



God Sees Our Heart

1 Samuel 16, 17, and 2 Samuel 5

God Statement: God is With Us

“You will pass through deep waters. But I will be with you. You will pass through the rivers. But their waters will not sweep over you.”

Isaiah 43:2, 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:

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

SAY: Where is your heart? Put your hand on your heart. Can you feel it beating? Let's jump 10 times. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10! Now feel your heart. Whew, you made it work hard by jumping.

MAKE: Finding Hearts (from TruewayKids.com)

Supplies: several cut out paper hearts with the paper frame from which it was cut

Directions:

- Lay square shape frame pieces with heart missing in front of the child.
- Allow them to choose one square.
- Now, instruct them to move around the room and look for a cut-out heart that matches their square.

For example, an orange cut-out must look for an orange heart.

- Repeat until all heart pieces are found.

SAY: God can see our hearts. He knows what our hearts are like. Do you have a kind heart? Do you have a strong heart? Do you have a loving heart? We will hear about a boy named David's heart in our true Bible story in a bit.



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, 17 and 2 Samuel 5.

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 Becomes King

(Summarized from 1 Samuel 16 and 17, 2 Samuel 5 and True Way Kids)

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 crown.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** Oh, a crown! Who might wear a crown? Yes, a king or a queen! Let's listen to this true Bible story about a very special king named David. ***Hamilton nods.***

Share the story of David becoming king using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- There once was a king named Saul.
- God was not happy with Saul because he was mean and didn't listen to God.
- God wanted a new king.
- God sent one of his special helpers, Samuel, to search for a new king.
- Samuel went to Jesse's house.
- Jesse had a lot of sons.
- Jesse's first son was tall, strong, and handsome.
- He looked like a king.
 - Hamilton, do you think he looks like a good king? ***Hamilton nods.***
- God said he wasn't the new king. What a surprise!
- Jesse brought his second son.
 - Does he look like a good king?
- God said he wasn't the new king either.
- Jesse had seven sons.
 - Let's count to 7!
- God said none of the sons were the new king!
- "Do you have any more sons?" Samuel asked Jesse.
- Jesse said, "Only the youngest in the fields. He takes care of the sheep."
- David was the 8th son and he was just a little boy.
 - Do you think a little boy who takes care of sheep would be a good king?
- He didn't look like he should be a king!
- But God told Samuel to make David the new king because David loved God and had a good heart.
- David took good care of the sheep in the fields, so God knew David would take good care of people.

- God saw David’s heart and knew he would be a good king, even though he didn’t look big and strong.
- God sees our hearts, too, and knows how much we love Him.
- Even though you’re small right now, God can use you to do great, big, amazing things!
- God Sees Our Heart!

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 Sees Our Heart. 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**) sees (**make binoculars with hands**) our hearts (**make a heart or put your hand over your heart**).

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.

Supplies: cotton ball, stone, cross

SAY: In our Bible story today, we learned that God saw David’s good heart even though he was just a little boy and didn’t look like a king. David did big things for God because his heart was soft and ready to listen to God.

- **Hold up cotton ball.** Is your heart soft, like this cotton ball, and ready to listen to God?
- **Hold up rock.** Or maybe your heart is hard, like this rock, and doesn’t want to listen to God?

God knows if your heart is hard or soft. He loves you either way because of his Son, Jesus!

- Let’s put the cotton ball and the stone in front of the cross to remind us that Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save us from having hard hearts.

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 sees your heart and knows if it is soft or hard. He loves you so, so much no matter what your heart looks like.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

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

COLOR: Dirty Heart, Clean Heart

Supplies: a laminated heart shape, washable markers, soapy water in a bowl, paper towel

Directions:

- Sit with the kids in a circle.
- Let each kid take a washable marker and make some marks on the laminated heart OR do it yourself.
- Pass the heart around so the kids can touch and see it.

SAY: How do we make our heart dirty?

Let kids answer. Suggest, when we say mean things, when we fight, when we take things that we shouldn't. It's like each of those bad things make our hearts dirty.

- Now, wash the heart in the soapy water. Scrub a little so that all the marks are removed. Dry it with the paper towel. Pass the heart around so the kids can touch and see it.

SAY: We can make our hearts clean by being sorry for the wrong things we did. We can say sorry to God and sorry to the people we hurt. Then God makes our hearts all clean again.

God sees our heart. And, He loves us.

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)!"