



## God is Promise Keeper – David, Saul, & Jonathan

1 Samuel 18-20

**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 Promise Keeper

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is promise keeper!

**SAY:**

Who remembers what our big God Statement is right now? *Let kids respond – God is Our Refuge.* Do you know what that means? It means that God is our place of safety. He is our protector, and He loves us! Well, today we're going to learn about one of the ways God is our refuge – He is a promise keeper!

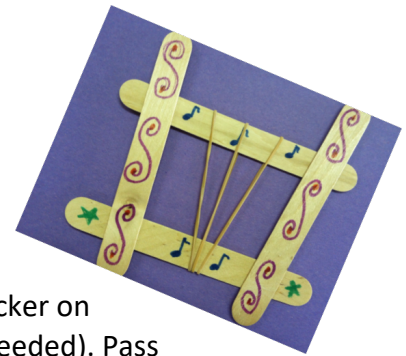
I need one volunteer to help me for a minute. *Pick one kid to stand up and help.* Okay, I'm going to make a promise to you – if you can do 5 push-ups (or whatever

motion/exercise works for that child), I will give you \$1. *Have kid try to complete task, and then applaud them.* Well, you sure did exactly what I said you had to do to get \$1, but... I actually don't have \$1 to give you! Sorry! *Have kid sit back down.* How did that make you feel that I promised you something and then didn't keep my promise and do what I said I would? *Let kid respond – sad, angry, frustrated, annoyed, etc.* Well, the good news is that even when we mess up or break promises, God NEVER does! God is promise keeper! We can trust that He will do what He says. We're going to learn more about this today as we continue learning about Jonathan and David, but first let's make a special craft!

### MAKE: God Keeps His Promises Harp!

**Supplies:** 1 popsicle stick frame shape, 4 rubber bands, markers/crayons, 1 Promise Keeper sticker

**Directions:** Pass out one popsicle stick frame shape per child. Have them decorate the frame using markers and crayons. Have children place one "God is promise keeper" sticker on the frame (fold the edges of the sticker around the frame if needed). Pass out four rubber bands per child. Help them wrap their rubber bands over the middle of the frame to make a harp.



**Say:** *David was good at many things, like playing the harp! God had big plans for David, and He has big plans for us too. He is a promise keeper! Let's make a beautiful harp. When we play sounds on our harp, we can remember how God kept His promise to David and that He will keep His promises to us too! I can't wait to learn about how God kept His Promises to David, in our story today!*

## 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.

**TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:**

- Big House
- Armor of God

**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: HARP**

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... does anyone know what this is called? A **harp**! What do you do with it? Make music! Do you think someone is going to make music in our story today? What do you think this has to do with our story today? 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 Promise Keeper – David, Saul, & Jonathan***

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:*** scripture strips

***Prepare Ahead:*** Let teachers and LITs know they will need to hand out and read verse strips to each child at designated time.

God had a plan for David, and it was a pretty important one. God promised that He would make David king, and that's just what God did. Did you know that God is our promise keeper too? **Hold up Bible.** What is this called? **Let kids respond – Bible.** It's the Bible, God's Word, the Big God Story. Did you know it's not just a book full of cool stories about God? It's actually a very special gift that God gave us – it's like a guide or a map for us to live by. In this very special gift, God shares some of His promises for us.

### **SCRIPTURE REMINDERS ACTIVITY:**

God isn't just David's promise keeper, but God is our promise keeper too! We can see some reminders about God's promises, right here in the Bible. We're going to sing a song together called "Promises" and as we sing it, your teachers are going to come around and give you a strip of paper with a verse from the Bible on it. It will take a bit to get to everyone, so as you wait, listen to and worship along with the song!

***Have teachers and LITs walk around the room and hand each child a verse. As they hand it to each child, they will read the verse quietly over the child and then say, "God is Promise Keeper."***

***After the song is over and everyone has received a verse, say:***

You get to take this verse home as your reminder. When you get home, ask your grownup to help you read the paper one more time, and then put it somewhere special so you don't lose it! God is our promise keeper AND God is our refuge! He loves us and is our safe place.

***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 – 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 trust that God always keeps His word. May you remember God's promises throughout the Bible and know that God 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 18-20**
  - i. **Even though Saul was jealous of David, was he able to hurt him? Why not? Who was with David?:** (Saul was not able to hurt David. The Lord protected David!)
  - ii. **Who did God use to help protect and defend David?** (Johnathan, Saul's son).

- iii. **What happened to David when Saul threw his spear?:** (The spear missed and hit the wall.)
3. **David was kind to Saul. He played the Harp for him and he fought in wars for him. But Saul was very jealous of David. God had a plan to keep David safe and he used Saul's son Jonathan to help protect him. Have you ever tried to be nice to someone else, and they did not treat you nicely in return? How should we treat those who treat us poorly?**

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.

### PLAY:

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

#### Old Testament Books of the Bible Card Race!

**Supplies:** 2 bags of Old Testament books of the Bible cards and mat

**Say:** *God is our promise keeper! Do you know a way we can see all the promises God has kept to those in the past? Through the Bible! That's right! Today we are going to practice our bible knowledge and see if we can race to put all the books of the Old Testament in order.*

**Directions:** Split the class into two teams. Have an LIT or helper sit in each group. Give each helper a bag with Old Testament matching cards and a number mat. Have the helper flip over the cards face down and shuffle them around. Allow the children to flip over one card at a time and match them to the corresponding number on the chart. The LIT or helper can then read the cards in order. The first team to finish wins.

## 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.*