



Lesson
19

1st-4th

JONATHAN & HIS ARMOR BEARER

January 3 & 4

**GOD IS
DEFENDER**



LESSON GOAL:

Background: Saul was the first king of God's people, the Israelites. Saul did not always listen to or follow God, but his son, Jonathan trusted that God was his defender. Jonathan believed God would help him defeat the Philistines, so Jonathan and his armor bearer went and did just that.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that we can trust God is our defender. We can trust that God is with us and fights for us.

1 Samuel 14:1-23

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Parent & Leader Equipping
Monday, January 12 at 6 PM
Rockrimmon Campus

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Ms. Dazzle



KEY VERSE:

"The Lord has set up his throne in heaven. His kingdom rules over all. "

Psalms 103:19 (NIRV)

MISSION FOCUS:

ELIC

Most people in Central Asia have never heard about Jesus or met a Christian.

ELIC sends teachers who build friendships, teach in schools, and quietly share God's love where it can be hard to talk about faith.

God is opening hearts and giving new chances to share the good news. Pray for students to be curious, local believers to grow strong, teachers to be protected and courageous, and for more people to go serve.



5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.



SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, *(insert child/parent name)*!

Grab today's **Lesson Card**. Look up the Bible passage in your own Bible or a classroom Bible and leave your card there as a bookmark. Then, you can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



DISCUSS: God is Defender!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.



SAY:

Let's take turns sharing three words about our week. I'll go first!
Share your three words then invite the next child to share.



SAY:

Today, we are learning about how **God is Defender**. This story comes from the Bible in **1 Samuel 14:15 & 23**. Can you open your Bible to the passage with me so we can read it together?



DO:

Read the Bible passage aloud or pick a child to read it aloud.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



SAY:

Let's answer **THE BIG 3** questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

God, Jonathan, Jonathan's armor bearer, the Philistines

2. What was the problem?

We can trust that God is our defender. It doesn't mean we won't face hard things, but God will be with us and give us strength in the trials.

3. What did God do?

God helped Jonathan and his armor bearer defeat the Philistines all by themselves.



Encourage kids to think about why this matters and how they can apply it to their own life as they listen to the story!



MAKE: Shield

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: paper shield, pipe cleaners, tape, God Statement Sticker, markers/crayons



DO:

Pass out one shield per child. Have them color their shield and tape a pipe-cleaner to the back. Then have them add the God Statement Sticker to their craft.



SAY:

God is our Defender! He is always with us. God fights for us! We are going to make a special craft to remind us of this truth!

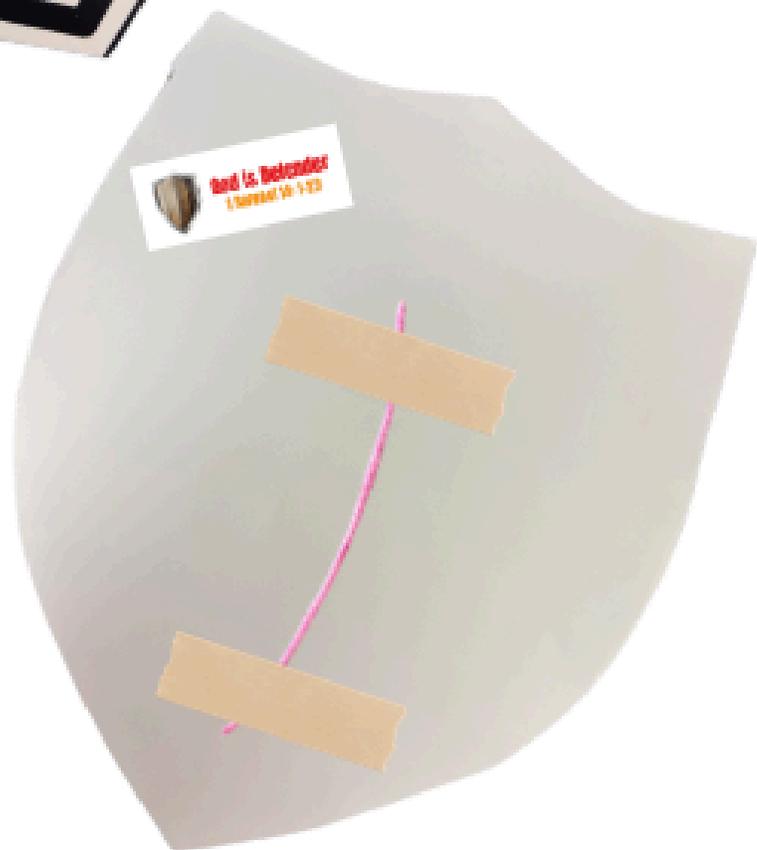


CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



Craft Example



6:25-6:50pm
9:25-9:50am
11:25-11:50am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

SONG 1: Armor of God

SONG 2: Bless the Lord



LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you have peace knowing that God is your defender. He is with you always and He will fight for you!



TRANSITION

After the blessing, the Host should dismiss the kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

WORSHIP RESPONSE



REFLECT: God is Defender!

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Worship Response Station

Supplies: none



SAY:

Saul and the Israelites doubted God would help them defeat the Philistines, but Jonathan believed God would defend him and his armor bearer. God helped Jonathan and his armor bearer defeat the Philistines all by themselves because God is our defender! Just like Jonathan, we can trust God is with us and fights for us.



DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
 - ***God is YOUR defender! That means God is always with you. He helps our hearts stay strong and safe in His love, even when we face hard things.***
 - Invite kids to lay down and close their eyes and be very still.
 - ***Take a moment and think about something in your own life that's been hard or scary for you.***
 - ***As you lay there, now imagine God sitting right next to you in that hard or scary situation.***
 - Encourage kids to do this for a few moments. Then, invite kids to share how they felt.
 - ***Sometimes it can be hard to remember, but when we pause and be still, we can picture God with us anywhere and anytime. God is our defender and He loves us!***
- Close the time by praying over the kids.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.



SAY:

May you have peace knowing that God is your defender. He is with you always and He will fight for you!

6:50-7:10pm
9:50-10:10am
11:50am-12:10pm

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

God helped Jonathan and his armor bearer defeat the Philistines all by themselves.

2. What was the problem?

God helped Jonathan and his armor bearer defeat the Philistines all by themselves.

3. What did God do?

God helped Jonathan and his armor bearer defeat the Philistines all by themselves.

4. Why does this matter to me?

We can trust that God is our defender. It doesn't mean we won't face hard things, but God will be with us and give us strength in the trials.

5. How can I apply this to my own life?

Example: I can pray and ask God to give me strength in trials; I can look back at ways God has helped me in hard times



PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together. Use the Prayer Tags from Check-In to write down prayer requests to take home and pray for during the week.



SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing them the announcement card and ensuring they take their weekly **Lesson Card**.