



God is Protector – David Spares Saul

1 Samuel 23-24

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 Protector

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

SAY:

We’ve been learning about how God is our refuge! Do you remember what refuge means? *Let kids respond – God is our place of safety or shelter.* Think about the Bible stories we’ve learned – we’ve been talking a lot about Jonathan, Saul, and David. What are some ways we’ve seen how God is our refuge? *Let kids think for a few moments, then share.*

Today, we're going to learn one more way that God is our refuge – He is protector! When you hear the word protect, what do you think of? Turn to the person next to you and share. *Then have a few kids share with the group – i.e. shield, roof, house, fire fighter/police officer, etc.* Have you ever been stuck in a rainstorm? What's something really helpful to have when it rains? *An umbrella or rain coat.* Does the umbrella or rain coat stop the rain? No, it doesn't! But it keeps you from getting soaked! Just like the umbrella, God doesn't always stop the bad things/hard things that happen to us, but He is our protector in the middle of it! He is our place of safety! We're going to learn more about this today in our story as we hear about David and Saul, but first, let's play a game.

PLAY:

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

Protector Memory Match Relay Race!

Supplies: 2 sets of story cards

Say: *Today we get to learn about a very special story where God watched over David and He protected Saul! Did you know that He protects us too? Let's see if we can have a race to find the matches for these picture story cards! I wonder what each one will mean in our story today!*

Directions: Split the class into two teams. Have each team get in a line. Mix up the story cards and place them in a row face down on the other side of the room. Have one person from each team run up to the line and turn over two cards. If it is a match, they get to take the match back to their teams. If not, have them flip the cards back over face down and run back to their team for the next person to try and get a match. Once all matches have been found, count them up and see which team wins. Then look at each match and have children say what they see in each picture.

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: CAVE

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:

Well, this is an interesting What's It today! Have you seen one of these before? What is it? That's right – a cave! Where might we see caves in real life? Maybe in the forest. What do you think this has to do with our story today? We're learning about David and Saul. Do you think maybe they are going to go into a cave 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 Protector – David Spares Saul

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: none

Wow, God protected David and Saul! God really is protector and God is our refuge. Remember that big word? Refuge – like our shelter, our safe place even when “storms” come. Raise your hand if you've ever felt afraid or scared or sad. We all feel that way sometimes because sometimes life is hard. But the good news is that even when we feel that way, God is with us! We can trust that God is our refuge and protector. We can tell God whatever is on our mind, and He hears us.

BE STILL & LISTEN ACTIVITY:

Let's take some time right now to be still and sit with God. Everyone find a quiet spot in the room to lay down and close your eyes. As you lay there, think about this: God is MY protector. Think about how that makes you feel. And then, just be still and listen for God. Maybe God wants to tell you something today or remind you of how much He loves you.

Turn on soft worship music in the background during this time. Encourage kids to lay for 1-2 minutes (or as long as possible). Then, softly say:

God is our protector and refuge. He is with us, and He loves us. Let's sit back up. Did anyone have something they felt God telling them that they'd like to share?

Let a few kids share. Remind the kids that it is totally okay if they didn't feel like God said anything to them this time but encourage them to keep finding space to listen to God.

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 feel safe in God's arms this week. God is your protector and your refuge!

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 23-24**
 - a. **Saul was still trying to kill David. What does Jonathan tell David?** (That God will make him king and protect him from Saul.)
 - b. **While in the cave, David has an opportunity to hurt Saul! What does he do instead?** (He shows kindness and spares his life.)
 - c. **Do you think David made the right choice?**
3. **God tells us to show kindness to those who do bad things to us, even though we may have opportunities to treat them poorly. David showed kindness to Saul and God**

blessed him by making him King like He had promised. Have you ever had to be kind to someone else that was not kind to you? Who do you know that you could show kindness to?

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: David Spares Saul Activity Page

Supplies: one cave picture, one cloth/hand cut out, glue, markers

Directions: Have children color their cave picture cutouts using markers or crayons. Pass out one cloth hand piece and have them fold it on the dotted line and glue it to the corresponding spot on the picture.

Say: *Today we learned that God is our protector. He protected Saul and kept His promises! God protects us too. Let's make a picture to remind us of our story today!*

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.