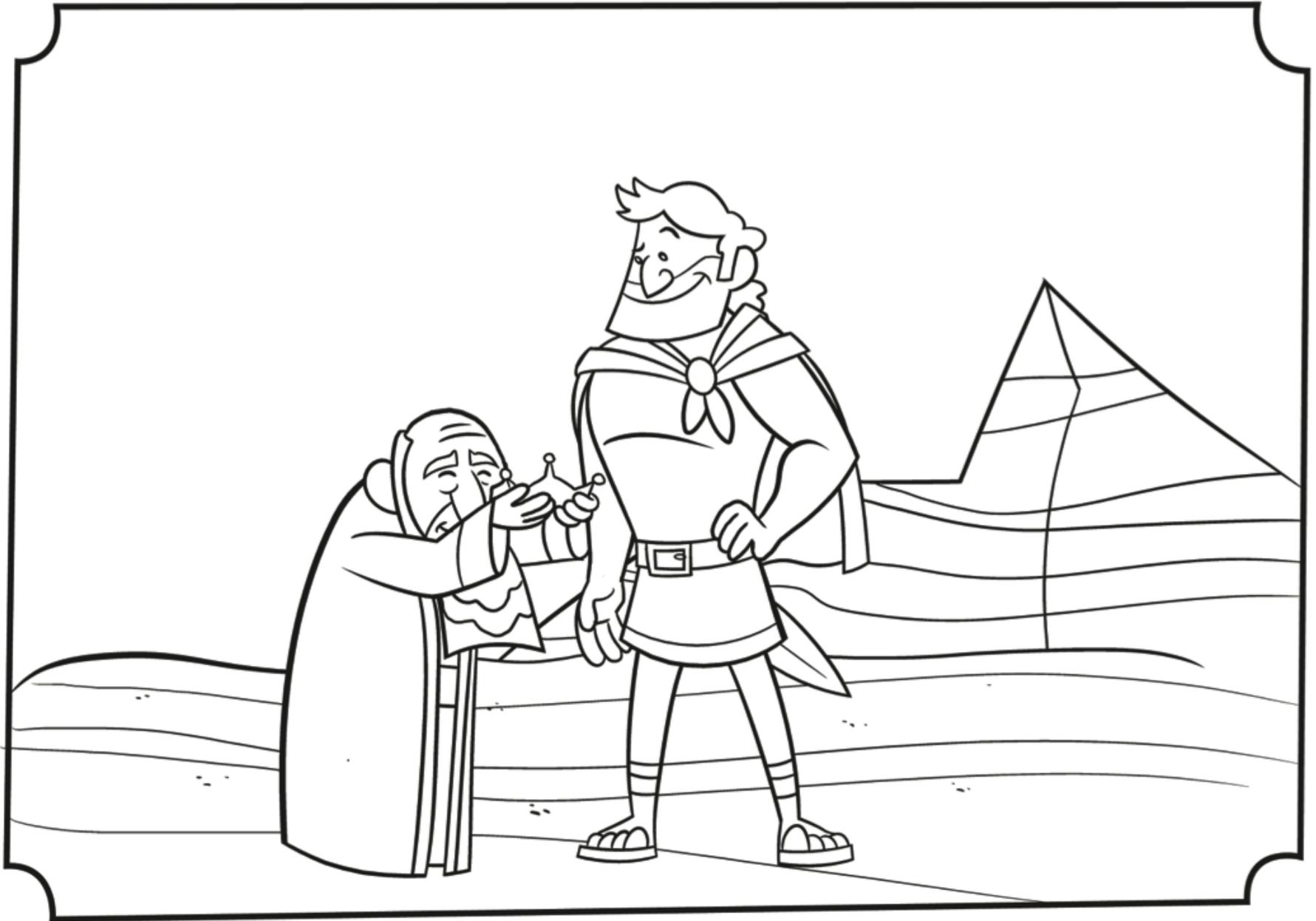
- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

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)!"



The Israelites wanted a king, so God asked Samuel to crown
the first king of Israel - King Saul. - **1 Samuel 9**