



## God is Defender

1 Samuel 14 (Jonathan & His Armor Bearer)

### God Statement: God is Our Refuge (Place of Safety)

**KEY VERSE:**

**“He is my place of safety. He is like a fort to me. He is my God. I trust in him.”  
(Psalm 91:2)**

## 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: To build relationships & prioritize 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.**

## WORSHIP TIME

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!*

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > EC > Babies folder.

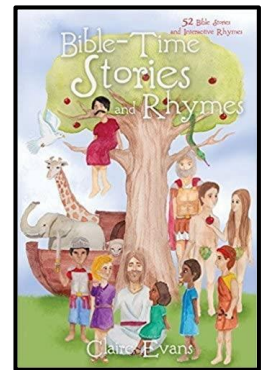
This month, focus on singing these songs:

- Jesus Loves Me
- Lord's Army
- Only God Can Do
- My God is So Big

## READ THE BIBLE STORY

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

Read the Bible story provided. You can read the full story from the book provided or simply read the summary provided below. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures, allowing the kids to turn pages, or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word of the story! 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!



### **THIS WEEK'S LESSON: JONATHAN AND HIS ARMOR BEARER**

*(Summarized from Bible Stories and Rhymes, pages 37-38)*

#### **BIBLE STORY:**

Bring Hamilton (the hedgehog puppet) out and allow the kids to interact with him before you begin the story (they can feel his soft fur, give him high fives, give him a hug, etc.). Use Hamilton to help keep the kids engaged while you share the story (he can read parts of the story, do the hand motions, ask the kids questions, etc.).

#### **Share about Jonathan and His Armor Bearer:**

- God's people wanted a king so God chose Saul to be their king
- At first, Saul was filled with knowledge from God and listened to God
  - Can you point to your ears? God gave us our ears to listen
  - **Hamilton can you wiggle your ears?**
- Saul was a good king at first but then decided to not listen to God anymore
  - Can you show me your sad face?
- That made Saul a bad king
- Saul had a son named Jonathan - Jonathan knew that God was always with him
- Jonathan trusted and listened to God
- There were bad guys that Saul was too scared to fight

- But God gave Jonathan and his Armor Bearer courage to defeat their enemies
- Jonathan knew that God would help defend them
- God is our Refuge; He is our Place of Safety

## LEAD AN ACTIVITY

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children by doing a variety of learning activities!!*

### TODAY'S CRAFT: ROYALTY CROWN CRAFT

*Work one on one with each child as they make this crown craft to help them remember today's lesson.*



### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Before starting, find a clear space to work where other kids cannot get into the supplies. Make sure you have all other supplies ready before starting!
- Bring each child over to work on the project one at a time
- Give each child a strip of construction paper
- Give them 1 or 2 options of crayons and assist them with coloring, as needed
- Give them 3 or 4 options of gems and assist as needed
- Give them 3 or 4 options of stickers and assist as needed
- Once the craft is completed, measure the strip to fit the child's head
- Use tape, stapler, or a glue stick to secure the crown like a headband
- Write the name of the child along with the date and the location (Woodmen Kids) on the child's craft so the parent(s) can keep it as a keepsake

## BLESSING

*Purpose: To engage our youngest children in prayer while reading a blessing over them.*

**Pray with the kids – teach them how to fold their hands and close their eyes while you pray this blessing over them.**

### TODAY'S BLESSING:

“(Child’s name) may you always remember that God is with you. May you know that God is our refuge; He is our place of safety. He always protects us because He loves us. May you always remember that God is there whenever you need Him!”

## 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. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

**Suggestions of activities for Babies & Younger 1 Year Old's:**

- Play Peek-A-Boo
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball
- Roll a large car back and forth
- Take turns putting toys in a bin or bucket

**Suggestions of activities for Older 1 Year Old's:**

- 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.)

## 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)!"