

God Is With Us

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 17:1-50

The story of David and Goliath is one of the most familiar and loved stories in the Old Testament. Even in our secular world today, the idea of the little guy, David, slaying the giant, Goliath, is a popular concept that is often portrayed in movies and on television. However, the secular applications of this story always seem to leave out the most important truth: David didn't slay Goliath on his own.

It was David's acting on God's will, through God's strength, to protect the reputation of God that brought Goliath down. Goliath and his cohorts had been mocking the God and people of Israel, and God used a humble shepherd boy to remedy the situation when all the "brave" warriors of Israel were too afraid to act.

The key truth of this story isn't that the little guy can defeat the big guy. It's that we can do anything if it's in God's will and we rely fully on him. Use the lessons in this module to help your toddlers begin to trust in God.

God Is With Us

Lesson	Emphasis	Page
10	God is with us.	123
11	God is with us all the time.	137
12	God is with us because he loves us.	149
13	I'm thankful that God is with us.	161

A pair of hands is shown holding a fish and a flashlight. The fish is held in the left hand, and the flashlight is held in the right hand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus image of the hands and objects.

Toddlers & 2s

Parent Page

God Is With Us

For the next four weeks, the toddlers and 2s class will be learning that God is with us. The children will use all of their five senses to discover that just as God helped David defeat Goliath, God will be with them, too. Use these Parent Page ideas to help reinforce the point that God is with us.

Tips for Ts and 2s

Whether it's Mommy's day out or the first day with a new baby sitter, young children typically experience separation anxiety that may turn them into teary-eyed clinging vines. It's helpful to realize that a fear of being left alone is normal—and usually harder on you than on your toddler! Once parents are out of sight, little ones focus on their new environment and settle happily into play. Reassure your child that you'll be back and that he or she is being left with a loving caregiver. Soon your child will understand that, because you're a loving parent, you will always provide care and protection.

Together Time

- Have some bedtime fun with shadows. Invite your child to use a flashlight to make hand shadows on the wall. Then let your child hold objects such as stuffed animals, books, or toy trucks in front of the flashlight to make large, unusual shadows. Talk about how big the shadows seem, and then point out how small the objects actually are. Tell your child that God is bigger than anything and that God is always here to love and protect us.
- Sing this fun action song with your toddler:

God Is With Us (adapted from Joshua 1:9c)

(sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Goliath stood so tall. (*Stand on your tiptoes.*)

David was so small. (*Squat down.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—
God is with us all! (*March in place.*)

David trusted God. (*Cross your arms over your chest.*)

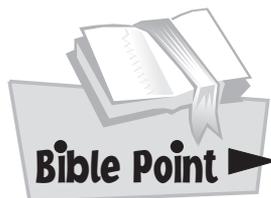
He made Goliath fall. (*Crouch down.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—
God is with us all! (*March in place.*)

God is with us all. (*March in place.*)

God is with us all. (*March in place.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—
God is with us all! (*March in place.*)



Bible Point

God Is With Us

Bible Verse

God is with us (adapted from Joshua 1:9c).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will ■ hear the story of David and Goliath,
 ■ learn that God is powerful, and
 ■ realize that God is with us all the time.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ God is with us.

**1 Samuel
17:1-50**



The saddest part of the story of David and Goliath is that none of the soldiers in the Israelite army were willing to stand up to Goliath, who was defying “the armies of the living God.” Not even the mighty warrior, King Saul, would stand up for God and his kingdom to fight the giant. It took a young shepherd who knew little of armor and swords and spears to go out and face this fearsome 9-foot-tall champion of the Philistines.

Notice that David faced Goliath with only his shepherd’s staff, a slingshot, five smooth stones—and the power of his God. David knew that God had helped him kill a lion and a bear to protect his sheep, and he knew that God would be with him to protect God’s own name and free the people of Israel from the oppression of Goliath and the Philistines. And we all know how David came out!

God can be with us in the same way he was with David, if we’ll only rely fully on him. Be sure to let that truth soak into your own life as you teach it to your toddlers.

Prayer

- Read Jeremiah 1:8.
- What “Goliath” are you afraid to face in your life?
- How can trusting that God is with you help you defeat that giant?
- Pray: Lord, thank you for being with me. Help my class to understand that you’ll be with them when they...

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	Option 1: Rock-Box —Sort pretend stones by size.	Sponges, shoe box, scissors, poster board, marker	
	Option 2: Sheep Shapes —Make fluffy sheep that stand up.	Glue sticks, index cards, hinge-style clothespins, cotton balls, washable black markers	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	God Is With Us —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of David from 1 Samuel 17:1-50.	Knee-high stocking, one or two socks	
	“God Is With Us” Song —Sing an action song about David and Goliath.	Bible, CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Sheep and David patterns (p. 135), stiff paper, scissors, glue sticks, cotton balls, blue and green construction paper, tape	
	Sing It Out —Sing an action song about David and Goliath.	CD player	
	Bible Craft —Make paper lions with curly manes.	Lion face pattern (p. 135), paper plates, glue sticks, markers, orange construction paper, scissors	
	Bible Game —Pretend to be David and protect their sheep.	Newspaper, paper-plate lions from Bible Craft, sheep from Option 2	
 Closing	Sheep Snack —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Canned vanilla icing, green food coloring, napkins, plastic knives, graham crackers, cereal loops	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “God Is With Us” (adapted from Joshua 1:9c) (track 9) from the *CD* as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God is with us.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Rock-Box

SUPPLIES: sponges, shoe box, scissors, poster board, marker

Before class, cut sponges into large and small stone shapes. Make sure the sponges are larger than 50-cent pieces. Place the sponge “stones” in a box. Prepare a poster-board play mat by drawing a large circle on the left side and a smaller circle on the right. Set the box on the play mat.

As children arrive, invite them to sort the sponge stones according to size. Have children put the smaller sponges in the small circle and the larger sponges in the large circle. Then encourage children to count the sponge stones into piles of three.

As children work, ask questions such as “Who’s the biggest person in your family?” and “What’s the biggest thing you’ve ever seen?” Tell children that today they’ll hear a Bible story about a shepherd boy named David who used stones to defend himself against a giant. Mention that David learned that ► God is with us all the time.

Option 2: Sheep Shapes

SUPPLIES: glue sticks, index cards, hinge-style clothespins, cotton balls, washable black markers

Set out glue sticks, index cards, black markers, and cotton balls. You’ll also need two hinge-style clothespins for each child. Tell children they’re going to make fluffy “sheep.” Help children draw sheep faces and ears on one end of the index cards, and then have children glue cotton balls to both sides of the cards. Have children color the clothespins black. Show children how to clip clothespin “legs” to their sheep.

As children work, mention that shepherds take care of sheep. Tell children that today’s Bible story is about a shepherd boy named David who learned that ► God is with us.

Have adult helpers make sheep for any children who choose not to do this Option. You’ll use the sheep in the Bible Game.

teacher tips

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the *CD* and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”



Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



BIBLE POINT ►



Say: **Who is always with us? ► *God is with us.* How do we know that? The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible.** Using the *CD*, lead children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”



This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

Bible!

■ Bible Story: God Is With Us

SUPPLIES: knee-high stocking, one or two socks

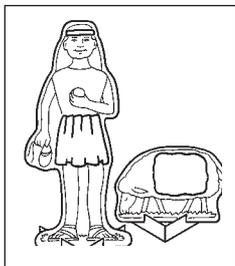
Group's
INTERACTIVE
StoryBoard™



Before class begins, prepare your StoryBoard figures by following the assembly instructions included in the Learning Lab. The purpose of the StoryBoard figures is to provide an interactive, sensory learning opportunity for your toddlers and 2s. Attach the sensory items securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Before this activity, make “David’s sling” by using one or two socks to make a ball, and then stuffing the sock ball into a knee-high stocking. Tie a knot to close the ball. You will use this sling in the next few lessons.

Scene 1



Lay the punch-out figure of Goliath on the floor. Place the sling you made and the punch-out figures of David, the sheep, and the five stones beside you.

Say: **We’re going to hear an exciting Bible story today and learn that ►*God is with us.* Stand on your tiptoes and stretch up tall.** Pause for children to respond. **Oh, look how big you are! Now squat down.** Pause. **You’re so much smaller now! This story is about two people—one who**

was big and growly (make a “growly” face) **and one who was small and very nice** (smile and pat your heart).

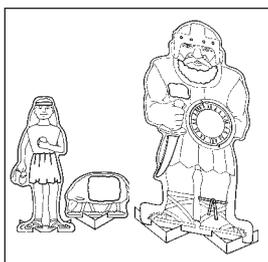
Place the figure of David in front of you. Say: **This is David. Can you tell him “hello”?** Pass the figure of David to each child. Encourage children to touch David’s robe and headband. Lead children in saying, “Hello, David.”

David loved God, and God loved David very much, too. David had seven brothers, but he was the youngest and smallest. Scrunch down and show me how small you can be. Pause. **My, you’re small. Oh look, here’s something else that’s small—a sheep!** Set out the fluffy punch-out sheep. **What does a sheep sound like?** Lead children in saying, “Baa, baa.” **David was a shepherd boy. He took good care of his father’s sheep. Let’s pat the sheep.** Let each child touch the fluffy sheep. Then ask:

- **How does the sheep feel?** (Soft; warm; nice.)
- **What does a sheep say?** (Baa, baa.)

Say: **David loved his family, and he loved the sheep. But most of all, David loved God. He loved God more than anything! But there was someone who didn’t love God. Let’s see who that mean man was.**

Scene 2



Place the figure of Goliath in front of the children. Say: **Ooo, look at this big man. His name is Goliath. Can you say that? Go-li-ath. Let’s stand up big and tall like Goliath. Stretch way up—Goliath was very, very tall!**



If you have very young children in your class, let them simply find and touch the StoryBoard figures’ sensory items. Repeat the Bible Point often, and reinforce learning with hugs and smiles.



Remind children that it's never a good idea for them to throw real stones.

And Goliath was growly and mean. Show me a growly face. Pause for children to respond. Then have children sit down and find and touch one or more of the following items on the figure of Goliath:

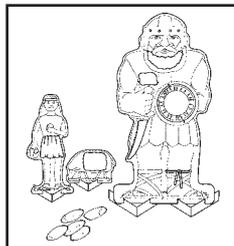
- his beard,
- the lace on Goliath's sandal,
- his helmet,
- his robe, and
- his shield.

Say: **Goliath didn't love God. He said bad things about God and about God's people. God's people and Goliath's people were fighting each other. Every day Goliath made fun of God's people and shouted, "Send someone to fight me!" But God's people were afraid of Goliath. No one wanted to fight him. No one, that is, except David.**

Goliath's words made David angry. David wanted to stop Goliath from making fun of God's people, but David wasn't big—he was much smaller than Goliath. Point to the figure of David. **Let's play a game. When I point to David, you squat down and say "small." When I point to Goliath, stretch up and say "tall."** Lead children in playing the "Small and Tall" game a few times.

Then say: **Let's sit down and hear how David stopped Goliath from being mean and saying bad things about God.**

Scene 3



Hold up the figure of David. Say: **David knew that Goliath was big, but David knew that God is bigger than anything or anyone! And David knew that ►God is with us. Let's clap for God!** Lead children in a round of applause.

David picked up five smooth stones from a little stream. Let's see if we can count some pretend stones.

Scatter the five punch-out stones on the floor, and let children pick them up. Help children count the stones aloud a few times. Make sure to scatter the stones near you so you can prevent children from putting the paper stones in their mouths.

David had the stones and his sling. Here's a pretend sling. Let's take turns swinging it. Have children take turns swinging the sling in a circle above their heads. Then hold the sling and say: **David walked up to Goliath.** Place the figure of David in front of the figure of Goliath. **When Goliath saw how little David was, he laughed "ha!" But David knew that ►God is with us.** Hold the figure of David as if it's talking. **"Goliath, you think you're big and powerful with that shiny sword. But God is bigger than you or anyone else! ►God is with us, and he will win this fight!"**

Then David put a stone in his sling (place a punch-out stone in the sling) **and threw it at Goliath. Guess what happened?** Tip Goliath over face-first. **The stone hit Goliath in the head, and he fell facedown on the ground! God helped David win the battle! Yea! Let's clap for God!** Lead children in clapping.

Even though David was small, David's love for God was this big! Stretch your arms out wide. **And David knew that ►God is with us.**

We just heard a story about David and Goliath. But before David met



Goliath, he was a shepherd. That means that he had some sheep that he took care of.

Ask: • **What do you think David did to take care of his sheep?** (He fed them; he made sure they were safe; he watched out for them.)

Say: **David watched out for his sheep, just like God watches out for us! Let's play a game to remind us that ► God is with us.**

God chose David to be a special shepherd. He had a very important job. He had to keep his sheep safe! Just like David took good care of his sheep, God takes good care of us. Let's practice taking good care of this butterfly. Hold the *plush butterfly* in your lap. **Let's pretend this butterfly is sick. Let's pass around the butterfly, and we can take turns patting it and giving it gentle hugs to make it feel better.**

Pass around the *plush butterfly* so each child has a turn to comfort it. When the butterfly comes back to you, say: **I think our butterfly feels much better! You took very good care of it, just as David took care of his sheep. Now let's make it fly, because it's happy now!** Gently toss the butterfly to the child sitting next to you, and encourage the children to kindly help the butterfly “fly” to the next child. When it comes back to you, hold it in your lap.

Ask: • **What was David's important job?** (He took care of the sheep; he made sure the sheep were safe.)

• **How does God take care of us?** (He helps us when we're sick; he gives us good things; he gives us moms and dads.)

Say: **Just like David was with his sheep, ► God is with us. Let's sing a song to help us remember our Bible story!**



Important: Put the StoryBoard away out of reach of children. Keep the sling in your Learning Lab, as you'll be using it in subsequent lessons.



■ “God Is With Us” Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Open your Bible to **Joshua 1:9c**, and show children that today's Bible verse, ► **God is with us**, comes from God's Word.

Using the *CD*, lead the children in singing “God Is With Us” (adapted from Joshua 1:9c) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



Goliath stood so tall. (*Stand on your tiptoes.*)

David was so small. (*Squat down.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—

God is with us all! (*March in place.*)

David trusted God. (*Cross your arms over your chest.*)

He made Goliath fall. (*Crouch down.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—

God is with us all! (*March in place.*)

God is with us all. (*March in place.*)

God is with us all. (*March in place.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—

God is with us all! (*March in place.*)

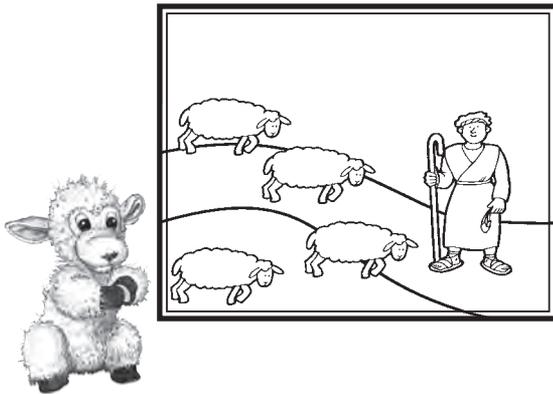

BIBLE POINT

Say: I'm so glad that ► *God is with us all*. David learned that God is bigger and stronger than anything or anyone—even a giant! God takes care of us just as he took care of David when David watched his father's sheep. Let's put pictures of David and his sheep on the bulletin board.

Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: sheep and David patterns (p. 135), stiff paper, scissors, glue sticks, cotton balls, blue and green construction paper, tape



Before class, cover the top third of the bulletin board with blue construction paper for a sky and the bottom third with green construction paper for the ground. Make a green hill on the left side of the bulletin board and a level valley on the right side. Photocopy the sheep pattern onto stiff paper. Be sure there's a sheep pattern for each child. Also photocopy the David pattern onto stiff paper. Cut out the patterns.



Set out cotton balls and glue sticks. Bring out Cuddles the Lamb.

Cuddles: (Singing to the tune of the chorus of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm") A sheep, sheep here, and a sheep, sheep there, here a sheep, there a sheep, everywhere a sheep, sheep...

Teacher: You're singing about lots of sheep, Cuddles.

Cuddles: Yes. I'm singing about the sheep in my flock. We have a nice shepherd and lots of sheep. (Singing to the tune of the chorus of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" again) Here a sheep, there a sheep, everywhere a sheep, sheep...

Teacher: We heard a Bible story today about a boy named David who watched his father's sheep. He took good care of the sheep just as God takes good care of us.

Cuddles: Our shepherd is with us all the time. He makes sure we're safe and have lots of food.

Teacher: We know someone else who's always with us. Children, can you tell Cuddles who's with us and loves us all the time? (Lead children in telling Cuddles that ► *God is with us*.)

Cuddles: That makes me so happy! (Singing to the tune of the chorus of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm") God is here. God is there. God is with us everywhere...

Teacher: That's right, Cuddles! God is with us everywhere just as he was with David. Would you like to help us put pictures of David and his sheep on the bulletin board?

Cuddles: Oh, yes! I like being a helper.

Tape the David cutout in the center of the bulletin board. Then hand each child a sheep cutout and have children glue cotton balls to the cutouts. Help children tape their sheep on the hillside. As each child places a cutout, lead him or her in saying the Bible Point.

Teacher: David did a good job taking care of his father's sheep. Even though David wasn't big, he knew that God would help him when he watched over his father's sheep and when he fought Goliath. That's because ► God is with us. We can sing our action song to remind us that everywhere we are, God is there, too.

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead the children in singing "God Is With Us" (adapted from Joshua 1:9c) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



Goliath stood so tall. (*Stand on your tiptoes.*)

David was so small. (*Squat down.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—

God is with us all! (*March in place.*)

David trusted God. (*Cross your arms over your chest.*)

He made Goliath fall. (*Crouch down.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—

God is with us all! (*March in place.*)

God is with us all. (*March in place.*)

God is with us all. (*March in place.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—

God is with us all! (*March in place.*)

Say: **God was with David when he watched his father's sheep and as he fought Goliath. And David knew that ► God is with us and keeps us safe. We can make cute lions to remind us that God is with us wherever we go.**

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: lion face pattern (p. 135), paper plates, glue sticks, markers, orange construction paper, scissors

Before class, make a photocopy of the lion face pattern for each child. Cut out the patterns. You'll also need to cut 1x6-inch orange construction paper strips. Cut at least 10 strips for each child.



To prepare for the Bible Craft, use a paper cutter to cut construction paper strips in a snap. Or lay several sheets of construction paper on top of each other and cut multiple strips at once.



Set out glue sticks, markers, and the paper strips. Hand each child a paper plate and a paper lion face. Say: **When David watched his father's sheep, he had to guard them against wild animals such as bears and lions. Let's make pretend lions, and then we'll use them in a fun game.**

Have children glue the paper lion faces to the centers of the plates. Encourage children to color the lion faces. Help children wrap paper strips around markers to curl the strips and then glue the strips around the edges of the paper plates. Be sure each child's name is on the back of his or her paper-plate lion.

As children work, remind them that God was with David as he watched his father's sheep and that ► *God is with us*, too. Then say: **Let's play a game with our lions!**



■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: newspaper, paper-plate lions from Bible Craft, sheep from Option 2

Hand each child a sheet of newspaper. Show children how to crumple the papers to make "stones." Set the sheep from Option 2 in the center of the room and surround them with the children's paper-plate lions.

Have children line up a few feet away from the lions. Say: **David's job was to protect his father's sheep. Sometimes David used his sling to toss stones at lions and bears. You can each pretend to be David and toss your newspaper stones at those lions. You want to keep your pretend sheep safe! If you hit a lion with a paper stone, say, ► "God is with us!"** Let children toss their paper stones at the lions. Lead them in saying, "God is with us!" each time a lion is hit. Let children play the game a few times, and then say: **God was with David while he watched his father's sheep and when he fought Goliath. And we know that ► *God is with us*, too.**



God takes such good care of us. Even though we can't see him, we know how much he loves us. He loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to be our forever friend. If we love Jesus, someday we will live in heaven with him.

Say: **Now let's go to the snack table for a special treat.**

Closing

■ Sheep Snack

SUPPLIES: canned vanilla icing, green food coloring, napkins, plastic knives, graham crackers, cereal loops

Before class, stir a few drops of green food coloring into a can of vanilla icing.

After helping them wash their hands, gather children at the snack table.

Ask: • **Who's with us all the time?** (God.)





Say: **We've been learning that ► *God is with us.* And God is with us all the time, keeping us safe just as God kept David safe as he watched over his father's sheep and as he fought Goliath. Let's say a prayer and thank God for being with us. Fold your hands.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you for being with us all the time. Thank you for keeping us safe, too. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Set out the green icing, plastic knives, and cereal loops. Hand each child a napkin and graham cracker. Show the children how to make "grassy fields" by spreading green icing on their graham crackers. Then let each child add several cereal "sheep" to his or her field.

When children have finished eating their treats, have them toss their napkins in the wastebasket. Remind children to take their paper-plate lions and fluffy sheep home.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Parent Page" handout (p. 122) for this module, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this module's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Rolling the Stones*



Use the newspaper stones from the Bible Game and the *rubber rock* from the Learning Lab. Hand the *rubber rock* to one child, and have the rest of the children hold paper stones. Sit in a circle on the floor and have children sit cross-legged so that their knees touch the knees of the children beside them. Count to 5, and on the last number, have children roll their stones to someone in the circle. Have the child who receives the *rubber rock* stand up and repeat the Bible Point. Continue playing until each child has stood and said the Bible Point.

■ *God Is Everywhere!*

Before this activity, prepare white construction paper “clouds.” You’ll need one cloud for each child. On each cloud write the word “God.” Hide the clouds around the room in easy-to-find places. To begin the game, ask children, “Where is God?” Then have children hunt for the clouds. Ask children to return to you after they’ve each found one cloud. When all the clouds have been found, repeat the question, “Where is God?” and then lead children in saying, ► “*God is with us* everywhere!”

Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

