



Protector – Lesson 2

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.

Stay Close to the Shepherd

Supplies:

- Bandana (one per bin)
- Shepherd poster (one per bin)
- Sheep cutouts (one per child)
- Roll of painter’s tape (one per bin)

Tape the shepherd to one of the walls. Have the kids line up and tell them that they will take turns being blindfolded and trying to get the sheep close to the shepherd. Blindfold the first child and give him/her the sheep with a piece of rolled tape on the back. Spin him/her around three times and point him/her in the direction of the shepherd on the wall. Once all the children have placed their sheep on the wall, tell them to have a seat. Now ask them which sheep are the safest. Tell them that the sheep closest to the shepherd are the safest because they are protected by the shepherd. Now tell them to go with their eyes open and get their sheep and put them in the safest place, near the shepherd. Talk about how God is our protector. He protects us like a shepherd protects his sheep. When we keep our eyes on God and are focused on him through prayer and worshiping him, we are able to stay close to him and he can protect us. Being near to God is the safest place we can be! (Leave the shepherd up for the next class.)

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 17:34-37)

Open your Bible as you say, **“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 one or two times before beginning the story.)

Last week we learned about a small boy named David and how he would one day become a king.

Before David became King he was a shepherd. Do any of you know what a shepherd does? (Allow the children to answer.) **Shepherds take care of sheep and they guide them out in the fields.**

Shepherds also protect the sheep from any wild animals that may want to hurt them. Coyotes, lions, and bears would love to carry the sheep off for food. The shepherd must watch them very carefully for any signs of danger. The shepherd always stays with the sheep and never leaves them.

The sheep look to the shepherd to provide them with food and protection. Sheep can’t survive on their own very long; they need the help and protection of the shepherd. Even at night, the shepherd sleeps nearby, so he can stay as close to his flock as possible, in case of any danger.

David takes care of the sheep and protects them. The Bible tells us (1 Samuel 17:34-37) that sometimes when David is taking care of his father’s sheep, a lion or bear comes and carries off the sheep from the flock. Can you make a noise like a lion? (Roar.) What about a bear? (Growl.)

What do you think the lion or bear wants to do? (Let the children answer.) That’s right. The bear or lion wants to eat the sheep!

But David doesn’t want that to happen. So he trusts God. He is brave when he protects the sheep. He goes after the lion or bear and, using a heavy stick, he hits it and saves the sheep from its mouth. If the lion or bear turns around to attack David, he grabs hold of its hair and strikes it down.

God protects David many times and saves him from lions and bears. David has faith in God and knows that God will protect him. God knows everything David needs and he takes care of him. God is a shepherd to David just like David is a shepherd to his sheep.

God loved David and he protected him and kept him safe. Do you think God takes care of you

and protects you? (Help the children say, “Yes! God is protector!”) **Do you think God loves you and is with you all of the time?** (Yes!) **That is right! God loves each of you so much! He created each of us and knows what we need at all times. He wants us to rely on him and trust him to protect us.**

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. Thank you for taking care of us and being our shepherd. Protect us and keep us close. We love you! Amen.

Sheep or Lion Paper Masks

Supplies:

Paper plate with center cut out (one per child)
Large craft stick (one per child)
Bag of cotton balls (one bag per bin, 20 cotton balls per child)
Orange and yellow crayons
Glue sticks

Have children color one side of the plate yellow and orange like the mane of a lion. Next, flip the plate over and have them glue cotton balls around the plate for the sheep. Help them glue or tape their large craft stick to the bottom of their plate to act as a handle for their new mask. Remind them that David was a shepherd boy. He protected sheep from lions and bears and God protected him.

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. What was the name of the shepherd we learned about today?** (David.)
- 2. What does a shepherd do?** (Take care of the sheep by guiding and protecting them from other animals.)
- 3. Who helped David protect his sheep from the lions and bears?** (God.)
- 4. Who protected David from the lions and the bears?** (God.)
- 5. Can God protect us when we are afraid?** (Yes.)

Protect the Sheep

Supplies:

Sheep/lion masks from earlier

Select one child to be David the shepherd. Let the other children use their masks and pretend to be a sheep or lion. Have the sheep line up on one side of the room and the shepherd stand on the other side of the room. Then let the lions stand on their knees in the middle of the room. (If the room is too small or you have too many lions per sheep, have the children take turns being the lion.) Help the shepherd call the sheep by name to walk over and stand with him or her. The lions try to tag the sheep before they make it to the shepherd. If they are tagged, have them go back and wait their turn again. (For younger children, have the shepherd just say the word “sheep” and have all of the sheep walk to the shepherd at the same time.) Play until the shepherd has all of the sheep.

Gathering Sheep

Supplies:

Bag of cotton balls (one per bin)

Scatter cotton balls around the room. Then have the children pretend to be David and “gather”

all the sheep. Ask them to bring all the sheep home and place them on the table. While they are gathering the sheep, sing the following song to the tune of "London Bridge."

David protected all the sheep,
All the sheep, all the sheep.
David protected all the sheep.
And God protected David.

God protected David from bears,
David from bears, David from bears.
God protected David from bears.
God is protector!

