



Lesson
19

2s & 3s

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 we can trust that God is our defender. We can trust God is with us and fights for us.

1 Samuel 14:1-23

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Parent & Leader Equipping

Monday, January 12 @ 6 PM

Rockrimmon Campus



KEY VERSE:

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

Psalm 103:19 (NIRV)

MISSION FOCUS:

ELIC

In Central Asia, many people have never heard about Jesus. ELIC sends teachers around the world to show God's love by being kind and caring. They make friends and talk about the hope Jesus gives.

Pray that students will listen, teachers will be brave, and more helpers will go share God's love.



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

CHECK-IN

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



WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.



FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

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.



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!



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by discussing the Big 3 questions.



SAY:

Answer THE BIG 3 questions to help kids prepare for the lesson

1. Who is our story about today?

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

2. What is the problem?

Saul and the Israelites doubted God would help them defeat the Philistines, but Jonathan believed God would defend him and his armor bearer.

3. What will God do?

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



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 transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.



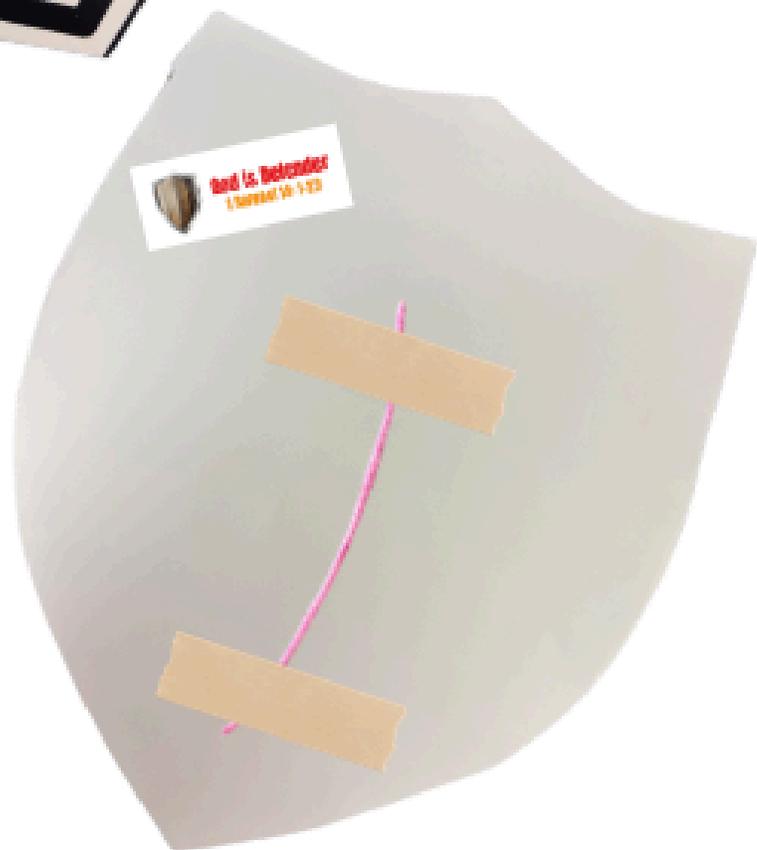
SAY:

Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."



Craft Example



6:25-6:40pm
9:25-9:40am
11:25-11:40am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.



EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video ([Plex > Videos > EC > 2s & 3s](#))

SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!

DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.



WORSHIP

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to [Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s](#) folder.

SONG 1: Go Tell It on the Mountain

SONG 2: What a Glorious Night

SONG 3: I Trust in Him



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 4). Use the flipbook provided.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

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.

Supplies: none

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.** As we lay here, let's imagine God laying right next to us. **Encourage kids to do this for a few moments. Then, invite kids to share how they felt.** God is our defender and He is always with us!



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!

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: tiny shield



INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.



SAY:

Hi Hamilton! **Hamilton looks scared.** What's wrong Hamilton? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Oh, Hamilton you're nervous for a big trip you have coming up? **Hamilton nods.** You know, it's okay to be nervous sometimes. I have something for you that might help. **Hands Hamilton the shield.** This shield can remind you God is always with you and He is your defender! That's actually what our story is about today, Hamilton. Do you want to listen? I bet it will help you feel better after you learn more about how God is our defender! **Hamilton nods.** Friends, if you're ready to hear our Bible story today, can you wiggle your ears? **Wiggle ears together.** Let's dive in!



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.



SAY:

Today's story is about a young man named Jonathan who was King Saul's son. King Saul was the very first king of God's special people, the Israelites. The Israelites were fighting against their enemies, the Philistines.

Jonathan was a very brave young man who loved God very much! Jonathan had a special helper called an armor bearer. The armor bearer's job was to help carry Jonathan's shield, sword, and armor and help in battle. **Hamilton holds up shield.** Yes! You can pretend to be the armor bearer in this story, Hamilton!

One day, Jonathan and his armor bearer saw some of the enemy soldiers who wanted to stop God's people from winning. Jonathan said to his helper, "Let's go fight them! God can help us, even if it's just the two of us!" His helper said, "I will go with you!" **Hamilton waves shield.**

So, they climbed up a big hill together. They trusted God to be their defender against the enemy! And guess what? God helped Jonathan and his armor bearer defeat the enemy! The enemy soldiers got scared and ran away.

God defended Jonathan and his armor bearer. God is our defender too! God never leaves us alone in hard or scary times. He helps our hearts to stay strong and safe in His love, even when we face trouble or scary things!

6:40-6:55pm
9:40-9:55am
11:40-11:55am

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.



SAY IT OUT LOUD!

Help the kids remember the God Statement for the day by repeating it aloud and doing the hand motions.

SAY:

Today our God statement is **God is Defender!**

Let's say it together in a fun way to help us remember it.

Say it loudly, softly and in a fun voice. Then do the hand motions.

DO:

God (hand vertical in front of face)

is Defender (with hands in fists, cross arms in front like you're blocking someone)



ACTIVITY- Hide Behind God

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: None

SAY:

Today, we learned that God is our Defender. When you hear me say that, I want you to hide behind me. Then, when I say "We're safe!" you can stand up and we'll all cheer!

DO:

Have the children stand in an open space. Explain that when they hear you say, "God is our Defender!", they should quickly "hide" behind you (or crouch down and cover their heads) as if God is protecting them. Then, when you say, "We're safe!", they can stand up and cheer. Repeat several times, talking briefly about how God kept His people safe in the Bible, just like He keeps us safe today.

6:55-7:10pm
9:55-10:10am
11:55am-12:10pm

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.



SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



GAME IDEAS

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class.



DO:

- Play “I Spy” focusing on color, shape, and letter recognition
- Freeze Dance
- Duck, Duck, Goose
- Hot Potato
- Charades
- Odd One Out Game
- Hokey, Pokey
- Popcorn Parachute Game
- Read a book or a story out of picture Bible
- Gather paper and crayons and practice drawing

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 Explore craft, utilize the prayer station or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any upcoming events or announcements while handing their parent the announcement card or flyer.