



Protector – Lesson 3

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.

Ping-Pong Toss

Supplies:

Basket (one per bin)

Ping-Pong balls (two per bin)

Roll of painter’s tape (one per bin)

Have the children play Ping-Pong Toss. Have the children stand behind a line on the floor made of a piece of painter's tape. Place the bin close to the children and ask each child to toss their ball into it. After each child gets a chance, move the bin farther away. Move the bin farther away with each rotation of the children. Talk to the kids about what they just did. **That was really hard! Wasn't it? Sometimes we have to do hard things, but God is always with us. When we rely on him and stay close to him, he will protect us and give us the strength to get through anything.** Today in our Bible lesson, we will hear about a time when God helped someone do something very hard.

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)

Ping-Pong ball from earlier

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 shepherd boy in the Bible named David. God took care of him and protected him while he took care of sheep. David learned to rely on God’s strength and protection when he was a shepherd protecting his sheep from lions and bears.

This week we’ll learn about how God protected David when he had to do something very hard. Have you ever been scared to do something? (Ask the children to tell about a time they have been afraid.)

When David is still a boy, God’s chosen people have a big enemy. Their enemy is the Philistine army. The army of God stands on one hill while the army of the Philistines stands on another hill. The Philistine army, which is NOT the army of God, has a soldier named Goliath. He is a giant. He tries to scare God’s people.

Goliath is over nine feet tall. He is as tall as this ceiling! That is taller than anyone we have ever seen. Let’s stand up and stretch to see how tall we can be! (Stand up with the children and have them reach way up high, then have them sit back down.)

Goliath isn’t just tall; he wears a coat of armor that weighs 125 pounds! He also carries a huge spear with an iron point at the tip and wears a bronze helmet on his head. People are terrified of him. Goliath says he wants God’s army to send one soldier to fight him. If the soldier from God’s army wins, the Philistines will serve God’s people. If Goliath wins, God’s people will serve the Philistines. All of the soldiers of God’s people are too afraid to fight. So Goliath comes out every day for 40 days to say the same thing. Even the king of God’s people is too scared to fight Goliath. Can you show me a scared face?

David, who is still a shepherd, goes to the hill where the army of God is staying. David hears about Goliath, and he tells the king that he will fight Goliath. The king replies, “You aren’t able to go out there and fight. You are too young, and Goliath has been fighting ever since he was a boy.” David tells the king that God will protect him. Do you remember last week when we heard about God protecting David when he killed the lions and bears? (Let the children answer.) That’s right! God protected David and saved him from the paws of lions and bears. He tells the king that he knows God will also protect him from the powerful hand of this Philistine because God had protected him from the paws of bears and lions.

So the king dresses David in his own armor, but it is too heavy for David to walk around in. So David takes off the armor and picks up his slingshot and five small stones, placing them in his bag. Remember this Ping-Pong ball from our game? The rocks might have been close to this size. (Hold up the Ping-Pong ball.) Goliath starts to make fun of David for thinking he is going to fight Goliath with only a slingshot. But David says to Goliath, “You come to fight me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin. But I’m coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all. This battle belongs to the Lord.”

As Goliath moves toward David to attack him, David takes one of the stones and runs toward Goliath! He flings that little stone into the air, and do you know what God does? God helps David throw that stone and hit Goliath right on the forehead! Goliath falls with that first stone! God protects David and helps him. God is stronger than any giant. God is stronger than any problem or hard thing we face. He knows what we need, and if we rely on him and ask him to help us, he will.

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 protecting us and helping us when we have hard things to do. Thank you for always being with us. We love you, amen.

David's Stones

Supplies:

Paper sandwich bag (one per child)
Sheet of gray paper (two per child)
“David’s Stones” label (one per child)

Give each child a paper bag to color. Then have them put a “David’s Stones” label on the front of the bag. Give each child two sheets of paper and have them rip the sheets into five pieces, which they will crumple and put in the bag to represent

five stones like David had. As the children are working, talk with them about the story of David and Goliath, along with how God can give them the power to overcome any challenges they may face in life. God was with David and protected him. With God, it only took one stone for a young man to take down a big giant!

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. Can God help us when we have to do hard things? (Yes.)**
- 2. Is God near us when we are afraid? (Yes.)**
- 3. Why does God help us with hard things? (Because he loves us.)**
- 4. How was David able to fight Goliath? (Because God was with him and David fully relied on God and knew God would protect him.)**
- 5. What kind of armor did David wear when he fought Goliath? (None. He relied on God and did not wear any armor.)**

Bringing Down Goliath

Supplies:

Goliath’s head poster (one per bin)
Wadded paper balls (three per bin)
Roll of painter’s tape (one per bin)

Hang the poster of Goliath’s head high on the wall. Have children line up several feet back from the wall. Then have them practice saying the memory verse. After they have said the memory verse, hand them a wadded paper ball and let

them throw it at Goliath's head. Review the Bible lesson, reminding them that God protected David and helped him take down the big giant Goliath with only one stone. (Teachers, please leave paper balls in the lesson bin for the next session.)



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