



God is Protector

1 Samuel 23-24 (David Spares Saul)

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.

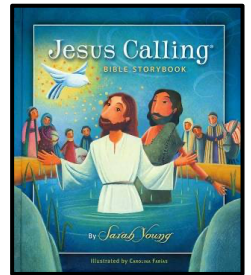
This month, focus on singing these songs:

- 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: DAVID SPARES SAUL

(Summarized from Jesus Calling Bible, pages 102-103)

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 David Spares Saul:

- Last week we learned that Saul was jealous of David and wanted to hurt David
 - **Have Hamilton hide behind you**
- So, Jonathan protected David and brought him to a place to hide
 - **Have Hamilton come back out and have Hamilton do a “nod of relief”**
- One day Saul was out looking for David
- Saul entered the cave that David was hiding in
- Saul did not see David, but David did see Saul
- David could have hurt Saul so he didn’t have to hide from him anymore
- But David trusted God to protect Him, so he let Saul go
- David also knew that one day he would be king

- He trusted God to protect him from Saul so he would become king
- God protects us
- 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 ACTIVITY: GOD IS OUR REFUGE GAME

Engage each child in this group activity as they work on their motor skills, direction, and decision making. Help each child participate in this activity to remind them that God is our refuge.



ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Before starting, help kiddos lean up so you have a clear space to play the activity
- Tape the heart to an empty wall in the classroom (at eye level for the kids)
- **Say:**
 - We are going to play a fun game
 - We are going to run/walk/crawl to God's heart
 - God is our refuge; He is our place of safety
 - We can always go to Him!
 - When we are scared or happy. Wide awake or sleepy. God is a place of safety for us.
 - Are you ready to go to His heart?
 - Okay, on the count of 3 we are going to go to Him. Ready, 1...2...3...
 - Good job! I am so happy to know that God is our safe place
 - Repeat

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)!"