



God Sees Our Heart – Samuel Anoints Jonathan

1 Samuel 16

God Statement: God is Our Refuge

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, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 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 Sees Our Heart

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God sees our heart!

SAY:

Does anyone in here think they can guess what number I’m thinking of? *Let kids take turns trying to guess what number it is.* Hmm... some of you got pretty close/some of you got it right! Does that mean you know how to read my mind? *Let kids respond.* Not really, none of us can read minds! But do you know who always knows what’s on our minds and in our hearts? *Let kids respond – God!* That’s right, God sees our hearts.

Who remembers our big God Statement right now? *Let kids respond – God is our Refuge.* Refuge means place of safety. God is our place of safety! And even when we

have big things on our heart, God sees our hearts and loves us still! We're going to learn more about that later, but first let's play a game.

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

I Spy Hearts!

Supplies: 15 cutout hearts

Say: *Today we get to learn about how God sees our hearts! He knows if we are trying to do good things or bad things. He knows who we really are and He loves us. Today, we are going to play a game where we get to find hearts and share things God knows about our hearts too!*

Directions: Have kids find a partner. Give each pair a heart. Have one child from that team sit on the floor and close their eyes. Have the other child hide the heart in the room. When all hearts have been hidden have the "finders" open their eyes and try and find their partners hearts. The "hidiers" can play 'hot and cold' (telling their buddy hotter hotter hotter if they are getting closer to their hidden heart and colder colder colder if they are farther away). Once the heart is found each pair must say something God sees in their heart. Kindness, happiness, listening to their parents etc. Encourage them to think of something positive that God sees in their hearts. Then have them swap! The hidiers and seekers switch roles and they play the game again.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.****

KEY VERSE**Host**

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

“He is my place of safety. He is like a fort to me. He is my God. I trust in Him.”

(Psalm 91:2, NIRV)

****** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship. ******

OPENING WORSHIP**Worship Leader**

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it’s not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

****** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day. ******

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK’S LESSON: God Sees Our Heart – Samuel Anoints David

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

******After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.******

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

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.

Supplies: paper heart cutouts, pens/markers, wire/twine WRS board

God knew David's heart and that's why God chose David, a guy no one would have guessed, to be king. Just like God saw David's heart, God sees our hearts too. God knows what's on our minds and He knows the good and the bad in our hearts. Sometimes we feel scared or worried, but we don't tell anyone. Sometimes we do something wrong, but we don't tell anyone. Sometimes we feel angry about something, but we don't tell anyone. But guess what? God knows everything on our hearts and minds and guess what? He loves us still!

God loves us so much that He sent His own son, Jesus, to earth to die on the cross for all of the mistakes and bad things we do. Jesus is perfect and He didn't deserve to die, but He loves us so much that He made the ultimate sacrifice.

Turn on soft worship music in the background.

HEARTS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS ACTIVITY:

God wants us to tell Him everything on our hearts. He doesn't want us to just keep all those things – good or bad – to ourselves. Take a moment and think about what's been on your heart lately... ***Prompt kids to close their eyes as they think and give some ideas as they think quietly:***

- Maybe you did something mean to your brother or sister and need to ask forgiveness.
- Maybe you have a family member or friend who is sick and you're worried.
- Maybe you feel really angry at your parents, and you don't know why.
- Maybe you've been feeling scared at night when you go to bed.
- Maybe you just made a new friend and you're excited.

After a few moments of reflection, have teachers pass out 1 heart paper and a marker/pen to each kid.

Take some time to write down or draw what's on your heart. Then, take it and lay it at the foot of the cross. As you lay it there, remember that God loves you SO much that He sent His son to take your place.

After everyone is finished, close time by saying:

God is our refuge! That means God is our safe place and our shelter. He knows our hearts and loves us still. We can trust God with whatever is on our heart because He loves us.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

****After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.****

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Refugees in Greece

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

We're starting a new mission focus this week. We're going to be learning about refugees, specifically in Greece. Does anyone know what a refugee is? *Let kids respond.* A refugee is a person who is forced to leave their home and country to escape war, persecution, or disaster.

Imagine for a moment – one day, you must leave your home, your bed, your friends, your favorite toys, your school, etc. behind and move somewhere really far away... All because there are really bad things happening where you live. How would you feel? *Let a few kids share response.* There are people all over the world, who must leave their life behind just like I described. But remember what our God statement is right now? God is our refuge! That means that even when hard things or scary things happen, God is our place of safety. Let's take some time to pray for refugees around the world, like those in Greece.

Invite a couple kids to come up and pray for refugees in Greece to know that God is their refuge.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

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.

May you know that God sees your heart and He loves you so much! God is your refuge and He is with you!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today’s story: 1 Samuel 16**
 - a. **Samuel thought God would pick a king that LOOKED like a king. What does God say in this part of our lesson? Does He look at the outside? Or does He look at the heart?** (God was picking a king based off of his heart, not based on his looks.)
 - b. **Who did God choose to be the next king? What was different about him?** (His name was David! He was the youngest son and did not necessarily look like a king.)
3. **God did not look at what David looked like on the outside. He looked at his heart and knew he would be a good king! God sees our hearts too! Can you think of a time where you maybe thought something about someone else just because they looked a certain way? Maybe later, you found out they were really a good person! Has this ever happened to you? Has someone ever said something mean about you because of the way you look, even though you have a good heart? How did that make you feel?**

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read scripture: 1 Samuel 16:6-7**
 - a. **Samuel thought God would pick a king that LOOKED like a king. What does God say in this part of our lesson? Does He look at the outside? Or does He look at the heart?** (God was picking a king based off of his heart, not based on his looks.)
3. **Read scripture: 1 Samuel 16:11-13**
 - a. **Who did God choose to be the next king? What was different about him?** (His name was David! He was the youngest son and did not necessarily look like a king.)
4. **God did not look at what David looked like on the outside. He looked at his heart and knew he would be a good king! God sees our hearts too! Can you think of a time where you maybe thought something about someone else just because they looked a certain way? Maybe later, you found out they were really a good person! Has this ever happened to you? Has someone ever said something mean about you because of the way you look, even though you have a good heart? How did that make you feel?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher
(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE: Refugee Coloring Page

Supplies: one coloring page per child, markers, crayons

Directions: Pass out one coloring page per child. Have them color the page using markers and crayons.

Say: *Friends, we are learning about something very special! We learned today that God sees our hearts. Did you know that God sees us and has a plan for us, no matter what*

happens? We may not understand why some things happen to us the way that they do, but we can trust that God will always see us and will always take care of us just like he took care of David and made him King! We are learning about refugees as our mission focus right now. God sees their hearts too! Let's color a page to remind us to pray for those in need!

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.