



## God is Our Refuge – Remember & Celebrate

Psalm 91

### 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:**

Do you know what today is? It’s Remember & Celebrate! Raise your hand if you’ve been here for a Remember & Celebrate before. What does it mean to remember something? *Let kids respond.* That’s right, it means to look back and think about something. What does celebrate mean? *Let kids respond.* Celebrate means to do something special to honor something or someone or express happiness.

We have Remember & Celebrate every couple of months, as a way to pause from our normal routine, look back on all God has been doing, and celebrate who He is, what He has done, and where He has brought us!

Raise your hand if you remember what our God Statement has been the last couple of weeks. *Pick one kid to share – God is Our Refuge.* Now, does anyone remember our Key Verse? *Pick one kid or LIT to say it/read it from the Bible – Psalm 91:2.* Let's practice our verse together a few times before we start our activity!

***Use different ways to practice the verse with the whole class – ideas include: practice hand motions in small sections, write the verse/pictures on the whiteboard to prompt kids, have everyone stand up while they say it, etc.***

**MAKE:**

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

**God is Our Fortress Prayer Box!**

**Supplies:** one white paper box, one castle sticker, faith stickers, markers and crayons

**Say:** *Today we get to remember and celebrate how God is our fortress! He is our safe place and we can always be safe with Him. We are going to make a special prayer box. Let's make it look like a fortress! Fortresses are strong and they provide protection. We get to create a special fortress prayer box today. We can write down or draw prayers and keep them safe in our boxes.*

**Directions:** Pass out one paper box per child **\*\*Help them assemble the boxes or have an LIT assemble the boxes prior to the lesson\*\***. Have them place one castle sticker on the front of the box. Encourage them to draw and decorate on the box to make it look like a castle/fortress. Children can use the faith stickers (3-4 per child) if they would like to.

## LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

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

### REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

*Host*

*Briefly introduce the morning reminding kids that this weekend is Remember & Celebrate. Use this time to reference the “Feasts & Festivals” table on stage, talking about what it represents.*

**Say:** It’s Remember & Celebrate weekend! Do you notice anything different on the stage today? That’s right! This table – we call it the Feasts & Festivals table! Let’s name some of the items we see on the table. ***Use the laminated guide in the F&F Bin to discuss what some of the items represent.*** I can’t wait to spend more time today remembering all God has done for us and celebrating His faithfulness. Let’s get started!

### 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: CASTLE/FORT

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... what does this look like? What would you use it for? That’s right, it’s like a castle/fort, and you would use it to protect you from what’s outside! Wait, what was our God statement today? God is our refuge! He’s kind of like a castle or fort for us because He is our protector. 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 Our Refuge – Remember & Celebrate**

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:** chalkboard WR station, twine/wire WR Station, wooden Cross, plain paper by cross station, chalk, heart die cuts at twine/wire station, markers/pens, WR Station signs

**Prepare Ahead:** Set up each station as described below prior to the start of large group. Use provided station description signs to hang up next to each station. Write "God is MY refuge" at top of chalkboards.

God is our refuge! Even when life feels hard or scary, God is our safety and our shelter. He is our safe place in the storm. Let's take a moment and remember all the truths we've learned about our God, our refuge: **God is my defender. God sees my heart. God is promise keeper. God is protector.** Let me say those again: **God is my defender. God sees my heart. God is promise keeper. God is protector.**

**TALKING TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY:**

Take a moment and think about your life. Is there something that you've been struggling with lately? A fear? A worry? A hurt? Something you've felt angry about? Something you're scared to tell anyone? Now, think about those truths we've learned about God. He is my defender, He knows my heart, He is promise keeper, He is protector, and He is my refuge. Think about how that makes you feel.

**Pray to invite the Holy Spirit into this space before explaining the response activity.**

**Invite kids to take some time on their own to talk to God. Use the description below to briefly explain each station. Encourage them to go to one of the stations around the room to respond in prayer to God. (Kids do NOT need to participate at every station. Encourage leaders to respond at stations as well.)**

**Station #1 – Chalkboard Thoughts – Think about this truth: God is MY refuge. Tell God how that makes you feel!**

***Station #2 – Wall of Requests – Take a heart cutout and write what’s on your heart – good or bad. Pin your heart to the board and remember that God sees your heart and loves you still!***

***Station #3 – Laying Our Worries at the Cross – Sit at the foot of the wooden cross and write down all your worries. Then, crumple them up and give them to God at the foot of the cross. God loves you and will defend and protect you!***

***After a couple minutes of response, even if some kids are still responding, say:***  
God is our refuge! Thank you, God, that you defend us, see our hearts, keep your promises, and protect 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 – 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.***

This month we have been learning about refugees, specifically in Greece. Does anyone remember 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 never forget that God is your refuge. He is your shelter in the storm, and He is with you always. God loves you!***

## SMALL GROUP

*Classroom Teachers*

(10 minutes)

***Pass out snacks during this time and break into a few small groups to chat together.*** Use the questions below as a guide to lead the conversation, but feel free to insert your own questions as the conversation develops.

**\*\*check for allergies before giving kids snacks\*\***

### 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: Psalm 91**
  - a. **God is a safe place for us. What did they reference God being, in the lesson today? What is a place that is safe?: (a fortress!)**
  - b. **When things in our lives are not going well, who can we trust to watch over us?: (God!)**
3. **Even when things go wrong, when we are afraid, or things might seem confusing, God is our fortress! We can tell Him anything and He watches over us. Can you think of a time when you had to trust God with something? How about a time when you felt afraid?**

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: What is It like to Be a Refugee? Cube Game**

**Supplies:** 2 refugee dice



**Directions:** Have children split into two groups with one Leader or teacher per group. Have children sit in a circle. Have them take turns rolling the dice. When they land on a picture have them explain what they see in the picture, then read the question out loud for the group. (For younger kiddos: teachers read the questions for them and then have the child answer the prompt). Then have the next child roll the dice and answer the question. Take turns until all children have rolled the dice. Ask the remaining questions on the pictures that may not have been rolled.

**Say:** *This season, we are learning about Refugees. Do you remember what a refugee is? That's right! A person who has to leave their home due to danger, or persecution, or disaster. We get to review a little bit about what it's like to be a refugee. Let's play a game to see what we learn and remember!*

## 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.*