



God is Promise Keeper

1 Samuel 18-20 – David, Saul & Jonathan

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 Promise Keeper!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how David praised God.

Say: I need a friend to come help me. *Pick one kid to stand up and help.* Okay, I'm going to make a promise to you – if you can jump up and down 5 times, I will give you a special sticker. *Have kid try to complete task, and then applaud them.* Well, you sure did exactly what I said you had to do to get your sticker, but... I don't think I'm going to give you the sticker after all! 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! *Give the kid who helped a sticker anyways.* God is promise keeper! We can trust that He will do what He says.

Say: Today, we're going to learn about a guy named David and how God used David in very special ways. Can you say David? David loved God very much. Give yourself a big hug! David loved God so much that he wanted to show that love by creating songs about God! We get to make our own harp today too!

MAKE: David's Harp!

Supplies: preassembled harp & 4 rubberbands per child, stamp markers

Directions: Be sure you have all supplies ready before starting. Work on this craft a few kids at a time or the whole class.

- Give each child a preassembled harp and 4 rubber bands
- Give them 1 or 2 options of stamp markers and assist them with coloring, as needed.
- Show the kids how to wrap their rubber bands around the harp.
- Show the kids how to pluck the bands to make a sound.



- 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: *Remember how David loved to make songs to play for God because David loved God so much? Let's make our own harps today so that we can play songs for God too!*

While you are working with each child:

- God loves you! How does that make you feel?
- What do you think a real harp sounds like?
- David loved God and trusted that God was promise keeper!

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.**

- *Jesus Loves Me*
- *Oh, Who Can Make a Flower?*

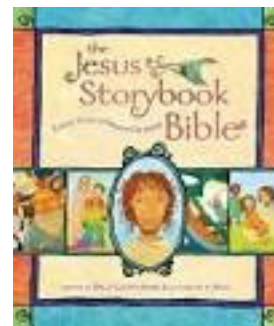
READ A BIBLE STORY

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

BIG IDEA:

King David loved God. He made music on his for Him. King Saul wanted to hurt David but God protected him.

Read the Bible story provided. You can read the full story from the book provided or simply read the summary provided below. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures, allowing the kids to turn pages, or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word of the story! 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: DAVID, SAUL, AND JONATHAN

(Summarized from Jesus Storybook Bible, pages 130-135)

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 holding a musical instrument.

Say: Hamilton, can you play that instrument? ***Hamilton shakes his head no.*** That's ok. We're going to hear about how David played an instrument for God.

Summarize the story of David, Saul, and Jonathan below OR use the Jesus Storybook Bible on pg 130-135 to read the story:

- Last week we learned that God chose David to be the new king.
- God could see David's heart.
- God saw that David loved God.
- But David had to wait to be the king.
- David loved to play music on the harp for God. He was very good at playing the harp.
- He made beautiful songs for God.
 - **Can you help Hamilton and me sing "Jesus Loves me?"** Ready... "Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so."

- That was so good! I love worshipping with you guys. Just like we sang a song to God, David played songs for God.
- David also played the harp for King Saul to hear.
- King Saul was jealous of David and knew that one day David would be the new king.
- King Saul did not like this and wanted to hurt David.
 - ***Have Hamilton act scared by your shoulder. Say: I know Hamilton, that is scary, but don't worry, God has a plan to protect David.***
- God told Jonathan to protect David.
- So, Jonathan protected David and showed him a place to hide.
- King Saul didn't hurt David.
- David kept singing songs to God.
- God protects us, too.
- God is our Refuge; He is our Place of Safety

Say: Hamilton, you sang for God! You can learn to play other instruments too but your voice is your instrument today. Goodbye, see you next time! ***Put Hamilton away in his house.***

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: King David loved God. He sang songs to worship Him. David made up the songs. God is worthy of worship so let's try to make a song for God.

Say: Tell me something about God. ***Wait for answers.***

- ***Maybe prompt with "God is..." and see what someone says.***
- ***Then, prompt with "God loves..." and see what someone says.***
- ***Or "God is our..." see what someone says.***

Say: Let's use these words, say a song in rhythm...

- God is...
- God loves...
- God is our...

Repeat second line: God loves...

Say: You did it! We did it! We wrote a song for God! Just like King David. We worship God.

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: *May you always remember that God is your refuge. He is your place of safety.*

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Playing our Harps

Supplies: *harps from opening activity*

Directions: Help kids play their harps they made earlier. Remind them how to play their harp by plucking their rubber band strings. It should make a plunk or plinking sound. Join them in singing “Jesus Loves Me” while playing their harps. Then, play your new created song from Worship Response.

Say: Let’s worship God together! We are worshipping God with our music and our words. That makes God happy.

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)!"