



## 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.*

### **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: HEART

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 looks familiar. Where else did we see a **heart** today already? That’s right, our explore activity! 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 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 this 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 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 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.

## 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.