



God is Courage

1 Samuel 16-17

God Statement: God is With Us

“You will pass through deep waters. But I will be with you.”
Isaiah 43:2a, 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:

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.

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 to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder**. Choose some songs to sing.

- 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!

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.

SAY: Today our God statement is God is Courage. We are going to say our God statement in fun ways to help us remember it.

- Have the kids say it in a fun voice.
- Have them say it in a whisper.
- Have them say it in a loud voice.
- Motions: God (hand vertical in front of face) is Courage (hands on hips and look confident).

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.

SAY: In our Bible story today, we learned that God gave David courage to beat Goliath with a little stone.

When do kids need God to help them have courage? ***Pause and let kids respond***

Yes, when we go to the doctor.

Yes, when we get dropped off at our classroom at church.

We can pray to ask God for courage.

Let's do that. "God, please give me courage when I am scared. Amen."

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.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(15 minutes)

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

COLOR: A Coloring Page of David and Goliath

Supplies: Color page, crayons

Directions: Sit with the kids at the table. Give them the color page of David and Goliath and a few crayons.

SAY: Let's color this picture. What's happening here?

- Who is big? Who is small?
- God helped David be courageous to fight big, mean Goliath. God can help you be courageous.
- When do kids need to have courage? Yes, what about coming to church? What about going to the dentist? What about having a babysitter come to your house?
- God can help you have courage.
- You can pray and ask Him to help you.



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)!"