



Protector – Lesson I

4K and 5K

Divine Attribute: God is protector

Heart Response: Rely on him

Memory Verse: 2 Samuel 22:2 GNT
“The LORD is my protector; He is my strong fortress.”

Points of Emphasis:

1. God is always with us.
2. We can trust God to take care of us.
3. We can rely on God to protect us and keep us safe.
4. God wants us to be friends who protect each other.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

Over the next few weeks, we are going to be teaching about David, a shepherd boy who was chosen by God to become the King of Israel. David was an amazing man who was referred to by God as a “man after his own heart” (Acts 13:22). David’s journey from shepherd boy to the King of Israel is chronicled in 1 Samuel 16 – 2 Samuel 5. It would be good preparation for you as a teacher to read over this account.

As a shepherd, David was responsible for a flock of sheep. Sheep are not very smart animals. They can easily be led astray because they tend to follow the sheep near them. If a sheep goes into a dangerous area, those nearby will follow without realizing the danger. They have no way of protecting themselves. If a predator attacks the sheep, they are defenseless.

The job of the shepherd is to protect the sheep by making sure they are eating the right things, keeping them in a safe area, and protecting them from predators. God compares us to sheep, and Jesus is referred to as the “Good Shepherd.” In Isaiah 53:6, Scripture tells us, “All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to

follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.”

In John 10:27, Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” Let’s remember that Jesus is the “Good Shepherd” who leads us, provides for us, and protects us. He recognized our need and laid down his life to save us. As you prepare to teach these lessons about David, examine your own heart to make sure you are listening to God’s voice and following him.

CENTER TIME

10-20 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

To help the children transition into class, please use a center format at the beginning of each service. Set up three centers in your classroom to allow children options of activities. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

1. Read books on the floor.
2. Color at the table.
3. Play with blocks on the floor.
4. Play with puzzles at the table.
5. Play with Play-Doh at the table.

OPENING ACTIVITY

10 minutes at the start of service

The following activity is provided to begin engaging the children for the upcoming lesson. As the teacher of your class, you have an important opportunity to come alongside the parents of these children to teach them about God.

Memory Verse Poster

Supplies:

Memory verse poster (one per bin)

Piece of paper – already in room (one per child)

Hang the verse poster on the board. You can give each child a piece of paper to color as you go

over the memory verse with them a few times. You may want to give them some direction on what to draw, based on the attribute/lesson.

BIG GROUP TIME

please check your classroom schedule

Please talk to your class about the purpose of this time—to have fun worshiping God together. Give your class practical ideas of what this means (obey the teachers up on the stage; sing and praise God with a happy heart; keep your hands to yourself; etc.). Teachers, you are crucial in helping create a peaceful, orderly environment to worship God during this time. Thank you for your help!

SMALL GROUP TIME

25-30 minutes

Bible Story

Supplies:

Bible (1 Samuel 16)

Today, our Bible lesson comes from 1 Samuel 16. (Open your Bible.) A long time ago, before Jesus was born and before Saul became Paul, there was another man named Saul. Saul was the king of Israel. He had started out as a fine king, but then he began to disobey the Lord. Saul began to follow his own desires, rather than the Lord's.

One day, the Lord speaks to the prophet Samuel and says, "I am very sorry I have made Saul King. He has turned away from me. He has not done what I told him to do." Then the Lord tells Samuel to go to a man named Jesse in Bethlehem. He tells Samuel that he is going to choose a new king from one of Jesse's sons.

At first, Samuel is afraid to go and do what the Lord asked because he is worried King Saul will find out he is choosing a new king. Samuel knows this will make Saul very angry. The Lord has a plan to keep Samuel safe. The Lord tells him, "Tell Jesse and his sons you are there to offer a sacrifice to the Lord and invite them to go with you. Then I will show you what to do."

So Samuel obeys the Lord, knowing God will protect him, and he goes to find Jesse and his

sons in Bethlehem. When he gets there, he invites them to go with him to sacrifice for the Lord. When Samuel sees the oldest of Jesse's sons, he thinks, "This has to be the one the Lord wants me to anoint as the new king for him." On the outside, he looks like a fine king; he is handsome, tall, and strong.

But the Lord says to Samuel, "Do not consider how good-looking or tall he is. I have not chosen him. I do not look at the things that people look at. Man looks at how someone looks on the outside. But I look at what is in the heart."

Jesse has seven of his sons walk in front of Samuel, but none of them is the one God has chosen. God isn't looking for someone who is big and strong and good-looking on the outside. God is looking for a person with a heart who wants to obey him. He is looking to find someone who wants to honor God and not himself. So Samuel asks Jesse, "Are these the only sons you have?"

Jesse answers, "No. My youngest son is taking care of the sheep."

So Samuel asks Jesse to send for his youngest son, David, and Jesse has him brought in from taking care of the sheep. When David comes in, the Lord speaks to Samuel and tells him, "Get up and anoint him. He is the one." David is also good-looking, but that is not why God chooses him. God chooses David because he loves God with all his heart.

Samuel pours oil on David's head and anoints him in front of his brothers. David will one day become the new king! From that day on, the Spirit of the Lord is with David. That means that God gives David the power to do God's work.

David isn't the biggest and mightiest of his brothers. He isn't the most likely to be picked to be a king if you just look at him on the outside. But God can see what is on the inside. David doesn't need to be big and strong on his own because he has the Spirit of God with him. He has God's power, and there is no one stronger!

We have a new memory verse this week. "The Lord is my protector; he is my strong fortress."

2 Samuel 22:2. Can you say that with me? (Have the children repeat the Bible verse with you 1-2 times.) **God is our protector. He will protect us and keep us safe even when we face scary things or hard times.**

Prayer

Prayer time may not be appropriate immediately following story time. If this is the case, we ask that you be intentional about praying spontaneously or formally with the children at other times during class.

Dear God, thank you for loving us and looking at our hearts. You know everything about us on the outside and on the inside. Thank you for promising to protect us and help us to rely on you. Amen.

Inside the Heart

Supplies:

Heart with verse on red cardstock (one per child)
Heart with no verse on red paper (one per child)
Brad (one per child)
Heart stickers (three per child – if available)
Hole punch
Crayons

Give each child one heart with the verse and ask them to think about what God saw in David's heart. David loved God and wanted to give God the glory. He wanted to obey God, and he relied on God to protect him and keep him safe. Let them color their hearts. For older children, help them write words that describe what they think God saw in David's heart such as "love," "courage," or "obedience." Then give them a heart with no verse and let them decorate that with stickers (if available) and crayons. Put the blank heart on top of the verse heart and punch a hole through both (top left) and put a brad through the hole. Show them how they can open their hearts and read them the verse inside.

***Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn't matter if they place the label

or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is.***

SNACK & ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

last 30 minutes

Please wash the children's hands before snack time and say a prayer thanking God for the food. As they are eating their snack, please take time to go over the review questions.

Review Questions

- 1. Why did God want to choose another king besides Saul?** (Because Saul was disobeying God and pleasing himself first.)
- 2. Samuel was afraid to go choose the new king because he didn't want to make Saul mad. What did God do?** (He gave him a safe plan and protected him.)
- 3. Did God tell Samuel to pick the best looking son and only look at the outside appearance?** (No! God told Samuel that God looks at the heart and not what is on the outside.)
- 4. Where was the son that Samuel wanted to see after seeing all the rest of Jesse's sons?** (He was caring for the sheep.)
- 5. Who would one day be the new king?** (David.)
- 6. What does it mean that the Spirit of the Lord was on David?** (God gave David the power to do his work.)

Pick a Leader

Supplies:

Set of 15 straws or coffee stirrers cut into different sizes in a paper sandwich bag (one per bin)

Ask the kids who they would pick for a king if they were to choose. Would they select a big, strong, muscle man or a small boy who cared for sheep? Pull out the brown bag with straws and have each child pick a straw from the bag and hold on to it. When every child has a straw, ask them to hold them up and find who has the biggest one. This is the one that is the greatest. Now ask them who has the smallest one. This is the one that is the least. (With the younger children, have them lay

the straws out onto the floor or table so they can see everyone's straw and decide the smallest and greatest.) When God picked the new king, he did not look at the size of the person but at the heart. He saw a small boy who took care of sheep and picked him over all of his big, strong brothers because he saw that David was a man after God's heart. God knew that David loved him and would obey him.

