



Protector – Lesson 4

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.

Paper Pad War

Supplies:

Pieces of scrap paper (20 per bin)
Music

Have the children help you wad up pieces of scrap paper into paper balls (if they aren’t already

wadded). Split the groups into two even teams. Place the children on opposite sides of the table. Tell the children that the goal for their team is to toss as many paper balls to the other side of the table as they can before the music stops. Tell them that if any paper balls land on their side, they should throw them back to the other side as fast as possible. Play music on the CD player in your room and stop it after about 30 seconds. Have the kids round up their piles to see who won.

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 18)

Who is our protector? That's right! God is. The Bible tells us, "The Lord is my protector; He is my strong fortress." 2 Samuel 22:2. That's our memory verse! Can you all say it with me? (Have the children repeat the Bible verse with you one or two times before beginning the story.)

For the past couple of weeks, our Bible lessons have shown us that God is a protector. Does anyone remember whom God has been protecting in our Bible lessons? (David.) **That's right, we have learned that God protected David. How did God protect David when he was a shepherd?** (God saved David from the lions and bears as David protected the sheep.) **How did God protect David when he faced Goliath?** (He was with David and helped him kill Goliath with only one stone!)

You guys have great memories! Let's open the Bible and take a look at how God protects David in our Bible lesson today! (Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 18:6.) **After David kills Goliath, King Saul is so impressed with David that he invites David to come live with him. He puts David over the army and David wins many battles.**

One day when David and King Saul are returning from battle, the people stand in the streets cheering for the army. They are excited for all the battles that have been won, but they are saying that David is better than King Saul. This makes King Saul very, very angry. He becomes very jealous of David.

Have you ever gotten jealous of someone because they were better at something? Maybe they could run faster than you. Did it make you mad? (Allow children to answer.) **Well, that is kind of how King Saul feels. The people think that David is better, and King Saul doesn't like it. King Saul wants the people to cheer for him more than they do for David. This causes Saul to become very angry.**

King Saul has David come and play a harp for him to help him calm down and not be so mad. However, as David plays, it just makes King Saul even madder. Can you make a mad face? (Allow children to take turns showing you a mad face.) **Yes, that's just how King Saul feels. He gets so mad that he takes his spear and throws it at David while he plays the harp. Oh no! Is that how God wants you to act when you're angry?** (No.) **Does God want you to hurt others in anger?** (No!) **What could be a better way for King Saul to act if he is mad?** (Pray for God to calm his heart, ask David to leave until he is no longer feeling angry, etc.)

Saul almost kills David, but God is with David. God protects him and helps him run away and escape. David is winning battles because God is with him. This makes Saul afraid of David because he knows David has God's protection. Saul tries to think of other ways to harm David. He tells his son Jonathan and his other helpers to go and kill David, but Jonathan and David are very close friends. Next week, we will learn how

King Saul's son, Jonathan, helps protect David from Saul.

God is with David and protects him many times. David cannot fight bears, giants, and kings on his own. He knows God is the one protecting him. God will be our protector, too, when we go to him and rely on him to be our strength.

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 showing us in the Bible that you are our protector. Help us to rely on you for our strength. Help us to give you the glory as you protect us. Amen.

David's Harp

Supplies:

Sturdy box with no top (one per child)
Stickers (three per child)
Rubber bands of various widths and colors (four per child)
Crayons
Tape

Let the children decorate their boxes. Wrap four rubber bands (of various sizes) around the box (secure them with tape on the bottom to prevent slipping, if necessary). Show the children how they can play their new "harps." Remind the children that David played the harp to calm King Saul down and that God protected David again when Saul got even angrier and tried to throw his spear at David.

***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. How does Saul feel about David?** (Jealous, angry.)
- 2. Why was Saul jealous of David?** (Everyone liked David more than Saul and said he was better than Saul.)
- 3. What was David doing when Saul got angry and threw a spear at him?** (Playing the harp for Saul.)
- 4. Why didn't the spear injure David?** (God protected him.)
- 5. Was David able to escape from Saul and find safety because of his own strength?** (No. He was safe because God was protecting him.)

Spear Protection

Supplies:

Bag of 15 straws (one per bin)

Let each child take a turn being David by having him or her pretend to play the harp on one side of the room. Have the rest of the children stand on the other side of the room and toss straws at "David." While the children throw the straws, stand in the way and show how God protected David from Saul's spear. You might want to use your Bible to knock down the straws and talk to the children about how God also gives us his Word to protect us from our enemy.

