

**Bible Point** ▶

# God Is With Us

## Bible Verse

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

## Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will ■ learn that God helped David defeat Goliath,  
 ■ understand that God is with us, and  
 ■ realize that God is present because he loves us.



## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

■ **God is with us because he loves us.**

**1 Samuel  
17:1-50**



It may seem strange that two armies would occupy hills opposite each other and wait for 40 days without attacking. However, if either army rushed down its hill and across the valley and then tried to rush up the other hill to attack, that army would likely suffer tremendous casualties. So each army waited for the other to attack first.

The mighty Saul, who stood a head taller than the other Israelites, was afraid to fight Goliath. But David, who was probably only 17 or 18 years old at the time, knew that God was with the Israelites and that God would defeat Goliath. Anyone who trusts fully in God can do great things for him!

### Prayer

- Read Ephesians 2:10.
- What good things do you think God has planned for you to do?
- Pray: Lord, help me to live out the plans you have for me. Help me to guide my students to faith in you by...

### 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
<b>Arrival Activities</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Welcome Time</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	<b>Option 1: Goliath Tackle</b> —Knock over “Goliath” with a pretend stone.	Goliath pattern (p. 160), paper cups, tape, masking tape, scissors	
	<b>Option 2: Stone Painting</b> —Paint pretty hearts with real stones.	White construction paper, red tempera paint, cake pans, golf ball-sized stones, plastic spoons, scissors, newspaper, paint shirts or grocery sacks	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Bible Song</b> —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>God Is With Us</b> —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of David from 1 Samuel 17:1-50.	Bible, newspaper, Goliath cups from Option 1	
	<b>He's With Us All the Time</b> —Sing a song and learn that God is with us all the time.	CD player	
<b>Bible Activities</b>	<b>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</b> —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Heart-stone pattern (p. 160), scissors, sandpaper, red paint pen or marker, smooth stone, tape, CD player	
	<b>Sing It Out</b> —Sing a song and learn that God is with us all the time.	CD player	
	<b>Bible Craft</b> —Decorate giant, wearable hearts.	Red construction paper, tape, ribbon, lace, tissue paper, glue sticks, scissors	
	<b>Bible Game</b> —Play an action game and think of times God is with them.		
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Love Hearts</b> —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Clean scissors, flour tortillas, strawberry jam, plastic knives, banana slices, napkins	

\*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: Goliath Topple

**SUPPLIES:** Goliath pattern (p. 160), paper cups, tape, masking tape, scissors



Before class, make photocopies of the Goliath pattern. Cut out the patterns and tape them to paper cups so it appears as if Goliath is standing up. Prepare at least six Goliath cups. You’ll also use the Goliath cups during the Bible story.

Before children arrive, set up the Goliath cups near a wall in a triangle, similar to the way bowling pins are arranged. Make a masking tape line about 4 feet away from the cups. Place the *rubber rock* from the Learning Lab box on the line.

Invite children to take turns rolling the “stone” and knocking over the Goliath cups. Encourage children to set the cups back up for each other. As they play, tell children that in today’s Bible story they’ll learn that God helped David topple a nasty giant named Goliath. Explain that God loves us and wants to be with us. Remind children that ► God is with us, just as God was with David.



Young toddlers often get frustrated waiting for a turn to play. If you choose to do Option 1, you may want to set out extra balls and be sure each child has his or her own Goliath cup.

## ■ Option 2: Stone Painting

**SUPPLIES:** white construction paper, red tempera paint, cake pans, golf ball-sized stones, plastic spoons, scissors, newspaper, paint shirts or grocery sacks

Before class, cut 6-inch hearts from white construction paper. Prepare a paper heart for each child. You’ll also need to collect five golf ball-sized stones for each cake pan you’ll be using.

Cover a table with newspaper, and set out red tempera paint, the paper hearts, cake pans, and stones. Have children put on paint shirts or paper grocery sacks with head and armholes cut out. Place a paper heart in each cake pan. Use a plastic spoon to dip the stones in red tempera paint, and carefully place the stones in the cake pans. Have children gently tip the pans back and forth so the stones roll across the paper hearts making squiggly lines and designs.

As children paint, remind them that David used stones to fight Goliath, and God helped David’s stone hit the giant. Explain that God was with David all the time, just as ► God is with us.

When children have finished painting, put the stones out of reach of children.



Paint and young children can either be the recipe for a huge mess or a great learning experience. Whenever you have children paint, make sure they wear paint smocks or large paint shirts. Little measures (like just putting a little paint in a pie tin for kids to use) can save you from big disasters. Adding some liquid soap to paint makes cleanup easier.

## ■ 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.”



SING

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.

### 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.

## 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.”



SING

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:** Bible, newspaper, Goliath cups from Option 1



Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely to the StoryBoard figures so children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

### Scene 1



Lay the figure of Goliath on the floor. Place the punch-out figures of David, the sheep, and the five stones beside you. You'll also need newspaper and the Goliath cups from Option 1.

Open your Bible to **Joshua 1:9c**, and show children the words. Say: **Our Bible verse tells us that ► God is with us. Today we're going to hear an exciting Bible story about a boy named David who knew that ► God is with us.** Set out the figure of David. **This is David. He was a shepherd**

**boy who loved God very much. David spent his days in the fields watching over his father's sheep.** Set the punch-out sheep beside the figure of David. **David loved the sheep and stayed with them all the time—just as God loves us. Let's say a fun rhyme about David and his sheep.** Say the following finger rhyme one time, and then encourage children to follow along slowly a few times.

**Here is David.** (*Hold up an index finger on one hand.*)

**Here is a sheep.** (*Make a closed fist with your other hand.*)

**They stayed in the fields** (*put your finger and fist together*)—

**Awake and asleep.** (*Blink your eyes, and then pretend to sleep.*)

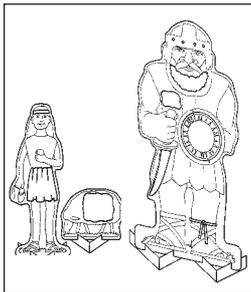
**We can touch David's clothes and pat his sheep.** Let children touch David's headband and robe and then pat the fluffy sheep. When everyone has had a turn, say: **David loved his father, and he loved the sheep. But most of all, David loved God. He loved God more than anything! But there was someone who didn't love God. Let's see who that mean man was.**

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



### 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! And Goliath was growly and mean. Grrr! Let's say a fun rhyme about Goliath.** Lead children in the following action rhyme.

**Tall** (*stretch up tall with your arms in the air*),

**Short** (*bend low to the floor*),

**Or in between** (*stand in your regular stance*)—

**The giant, Goliath, was big and mean!** (*Make a mean, growly face.*)

After repeating the action rhyme a few times, have children sit down and take turns finding and touching the following items on the figure of Goliath:

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

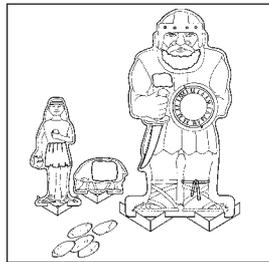
Say: **Goliath didn't love God.** Move the figure of Goliath back and forth as if he's stomping. **Every day Goliath stomped back and forth and shook his sword and yelled mean things about God and about God's people. That made David angry. All of God's people were afraid of Goliath—but David wasn't afraid. David knew that ►God is with us, and he knew God would help him fight Goliath. Do you think David won the fight? Let's find out!**



**Important:** After the Bible Story, put the StoryBoard figures away out of reach of children.



### 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 and cheer for God!** Lead children in a rousing cheer.

**David found five smooth stones in a little stream.**

Hold up the punch-out stones and count them aloud. Then say: **We can make pretend stones.** Hand each child a sheet of newspaper, and have children crumple the papers to make "stones." **Let's count our stones.** Count the stones aloud in groups of five. Then line up the Goliath cups from Option 1.

**David put a stone in his sling and walked up to Goliath. David threw the stone and hit Goliath. Bonk! It hit him in the forehead! Goliath fell facedown on the ground.** Tip the figure of Goliath over face-first. **Let's toss our paper stones at the Goliath cups. We'll see if we can topple them like David toppled Goliath!** Let children toss their paper stones at the cups and continue tossing until each cup is toppled. **That was fun! But it's really fun to know that ►God is with us.**

**David learned that no one is bigger or stronger than God. And he also learned that ►God is with us because he loves us! Let's toss our paper stones in the wastebasket and then sing a song to remind us that God is with us.**

## ■ He's With Us All the Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing “He’s With Us All the Time” to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



**David was a shepherd boy** (motion with one hand as if you’re measuring a child’s height)

**Who watched his father’s sheep with joy.** (Pat a pretend sheep.)

**He followed God in every way.** (Raise your arms up and then out to the sides.)

**God was with him every day.** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

**Our God is with us.** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

**Our God is with us.** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

**Our God is with us.** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

**He’s with us all the time.** (Raise your arms up and then out to the sides.)

**David faced the giant tall** (pretend to look up at a giant)

**He trusted God, though he was small.** (Point upward.)

**God helped David win that day.** (Shake a “victory” fist in the air.)

**Just like David, we can say** (nod head):

**Our God is with us.** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

**Our God is with us.** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

**Our God is with us.** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

**He’s with us all the time.** (Raise your arms up and then out to the sides.)

Say: **Isn’t it great that God loves us enough to be with us all the time? Even as David gathered the stones to fight Goliath, God was with David and helping him. Let’s put some unusual stones on our bulletin board.**

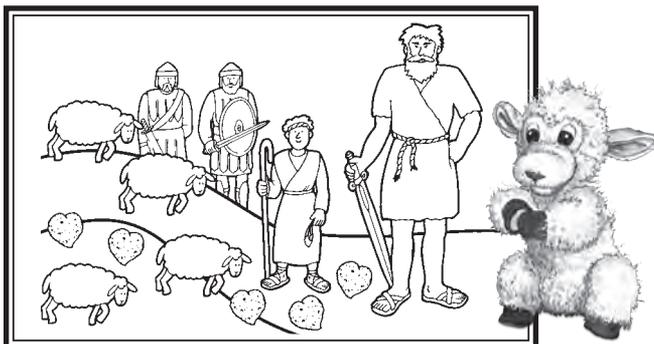
## Bible Activities

### ■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: heart-stone pattern (p. 160), scissors, sandpaper, red paint pen or marker, smooth stone, tape, CD player



Before class, use the heart-stone pattern as a guide to cut a sandpaper heart-stone for each child. Then make a heart-stone for Cuddles by using a red paint pen or marker to draw a heart on a smooth stone. Tape the heart-stone on Cuddles’ paw.





*Bring out Cuddles the Lamb. Go through the following puppet script, and then put Cuddles away out of sight.*

**Cuddles:** *(Carrying the heart-stone)* Guess what I have, everybody!

**Teacher:** Can you give us a clue, Cuddles?

**Cuddles:** Well, it's smooth and hard and has the pretty color red painted on it. And it was something David threw at Goliath.

**Teacher:** Children, what did David toss at Goliath? *(Lead children in telling Cuddles that David threw a stone at Goliath.)* Do you have a red stone, Cuddles?

**Cuddles:** *(Holding up his heart-stone)* Well, it's a stone with a red heart painted on it. Do you like it?

**Teacher:** It's very pretty. We know that a heart is a symbol of love and that God loves us very much. In fact, God loves us and wants to be with us all the time.

**Cuddles:** God was with David when he tossed that stone at mean ol' Goliath!

**Teacher:** Right! ► *God is with us* all the time. Today we're going to put heart-shaped stones on the bulletin board to remind us that God loves us and is with us. Do you want to help, Cuddles?

**Cuddles:** I'd like that!

*Have Cuddles hand out the stones. Help each child place his or her stone on the bulletin board near the picture of David. Each time a child places a sandpaper stone, lead him or her in repeating the Bible Point. If there's time, let children count the stones and sheep.*

**Teacher:** David loved God with all his heart. And to show his love, David sometimes played a harp and sang. Let's listen to some harp music.

*Play the "Harp Music" segment on the CD (track 12). When the music ends, turn off the CD player.*

David made music to thank God for his love. We can sing a song to thank God for his love, too.

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## Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing “He’s With Us All the Time” to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



**David was a shepherd boy** (motion with one hand as if you’re measuring a child’s height)

**Who watched his father’s sheep with joy.** (Pat a pretend sheep.)

**He followed God in every way.** (Raise your arms up and then out to the sides.)

**God was with him every day** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

**Our God is with us.** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

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**He’s with us all the time.** (Raise your arms up and then out to the sides.)

**David faced the giant tall** (pretend to look up at a giant)

**He trusted God, though he was small.** (Point upward.)

**God helped David win that day.** (Shake a “victory” fist in the air.)

**Just like David, we can say** (nod head):

**Our God is with us.** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

**Our God is with us.** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

**Our God is with us.** (Point upward and then to yourself.)

**He’s with us all the time.** (Raise your arms up and then out to the sides.)

Say: **David was much smaller than Goliath, the giant. But David’s love for God was giant-size! Let’s make giant-size, wearable hearts to show how much we love God.**

## Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: red construction paper, tape, ribbon, lace, tissue paper, glue sticks, scissors

Before class, cut out large hearts from 9x12-inch sheets of red construction paper. You’ll need a paper heart for each child.

Set out glue sticks and bits of ribbon, lace, and tissue paper. Hand each child a giant paper heart to decorate. As children work, tell them that David was a man after God’s own heart. Explain that God loved David very much and that David loved God, too. Remind children that ► *God is with us* because he loves us.

When children have finished decorating their giant hearts, tape the hearts to the children’s clothing. Say: **My! You all have giant-sized hearts! I can tell you all love God very much.**



## ■ Bible Game

*SUPPLIES: none*



Before class, remove the *ice cream cone bubbles* from the Learning Lab and set it out of the children's reach until this activity.

Say: **I'm thankful that ► God is with us! God is with us when we wake up in the morning, when we go to the store, when we go to church, and when we're eating dinner at home! I'm going to blow some bubbles, and let's think of times that we know God is with us. When you pop a bubble, call out a time that ► God is with us.**

Begin to blow bubbles. Encourage the children to chase and pop the bubbles. As they do, let children call out daily activities that they encounter. For example, eating breakfast, going to the grocery store, going to the doctor, picking up their toys, and playing with their friends. You might need to walk around the room to ensure that each child has a chance to pop some bubbles.

Say: **Wow! We just popped a lot of bubbles! And we also thought of lots of times that ► God is with us!**

**All that bubble popping has made me hungry. Let's tiptoe to the snack table for a special treat.**



## Closing

### ■ Love Hearts

*SUPPLIES: clean scissors, flour tortillas, strawberry jam, plastic knives, banana slices, napkins*

Before class, make heart-shaped flour tortillas. Fold the tortillas in half, and cut out a heart shape with clean scissors. Prepare a heart-shaped tortilla for each child.

Have children wash their hands, and then gather everyone at the snack table.

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



Say: **We've been learning that ► God is with us. And we know that God stays with us because he loves us. God's love for us is so great that he sent Jesus to be our forever friend. Let's pray and thank God for his love. Put your hands on your big paper hearts. Pray: Dear God, thank you for your love and for sending your Son, Jesus, to be our friend. We love you, too. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Then say: **Now let's make some yummy heart-shaped treats to nibble.** Set out strawberry jam, sliced bananas, and plastic knives. Hand each child a napkin with a heart-shaped tortilla. Have children spread jam on their tortillas, and then add several banana slices. Show children how to fold their tortillas in half to prevent the banana slices from falling off.

When children have finished their treats, have them throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Remind children to take home their stone paintings from Option 2.



## 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.

### ■ *Rhymin' Time*

Lead children in the following action rhyme to remind them that just as David was with his sheep day and night, ► *God is with us* all the time, too.

**Here is David.** (*Hold up an index finger on one hand.*)

**Here is a sheep.** (*Make a closed fist with your other hand.*)

**They stayed in the fields** (*put your finger and fist together*)—

**Awake and asleep.** (*Blink your eyes, and then pretend to sleep.*)

**David cared** (*hold up an index finger on one hand*)

**For every sheep.** (*Make a closed fist with your other hand.*)

**He cared for them** (*put your finger and fist together*)—

**Awake and asleep.** (*Blink your eyes, and then pretend to sleep.*)

**David loved** (*hold up an index finger on one hand*)

**His little sheep.** (*Make a closed fist with your other hand.*)

**He loved them all** (*put your finger and fist together*)—

**Awake and asleep.** (*Blink your eyes, and then pretend to sleep.*)

### ■ *Heart Toss*

Tape large and small construction paper hearts on the floor. Let children toss beanbags or paper wads at the hearts. When a beanbag lands on a paper heart, have all the children clap and say, “We love God!”

As a variation, hide the paper hearts around the room and let children go on a heart safari!

# Patterns

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

