



Protector – Lesson 5

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.

Warning Arrows

Supplies:

Bag of 35 straws or coffee stirrers (one per bin)
Cardboard block from the classroom

Have the children line up on one side of the room and place a cardboard block on the table as the

target. Give each child each two straws, one for each hand, and let them take turns shooting the “arrows” at the target. Tell them that today, they will be learning about how God provided a friend for David named Jonathan. Jonathan loved David. They were very good friends. Jonathan loved David as much as himself. Jonathan protected David by shooting arrows to warn David that he was in danger. God wants us to be friends like that. God wants us to be friends who protect one another. We can protect our friends by warning them just like Jonathan did when he shot the arrows to protect David. (Teachers, please don’t let the children use these as drinking straws; they’ve been handled by many!)

BIG GROUP TIME

please check your classroom schedule

Please talk to your class about the purpose of this time—to have fun worshipping 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 20)

Let’s say our verse together. Open your Bible as you say, **“The Lord is my protector; he is my strong fortress.” 2 Samuel 22:2. Let’s try that again.** Have the children repeat the Bible verse with you one or two times before beginning the story.

Who can tell me what we have been learning about? We have been learning that God is protector. Who remembers who God protected against the great big giant Goliath? (David.) That’s right! And God also protected David as a shepherd when he was taking care of his sheep. Today, we’re going to learn about how

God wants us to be a protector to our friends. God created us to want to share our lives with other people and to have friendships. When God created Adam, he also created someone for Adam to share life with. Do you know who God created for Adam? (Eve.) God has given us the desire to have friends. He wants us to be with them and care for them. That’s one reason we come here on the weekend: so that we can be with other people and learn about God together.

(Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 20.) **David has a very special friend named Jonathan. Does anyone remember who Jonathan is? (Let them respond.) Jonathan is King Saul’s son. David and Jonathan have become like brothers. Jonathan even gives David his own robe and his sword.**

Remember, last week we learned that everyone loved David and it made King Saul jealous because he wanted everyone to love him. Jonathan learns of Saul’s plan to kill David. Jonathan knows his father is a powerful king but is not obeying God. Jonathan loves David as much as he loves himself, and he doesn’t want anything to happen to David. Jonathan makes a plan and tells David to go hide. Jonathan pretends to be practicing his shooting and shoots three arrows toward the rock near where David was hiding. Let’s pretend to shoot arrows. (Pretend to shoot three arrows into the air.) One, two, three...

Jonathan will send a boy to get the arrows he will shoot. If it is safe for David to come back, Jonathan will tell the boy to look for the arrows to the side of him. If it is not safe for David to come back, Jonathan will tell the boy to look for the arrows farther beyond him. David will know that the Lord is sending him away to stay safe.

Jonathan speaks with his father, King Saul, at a special dinner. King Saul is angry that David was not at the dinner. Jonathan sees how angry his father is and knows he wants to kill David. So Jonathan goes to the field where David is hiding and shoots three arrows into the air. (Have children pretend to shoot arrows into the air.) One, two, three...

Jonathan then tells the boy to go get the arrows. Jonathan shouts to the boy, “The arrows went far beyond you, didn’t they?” So, David knows that he is supposed to run away to somewhere safe. Jonathan and David are sad that David has to leave, and they know they may never see each other again. Jonathan is very brave. He risks his life to protect David from King Saul.

God shows us what loving and protecting a friend looks like with the story of David and Jonathan. God used Jonathan to protect David’s life. God wants us to be friends who protect each other and stand up for each other. We may not have to save a friend’s life like Jonathan did, but when others are being unkind to our friends, we can stand up for them and protect them. Or, if our friends are in danger, we can protect them by warning them. God will be our protector when we rely on him. And we can be people who protect the friends God gives 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 protecting us and giving us friends whom we can protect and who can protect us, too. Help us to rely on you for protection and strength to be a friend who protects. Amen.

Quiver and Arrows

Supplies:

Half a sheet of colored cardstock (one per child)

Crayons

Tape or stapler

Verse strip 1 on pink paper: “No one has greater love than” (one per child)

Verse strip 2 on blue paper: “the one who gives his life for his friends.” (one per child)

Verse strip 3 on yellow paper: “John 15:13” (one per child)

2” triangle on colored paper (three per child)

Feathers (three per child)

Spool of yarn (one spool per bin; about 18” of yarn per child, cut as needed)

Hole punch

Have the children color their sheet of cardstock. Then, help them roll the cardstock into a tube, stapling or taping the ends together to secure the “quiver.” Next, give each child their set of verse strips. Have them glue triangles onto one end of a strip and a feather onto the other end to make an arrow. Do this with all three verse strips. Hole punch the sides of the quiver and tie the yarn to it to make a shoulder strap. Have the children place their arrows in the quiver. (Because the end is not closed off, to make the craft easier, the arrowhead needs to be large enough that the arrow will not slide through the tube.)

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. **Who was David’s friend who protected him?** (Jonathan.)
2. **What did Jonathan do to protect David?** (Warned him by shooting arrows.)
3. **Does God want us to be friends who protect?** (Yes!)
4. **How can we protect our friends?** (Warn them when they are in trouble or making bad choices. Stay with them like God is with us and comfort them. Stand up for them when others are being unkind.)

A Friend Who Protects

Pair each child with another child about the same height. Have the children stand side by side with their partner and link arms with them. Tell them to stay with their friend and walk around the room together. Talk to them about how a friend loves and protects all the time. Jonathan protected David by warning him that the king was trying to kill him. God is always with us and he protects us in many ways, including using the friends in our lives. God wants us to be friends who protect others.

