



God is Defender – Jonathan & His Armor Bearer

1 Samuel 14

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 is Our Refuge

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

SAY:

We’ve got a new God Statement this week! God is our refuge! What do you think of when you hear the word refuge? *Let kids respond – safety, protection, shelter, etc.* Refuge means place of safety! God is our refuge – meaning God is our place of safety.

Today, we’re going to see how God always wants what is best for us because God is our defender. Have you ever heard of a man named Saul? What about Jonathan? Well,

today, we're going to learn about how Jonathan had to trust that God was his defender, but first, let's play a game.

PLAY:

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

Pass The Soldier

Supplies: 1 toy foldable soldier

Say: *Today we get to talk about how God is our Defender! Before we learn about our story we get to play a fun game using this little soldier. Let's play "pass the soldier" and see if we can find him.*

Directions: Have children get into a circle and face the center of the soldier. Pick one child to be in the middle. Have the child in the middle close their eyes. Take the toy soldier and place it behind your back. When the music starts pass the soldier around the circle (make sure kids pass it behind their backs). When the music stops, have the child in the middle guess who has the soldier. (Give the child in the middle three tries to guess where the soldier is.) You can then pick a different child to be in the middle. Play a few rounds and then collect the toy.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

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

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES**Worship Leader & Host****WORSHIP**

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!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

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)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: SWORD

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Hmm... Who do you think would use this special thing – **a sword**? *Let kids respond – soldier, armor bearer, king, etc.* I wonder how this connects to our story today. Maybe it has something to do with our God statement, God is our defender! Let’s find out! Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to 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 is Defender – Jonathan & His Armor Bearer

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 this time.

Supplies: key verse cards, worship response song in PowerPoint, musical instruments/ribbons if desired

God is our defender and our refuge! Those are both pretty big words. What do you think they mean? *Let kids respond.* Those are all great ideas. Remember how Jonathan trusted that God would defend him against the terrible army? He knew that God would protect him because God is all-powerful and good.

I'm going to read our key verse from earlier to you again. It says:

Psalm 91:2, "He is my place of safety. He is like a fort to me. He is my God. I trust in him."

Raise your hand if you have ever seen a terrible storm – maybe a rainstorm, a snowstorm, a tornado, or something else. It can feel really scary, right? When we are in a scary storm like that, we try and take cover and find a safe place to wait until the storm passes. Well, the Bible tells us that God is our safe place when storms come. It tells us that sometimes scary things will happen or hard things or things we don't like, but God is our shelter, our safe place, our REFUGE! We can trust that even when those "storms" or scary/hard/unfun things happen, God will be with us. We aren't alone.

Let me read our verse to you one more time:

Psalm 91:2, "He is my place of safety. He is like a fort to me. He is my God. I trust in him."

Later, you each will get to take home a card with this verse on it as a reminder that God is your refuge. ***Teachers can pass out key verse cards at the end of large group or as kids leave at check-out.***

PRAISE & WORSHIP ACTIVITY:

God is so good, and we know that God is our refuge and defender. Let's say that together. God is our refuge and defender! Let's take some time now to praise God for being our refuge, safe place, and shelter! We can run to God and trust that He will lead us safely through the storms! Listen to the words as you sing this song.

Play final worship response song – My Lighthouse.

God is our defender and God is our refuge. Thank you, God, for being with us!

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.******

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 – Feeding Families

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.

Take a few moments to share that Gift of Love happened this month and so many families were positively impacted by the prayer and donations brought in! Celebrate what God did together.

Then, remind kids that one of our ongoing mission focuses is Feeding Families. Hold up a green Feeding Families bag or a food donation list to share about the important role families can play by providing food donations regularly.

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who receive food through Feeding Families.

****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.

God is YOUR defender and YOUR refuge. No matter what life brings at you, God is with you and He is your safe place because He loves 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 14**
 - Who did Jonathan and his armor-bearer want to go attack? (The philistines).**
 - What did God do to help Jonathan and his armor-bearer defeat the philistine army? (He sent an earthquake).**
- 3. God protected Jonathan and his armor-bearer and helped them defeat the philistines. It was just the two of them against that whole army! Jonathan knew that God was with them and he trusted God to protect them. We can always trust God to be with us too. Can you think of a time where you needed to trust God with something big happening in your life?**

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: Sword Bookmark

Supplies: one sword bookmark per child, crayons and markers

Directions: Pass out one bookmark per child and have them decorate and color it using crayons or markers.

Say: *Today we learned that God is our defender! He protects us and watches over us, just like he did for Jonathan and his Armor bearer! Let's make a bookmark to remind us of this wonderful promise!*

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.