



God is Protector

1 Samuel 23-24 – David Spares Saul

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 Protector!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is our Refuge. He is our place of safety. He has a kind safe heart.

Say: God is our refuge! That means God is our place of safety and protector! Let's say, "God is Protector!" Ready? God is protector! Think about when it rains. What do you use to keep you from getting wet? *Let kids respond.* An umbrella or a coat! It PROTECTS you from the rain! God is our protector and our place of safety in life!

Say: What is God's heart like? Do you think it's kind? Happy? Loving? Caring? We will find out more about God's heart in our lesson and activity.

MAKE: Heart Craft

Supplies: heart shaped paper, glue sticks, cotton balls, heart stickers

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 heart shaped paper.
- Use the glue sticks to put a little glue on the paper heart.
- Give each child 4-5 cotton balls to put on the glue.
- Give each child 3-5 heart stickers to put on their craft.
- 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: *This is just a pretend heart, but we can pretend that it is God's heart. God is our Refuge; He is our Place of Safety. We can always go to him whenever we need! When we are scared or happy, wide awake or sleepy. God is a place of safety for us.*

While you are working with each child:

- How can we know that God heart is full of love?
- Is your heart full of love?
- God loves YOU!

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.**

- *God is so Good*
- *My God is so Big!*

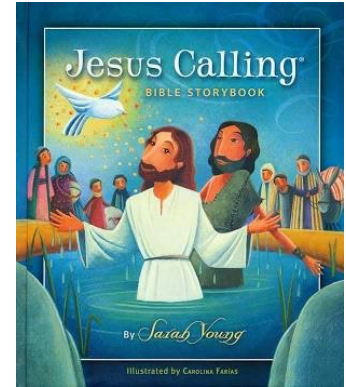
READ A BIBLE STORY

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

BIG IDEA:

God protected David. David obeyed God. David did not hurt King Saul even though he could have because he knew that God would protect 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 SPARES SAUL**

(Summarized from Jesus Calling Bible, pages 102-103)

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 bandana or a piece of cloth.

Say: What do you have there, Hamilton? Oh, you want to play Hide and Seek? Let me cover you up. Kids, can you find Hamilton? Oh, yes, that was pretty easy. We see you, Hamilton.

Hamilton comes out from under cloth. That reminds me of our story today, Hamilton! We're going to hear about David hiding from King Saul. Do you want to listen to our story with us, Hamilton? **Hamilton nods excitedly.**

Summarize the story of David Sparing Saul below OR use the Jesus Calling Bible on pg. 102-103 to read the story:

Share about David Spares Saul:

- Last week we learned that Saul was jealous of David and wanted to hurt David.
 - **Have Hamilton hide behind you.**
- So, Jonathan protected David and brought him to a place to hide.
 - **Have Hamilton come back out and have Hamilton do a "nod of relief".**
- One day Saul was out looking for David again.
- David was hiding in a cave.
- Saul went right into the cave that David was hiding in!
- Saul did not see David, but David did see Saul.
- David wondered if Saul would hurt him.
- David could have reached over to hurt Saul, but...

- He decided to not hurt Saul because he knew that God wouldn't let Saul hurt him.
- David also knew that God had promised that one day David would be king.
- God has a plan.
- God protects us.
- God is our Refuge; He is our Place of Safety.

Say: Wow! God protected both David and Saul! Thanks for listening to our story today, Hamilton! 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: Let's sit quietly and think about God. He is our refuge. He is our place of safety.

Say: Let's tell God 'thank you' for being our refuge and our place of safety. THANK YOU, 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: *Friends, may you always remember that you can run to God anytime. He is your refuge and your place of safety.*

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: God is Our Refuge Game

Supplies: masking tape

Directions: Before starting, help and encourage kiddos to clean up so you have a clear space to play the activity. Using the tape provided, tape the heart to an empty wall in the classroom. Make it eye level for the kiddos.

Say: We are going to play a fun game. We are going to run/walk/crawl to God's heart. This is just a pretend heart but we can pretend that it is God's heart. God is our Refuge; He is our Place of Safety. We can always go to him whenever! When we are scared or happy. Wide awake or sleepy. God is a place of safety for us.

- Are you ready to go to his heart?
- Okay on the count of 3 we are going to go to him. Ready, 1...2...3...
- Good job! I am so happy to know that God is our safe place.
- Repeat as many times as wanted. Try walking, crawling, running, or even hopping.

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)!"