



God Sees Our Heart

1 Samuel 16 – Samuel Anoints David

God Statement: God is our Refuge

KEY VERSE:

Psalm 91:2 (NIRV)

"He is my place of safety. He is like a fort to me. He is my God. I trust in him."

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 Sees Our Heart!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God sees our heart.

Say: God sees our heart! That means that God knows what's on our hearts and in our minds. Do you know where your heart is? Yes, right in your chest. Can you feel it beating? Do you know where your mind is? Yes, right in your head! Can you hear your thoughts? Can you hear the person next to you's thoughts? No! None of us can! But God hears our thoughts and knows what's on our hearts!

PLAY:

Supplies: none

Directions: Have kids make a circle in the room. Then, provide simple directions/exercises to get their hearts pumping and help them think about their hearts! This is a great opportunity to have an LIT lead different directions.

Say: *Let's get our heart beating so we can feel it in our chest. Our heart pumps our blood all through our body.*

- *Let's jump! (encourage kids to jump.)*
- *Let's march! (encourage kids to march.)*
- *Let's wave our arms! (encourage kids to wave arms.)*
- *Let's jump again! (encourage kids to jump)*

Say: *Now, put your hand on your chest. Do you feel your heart pumping? We can feel our hearts but only God can SEE our hearts. He can see if we are loving or feeling mean or afraid. He knows us. He is our refuge. He is our place of safety.*

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!*

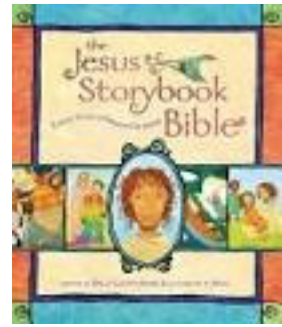
READ A BIBLE STORY

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

BIG IDEA:

God can see our hearts. He chose David in the Bible to be king because David's heart loved God.

Read the Bible story. You can read the full story from the book provided or simply read the summary below. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures, allowing the kids to turn pages, or repeat 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: SAMUEL ANNOINTS DAVID

(Summarized from Jesus Storybook Bible, page 130)

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 small heart.

Ask: What do you have there, Hamilton? Oh I see you have a heart. ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** You heard that God can see your heart? You wanted to see your heart, too? Ahh, well, Hamilton, your heart is inside your body. Put your hand on your heart. Can you feel it beating? That's your heart. Let's listen to the Bible to hear that God saw David's heart.

Summarize the story of Samuel anointing David below OR use the Jesus Storybook Bible on pg 130 to read the story:

- Last week we learned that God chose Saul to be king.
- Saul was a good king at first. But then he became a bad king and did not listen to God.
 - Can you show Hamilton your sad face? We are sad when people don't listen to God.
- So, God told His helper Samuel to pick a new king.
- God would show Samuel who God wanted the new King to be.
- God sent Samuel to a man named Jesse to pick the new king.
- Jesse had 8 sons.
 - Let's count to 8 together, ready 1...2...3...4...5...6...7...8!
- Samuel looked at all the oldest sons. They were big and tall and handsome.
- But God didn't choose them.
- God told Samuel to choose David to be the next king.
- David was the youngest son.
- God chose David to be the new king because David's heart loved God.
 - ***Hamilton can you point to your heart?***
 - Now friends, can you point to your heart? Can you feel it beating?
- God sees our heart. He knows that we love Him like David did.
- God is our Refuge; He is our Place of Safety

Say: Wow Hamilton! Isn't that amazing? God can see our heart! He knows us and loves us. Goodbye, Hamilton. See you next time. ***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: Put your hand on your heart. Be very still. Can you feel your heart beating?

Say: God can see in your heart. Do you love God? God knows that you love Him.

Close large group time in prayer.

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 chooses YOU to be in His family. He is your refuge, your place of safety. You can talk to Him whenever you want.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

MAKE: God Sees Our Heart Craft

Supplies: folded heart cutout, a mirror, glue, crayons and stickers

Directions: Invite the children to sit at the table. Be sure you have all supplies ready before starting.

- Give each child a folded heart.

- Give them 1 or 2 options of crayons.
- Give them 2 or 3 options of stickers and assist as needed.
- Glue the mirror heart in the open heart.
- Remind them that God can see their heart and He loves them.
- 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: *Open your heart that you made. Can you see in your heart? Yes, we can see in this heart but we can't see inside our bodies. Only God can do that. God can see your heart and He loves you.*

While you are working with each child:

- What makes you happy?
- What makes you sad?
- What are you feeling today? (happy, sad, excited, scared, worried, etc)
- God knows everything you feel and He loves you so much!

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)!"