



## God is Courage

1 Samuel 16-17

### God Statement: God is With Us

KEY VERSE:

**“You will pass through deep waters. But I will be with you.”**

**Isaiah 43:2a, NIRV**

## CHECK-IN

*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 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: To build relationships & prioritize 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 S’s 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:

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is Courage. Courage means brave and able to do difficult things.

**SAY:** There is a guy in the Bible that is very, very big! Can you make yourself as big as possible? Stand on your tip toes and stretch your hands way out. Yes, you're big. Goliath was MUCH bigger! Can you make yourself very small? Squat down into a little ball. Yes, you're small. We are going to look at things that are BIG and small.

### MAKE: Big and Small

**Supplies:** Gather things in the room that are big and small. You can do this with the kids or prepare ahead of time.

#### Directions:

- Have the children seated in front of you.
- Tell them to find something very big. It could be a table or a door or window or a big block tower.
- Work together to find something small, like a small block or a small doll.
- Keep it going for a while, always saying, "yes, that's very BIG! And "yes, that's very small."
- Say: We're going to hear a true story from the Bible today about a man who was very BIG. He didn't love God, in fact, he was very mean. David was kind of small and God gave him courage to beat the big man.

## WORSHIP TIME

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

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > Babies folder**.

- My God is So Big!
- Only a Boy Named David

## READ THE BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read about a Bible story from 1 Samuel 16 and 17.

Read the Bible story below. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures and 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!

### **THIS WEEK'S LESSON: David and Goliath**

(Summarized from 1 Samuel 16 and 17)

#### **BIBLE STORY:**

Bring Hamilton (the hedgehog puppet) out and allow the kids to interact with him before you begin the story (they can feel his soft fur, give him high fives, give him a hug, etc.). Use Hamilton to help keep the kids engaged while you share the story (he can do the hand motions, ask the kids questions, etc.).

***Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a stone.***

**SAY:** Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** A stone! What's that for? Today, God uses a tiny stone to fight some bad guys? Oh, wow! Let's listen to this true Bible story. ***Hamilton nods.***

***Share the story of David and Goliath using the story cards in your folder.***

#### **SAY:**

- There were some bad guys living near God's special people, the Israelites.
- One of them was a giant!
  - Can you stand up on your tiptoes and pretend to be a giant?
- This giant was so, so big!
- His name was Goliath.
- He was mean to God's people and everyone was afraid of him.
  - Let's make a scared face.
- One day, a man who loved God thought it was time to stand up to Goliath.
- His name was David.
- David was not as big as Goliath. He was small.
  - Can you crouch down and curl up small?
- David was brave because he loved God very much and God was with him.
- David used a stone to fight Goliath.
  - Just like the stone you brought, Hamilton!
- Goliath had a sword and a shield and was ready to fight David.
  - Who do you think will win? David with his stone, or Goliath, with his sword and shield? Don't forget, David has God with him!
- David threw the stone and hit Goliath in the forehead! Goliath fell down!
- David beat Goliath because God was with him and made him brave, or courageous.

- God gave David courage to fight a big, bad guy, with a teeny, tiny stone.
- God makes us brave, too! When things scare us, we can ask God to give us courage to not be scared!
- God is Courage!

### **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 gives you courage! He makes you brave and can help you when you are scared.

## **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. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

### **Suggestions of activities for Babies & Younger 1 Year Old's:**

- Play Peek-A-Boo
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball
- Roll a large car back and forth
- Take turns putting toys in a bin or bucket

### **Suggestions of activities for Older 1 Year Old's:**

- 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.)

## **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)!"