



## God is Defender

1 Samuel 14 – Jonathan & His Armor Bearer

### 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

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.*

*As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.*

*If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.*

*If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.*

*Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!*

## CONNECT WITH KIDS

*Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.*

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...(most of the time)

**SAFE:** physically and emotionally

**SEEN:** known and understood

**SOOTHED:** calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE.**

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 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 & Defender!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is our refuge and defender.

**Say:** Can you think of someone who wears a special crown? What are they called? A king or a queen, that's right! A king is a ruler who can tell all the people what to do. Raise your hand if you would want to be a king or a queen!

**Say:** Today, we're going to learn about a few kings in the Bible! God's people wanted a king so they could be like other countries around them. God had a plan for Jesus to be King, but He gave them a man named Saul while they waited for Jesus to come.

### MAKE: Royalty Crown!

**Supplies:** construction paper strip, crayons, gems, stickers

**Directions:** Be sure you have all supplies ready before starting. Invite the kids to the table to work on this project as a group or 1:1. Give each child a construction paper strip. Give them 1 or 2 options of crayons. Give them 3 or 4 options of gems and assist as needed. Give them 3 or 4 options of stickers and assist as needed. Once craft is completed measure the strip to child's head. Use tape, stapler, or a glue stick to secure the crown.

Write the name of the child along with the date and the location (Woodmen Kids) on the child's craft so the parent(s) can keep it as a keepsake.

**Say:** *What did we say that kings always wear? Crowns, that's right! Well, we're going to get ourselves ready for our story today by making our very own royal crowns!*

**While you are working with each child:**



- A king wears a crown to show that he is the king.
- A king takes care of his people.
- We love God. He is our King.
- We want to do what God says.

## CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

*Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.*

*Try singing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”*

## LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

*After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton’s house for Large Group time. .*

### WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

**OFFERING** – ask: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

## WORSHIP

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!*

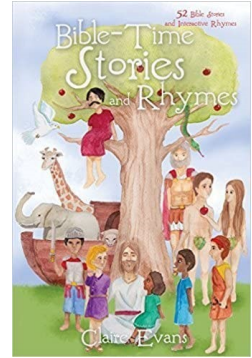
Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, **go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.**

- *I’m in the Lord’s Army*
- *God can do Anything!*

## READ A BIBLE STORY

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!*

This week, read the story about Jonathan & His Armor Bearer in ***Bible Stories & Rhymes, pages 37-38***



### BIG IDEA:

**God is our defender and He knows what's best for us! God is our refuge and our place of safety!**

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

### BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

***THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God is our Defender – Jonathan & His Armor Bearer***

*Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.*

***Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is wearing a crown.***

**Say:** Hey Hamilton, you look pretty fancy with that crown on. Do you want to be the king?

**Hamilton nods.** Kings take care of their people and tell them what to do. Do you want to tell me what to do? **Hamilton nods and whispers in your ear.**

- Oh, you want me to stand up? OK, I will stand up. **Hamilton nods and whispers in your ear.**
- Oh, you want me to jump? OK, I will jump. **Hamilton nods and whispers in your ear.**
- Oh, you want me to twirl? OK, I will twirl.

**Say:** All right Hamilton, let's hear about a real king and what happens to him. Why don't you go back to your home and listen from there? **Put Hamilton back in his home.**

### Summarize the story below:

- God's people wanted to be like other countries and have a king.
- God wanted His people to wait and give them King Jesus. But they wanted a king now.
- God chose Saul for their king.
- Saul was filled with knowledge from God and listened to God.
  - Can you point to your ears? God gave us our ears to listen.
- Saul was filled with knowledge from God and listened to God. For a while.
- Saul was a good king at first but then decided not to listen to God anymore.

- That was not a good choice. Can you show me your sad face?
- That made Saul a bad king. He should listen to God.
- Saul had a son named Jonathan.
- Jonathan knew that God was always with him. He wanted to listen to God.
- God gave Jonathan and his Armor Bearer the courage to defeat the enemies.
  - Can you put your hands on your hips like you are brave?
- God’s way is always best.
- God is our Refuge; He is our Place of Safety

**Say:** Thanks for listening to our story today with us, Hamilton! We’ll see you next time! Bye, Hamilton! ***Wave bye to Hamilton.***

### **SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)**

*This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.*

We are learning that God is our Refuge. He is our place of safety. (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

### **WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)**

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 the time.

***Encourage class to sit quietly.***

**Say:** God is our refuge. He is our place of safety. We can talk to Him when we are afraid.

**Say:** Are you ever afraid? When are you afraid? ***Let the kids answer.***

We can pray that you will know that God is your refuge. He is your place of safety.

***Lead the kids in a short prayer, praying that they will know God is their refuge and place of safety.***

### **BLESSING (1 minute)**

*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.*

**Say:** *Friends, may you always remember that God is your refuge. He is your place of safety.*

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

### PLAY: Follow the Leader

*Supplies: none*

**Directions:** Lead the class in follow the leader. This is a great activity to have an LIT lead.

**Say:** *Jonathan did what God wanted him to do. Let's be like King Saul's son, Jonathan and follow the leader as we play this game. Let's try it out:*

- *Do what I tell you.*
- *Stand up straight.*
- *Hands on your hips.*
- *Let's march. (March in place or follow the leader around the room.)*

*(Repeat the activities or create new orders for the kids to follow.)*

## PLAY!

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!*

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

### Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

## CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"