



Protector – Lesson 6

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.

Follow the Leader

Have the kids all line up behind you and tell them that, today, they will be learning about how David asked God for advice about what he should do. When God answered David, David listened and followed God. God went before David and David followed him and did just what God asked. Tell

them you are going on an adventure and they will need to follow you and listen to your directions to stay protected. As you walk around the room, tell the children things like, “Let’s walk slowly and be quiet.” When they listen, say, “Good listening; we just passed a bear.” Then go around a chair and tell them, “Oh, watch out and don’t touch the chair; it is a prickly thorn bush!” Tell them to carefully step over a block on the floor and say, “Great job obeying! That was a poisonous snake!” **When we listen and obey what God is telling us to do and we follow him, he goes before us and is able to protect us. If we don’t listen or follow his direction and wander off on our own, we get into trouble and get hurt. We are disobeying and there are consequences because we are not allowing him to protect us. He loves us and wants to protect us!**

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 (2 Samuel 5)

Our Bible lesson today comes from the book of 2 Samuel. (Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 5.) After King Saul dies, David becomes King of Israel, just as the prophet Samuel had said. When the Philistines hear that David has become king, they take their whole army and go to look for him. David hears about it and goes to his usual place of safety. The Philistines come and spread out all across the valley.

David asks the Lord for advice: “Should I go

and attack the Philistines? Will you hand the Philistines over to me?”

The Lord answers David, “Go. You can be sure that I will hand the Philistines over to you.”

So David goes out and wins the battle over the Philistines. The Lord protects David and helps him when he attacks his enemies. But once more, the Philistines come and spread out across the valley.

So what do you think David does? (Let them think of answers.) Do you think David runs after the Philistines on his own, with a great big sword? NO! David asks God what he should do. David relies on God to show him the way, and David obeys God. He does what God tells him to do.

So the Lord tells David, “Don’t go straight up. Instead, circle around behind them. Attack them in front of the balsam trees. Listen for the sound of marching in the tops of the trees. Then move quickly. The sound will mean that I have gone out in front of you. I will strike down the Philistine army.”

Do you think David does what God asked? Yes, he does. David does just as the Lord commanded him. Do you think God strikes the Philistines down like he promised? Yes, He does! God always keeps his promises. He protects David, and David relies on God, not on his own abilities, to defeat the Philistine army!

David sings this song to the Lord. He sings it when the Lord saves him from the powerful hand of all of his enemies and of Saul. He says,

**“The LORD is my protector;
He is my strong fortress.
My God is my protection,
And with him I am safe.
He protects me like a shield;
He defends me and keeps me safe.
He is my savior;
He protects me and saves me from violence.
I call to the LORD,
And he saves me from my enemies.
Praise the LORD!” 2 Samuel 22:2-4**

David knows God is with him and that God is his protector. Even though David is obedient and has a heart for God, does he still have trouble in his life? Yes! But God is with David, protecting him in the middle of this trouble. Can we rely on God when we are in trouble? Yes! We should rely on God all the time! Can we trust him to take care of us? Yes! Who can say our memory verse? “The Lord is my protector; he is my strong fortress.” 2 Samuel 2:22

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 keeping us safe and teaching us that we can rely on you for our protection. Help us to rely on you for everything and trust you with all of our hearts. Amen.

Protect Me Like A Shield

Supplies:

Paper plate (one per child)
Crayons
Glue
Strip of cardstock (one per child)
Verse arrow (one per child)

Have the children color their paper plates. Have them glue the arrow with the verse to the front of the plate and tape or glue the strip of cardstock to the back of the plate to form a handle. Show them how they can hold up their shields. Have them practice their memory verse and remind them that God is our protector!

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. When the Philistines heard David had become king, what did they do?** (They took their whole army and went to look for him.)
- 2. Who did David go to and ask for advice before he fought the Philistines?** (God.)
- 3. What happened when David fought the Philistines?** (God protected David and helped him beat the Philistines.)
- 4. Who went out in front of David and protected him by striking down the Philistines?** (God.)
- 5. Who goes before us and protects us?** (God.)

My Fortress

Supplies:

Building blocks (in classroom)

Have the children make a fort with the table and building blocks. Ask them if they feel safe when they hide under something. Then have them get into the fort and talk with them about how God is like a fort. We can go to him for safety. It is God who saves us and keeps us safe. He is our protector. Read the praise of David from the lesson again.



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