

Bible Point

God Is With Us

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will ■ learn how David defeated Goliath,
 ■ understand that God is with us all the time, and
 ■ express their thanks for God's love and protection.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ I'm thankful that God is with us.

**1 Samuel
17:1-50**



As David approached Goliath, he knew who was on his side. The armies of Israel made no difference to him. He went before Goliath “in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel” (1 Samuel 17:45). In the face of Goliath, David announced that God would help him slay the giant and defeat the Philistines.

He went on to say, “The whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord’s battle, and he will give you to us!” (1 Samuel 17:46b-47). In essence, David was giving God the credit for the victory and expressing his gratefulness and confidence in God before he even went into battle!

How often we fail to acknowledge God even after he’s done great things for us. We need to be more like David in this passage, expressing our thanks to God that he’s always with us and that we can always depend on him.

Prayer

- Read Psalm 100.
- Think for a moment about all the ways God demonstrates his presence in your life.
- How can you thank him for all he’s done?
- Pray: Lord, thank you for being with me always. Help even my little toddlers to be grateful for your presence in...

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: String-Strum —Make pretend harps to play.	Harp pattern (p. 172), sturdy paper plates, rubber bands, tape, glue sticks, markers, scissors	
	Option 2: Scrub-a-Dub —Wash and polish pretty stones.	Wash tub, water, large stones and rocks, towels, magnifying glass, newspaper	
	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, and then play a fun game.	CD player, sling from Lesson 10	
	He's With Us All the Time —Sing a song and learn that God is with us all the time.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Happy faces patterns (p. 172), tape, scissors, yellow paper	
	Sing It Out —Sing a song and learn that God is with us all the time.	Bible, CD player	
	Bible Craft —Make shiny shields.	Aluminum pie plates, duct tape, colored vinyl tape, construction paper scraps, scissors	
	Bible Game —Play an exciting game tossing paper “stones” at shields.	Newspaper, shields from Bible Craft	
Closing 	Smile-a-Mile —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Rice cakes, spreadable cream cheese, mini chocolate chips, tube of red icing, napkins, plastic knife	

*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.

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.



■ Option 1: String-Strum

SUPPLIES: harp pattern (p. 172), sturdy paper plates, rubber bands, tape, glue sticks, markers, scissors

Before class, photocopy the harp pattern. Cut out a paper harp for each child. Cut four small slits into the top and bottom of a paper plate for each child. Also make sure you have at least two medium-sized rubber bands for each child.

Set out the paper plates, glue sticks, markers, and paper harps. As children arrive, invite them to make musical instruments called harps. Let children glue the paper harps to the centers of the paper plates, and have children use markers to decorate their “harps.” When children finish, stretch two rubber bands across each paper plate. Fit each rubber band into a slit at the top and bottom of each plate. Keep a close eye on children to make sure they don’t put rubber bands into their mouths. Tape the rubber bands in place on the backs of the paper plates.

As children work, mention that David played the harp to express his love for God. Let children strum their harps and express their thanks for God.



teacher tips

Always be sure to supervise children when they play near water.

■ Option 2: Scrub-a-Dub

SUPPLIES: washtub, water, large stones and rocks, towels, magnifying glass, newspaper

Before class, collect a variety of large stones and rocks in different shapes, sizes, and colors. Be sure each stone or rock is larger than a 50-cent piece to avoid choking hazards.

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out a magnifying glass, stones and rocks, soft towels, and a washtub or dishpan partially filled with water. As children arrive, invite them to each choose a stone or rock to wash in the washtub. Show children how to polish the stones or rocks with towels to make them shine. When children have finished polishing, encourage them to explore the texture of the stones or rocks by feeling them and looking at them with a magnifying glass.

Point out that God was with David when he chose the five smooth stones to fight Goliath. Remind children that ► God is with us all the time, too.

teacher tips

Model Christ’s love to your students by bending down to their level when you listen or speak to them. Be sure to make eye contact, hold a hand, pat a shoulder, and say each child’s name sometime during the class. Take a few moments to find out how each child is feeling before directing him or her to the Arrival Activities.

■ 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.

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: CD player, sling from Lesson 10



Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely to the StoryBoard figures so the 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 sling 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 we'll learn that ►God is with us.** Hold up the figure of David. **This is David. Let's tell David "hello."** Pass the figure of David to each child. Encourage children to touch David's robe and headband as they say, "Hello, David."

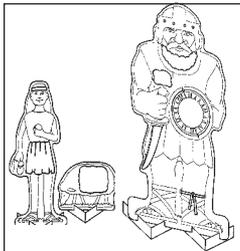


David was a shepherd boy who loved God. David had seven brothers, but he was the youngest and smallest. Even though David was small, he had a big love for God. David shared his love for God by playing the harp. Let's pretend to play harps like David. Show children how to make strumming motions. Then turn on the CD player and encourage children to keep strumming as they listen to the "Harp Music" segment (track 12).

Turn off the CD player. Say: **My! You played the harp so nicely. What a good way to show God we love him.**

Set out the punch-out sheep. Say: **David spent his time watching the sheep in his father's field. We can pat one of David's sheep.** Let each child touch the fluffy sheep. **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.**

Scene 2



Place the figure of Goliath in front of the children. Say: **Oh, look at this giant guy! His name is Goliath. Let's say that together: Go-li-ath. We can stand up big and tall like Goliath and pretend to be giants. Can you take giant steps around the room?** Lead the children in a parade once around the room, taking giant steps. Then have children sit by the figure of Goliath.

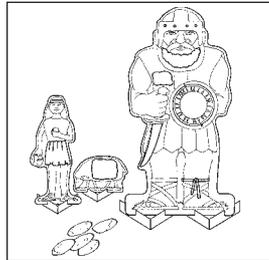
Goliath was very big, and he was growly mean. Show me a growly face. Pause for children to respond. **We can find things to touch on Goliath.** Have children find and touch one or more of the following items on the figure of Goliath:

- 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's people. That made David angry. David wanted to stop Goliath, but David wasn't big—he was 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 Tall game a few times. Then say: **Now let's hear how God used David to stop nasty ol' Goliath.**

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. David picked up five smooth stones. We can count pretend stones.** Scatter the five punch-out stones on the floor near you, and let children pick them up. Help children count the stones aloud a few times. You may have to re-scatter the stones so each child has a chance to pick up a stone.

David put a stone in his sling and walked up to Goliath. Hold the figure of David in front of the figure of Goliath as if David is talking. **"Goliath, you think you're big, but God is bigger than you! ►God is with us, and he will win this fight!"**

David threw the stone at Goliath, and guess what happened? (Tip the figure of Goliath over face-first.) **Goliath fell on the ground! We can topple Goliath like David did.** Let each child have a turn swinging the sling and knocking over the figure of Goliath.

God helped David win the battle! 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.**

When I remember that ►God is with us all the time, it makes me very happy! It even makes me want to clap my hands! Invite the children to clap their hands together. **It makes me want to say "Yea!"** Invite the children to cheer with you. **It even makes me want to fly like a butterfly!** Have the children flap their arms and dance around the room. **Let's play a game that will remind us that ►God is with us all the time!**

Sit in a circle with the class. Use the *plush butterfly* from the Learning Lab to help you lead a game. Flap your arms like a butterfly as you walk around the circle and tap each child on the shoulder with the *plush butterfly* as you walk by, like Duck Duck Goose. Choose one child, and stop behind him or her. Call out "God is with us!" Then hand that child the *plush butterfly* and sit in his or her spot in the circle. That child will then be It and will "fly" around the circle tapping the butterfly on other children's shoulders. Continue until every child has had a chance to be It.

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

• **How does it make you feel to know that God is with you?** (Happy; I want to clap; good.)

• **When are times that God is with you?** (At church; at home; everywhere.)

Say: **When I remember that ►God is with us, it makes me so happy I could fly! David knew that ►God is with us and keeps us safe. Let's sing a special song to remind us that God is always with us.**



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►



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



BIBLE POINT ►

■ 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.



SING

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.*)

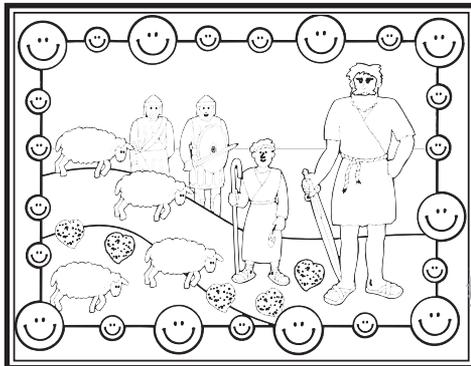
Say: **David wasn’t afraid of Goliath because David knew that God is with us. He knew that God loves us and wants to keep us safe. And David knew that no one is bigger or stronger than God! Let’s see what big and small things we can find on the bulletin board.**



Bible Activities

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: happy faces patterns (p. 172), tape, scissors, yellow paper



Before class, photocopy the happy faces patterns onto yellow paper. Cut out a large and small paper face for each child.



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

Cuddles: Hello, everyone! Look at all the smiles I see! Why are you all so happy?

Teacher: Well, Cuddles, we're happy because we've been learning that ► God is with us.

Cuddles: That is something to be happy about! I don't think that ol' giant was happy, though.

Teacher: No, Cuddles. Goliath was mean and didn't love God. But David loved God, right children?

Cuddles: *(Speaking to the children)* Do you think David had a happy smile? *(Lead children in saying "yes!")*

Teacher: We're going to put big smiles and small smiles on the bulletin board, Cuddles, and you can help.

Cuddles: Oh, boy! I'm good at smiles!

Have Cuddles spread out the happy faces on the floor, and let each child choose a big happy face and a small happy face. If there's time, play a quick game of "Big and Small" by calling out the word big and having children hold up the larger happy faces. Then call out the word small, and have children hold up the smaller faces. Tape the happy faces around the edges of the bulletin board. Each time a child places a happy face, lead him or her in repeating the Bible Point.

Teacher: It makes us happy to know that ► God is with us. We'll sing a happy song to thank God for being with us all the time.

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

BIBLE VERSE ►



Open your Bible to **Joshua 1:9c**, and show children today's Bible verse: ► **God is with us.** Have them repeat the adapted Bible verse with you.

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.

**SING**

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: **David knew that ►God is with us and keeps us safe. Let's make safety shields to remind us that God protects us.**



■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: aluminum pie plates, duct tape, colored vinyl tape, construction paper scraps, scissors

Set out construction paper scraps and silver duct and colored vinyl tape. Hand each child a disposable aluminum pie plate. Help children place a double strip of duct tape across the backs of the plates as handles for the shields. Then let children decorate the fronts of their shields by using the colored vinyl tape to attach bits of construction paper. As children work, make comments such as "I'm glad that God keeps us safe" and "God keeps us safe because he loves us."

When the children have finished their shields, say: **In David's time, soldiers used shields to protect themselves. But God protects us way better than a shield, because ►God is with us all the time! Let's use our shields to play an exciting game.**



■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: newspaper, shields from Bible Craft

Hand each child a sheet of newspaper, and have children crumple their papers into "stones." Tell the children to place their shields on the floor, and have the children take five giant "Goliath steps" away from the shields.

Count to 5, and let children toss their paper stones at the shields. If a stone hits a shield, lead the children in clapping and repeating the Bible Point. Then gather the paper wads, and play again.


BIBLE POINT ▶

After you've tossed the paper stones a few times, say: **I'm thankful that ▶ God is with us. Now let's see if we can toss our paper stones into the wastebasket.** Pause for children to respond. Then say: **Whew! That was hard work! I think after all that work, we need a delicious snack.**


Closing
Smile-a-Mile

SUPPLIES: rice cakes, spreadable cream cheese, mini chocolate chips, tube of red icing, napkins, plastic knife

Before class, spread cream cheese on a rice cake for each child.

Help children wash their hands, and then gather them at the snack table.

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



Say: **We've been learning that ▶ God is with us. God is with us because he loves us. That's why he sent Jesus to be our forever friend. It makes us thankful to know that God is here loving us all the time. Let's tell God how thankful we are for his love. Fold your hands. Pray: Dear God, thank you for your great love. Thank you for always being with us. We love you, too. In Jesus' name, amen.**


BIBLE POINT ▶

Since we're so thankful that ▶ God is with us, let's make happy faces on our snacks.

Hand each child a napkin with a rice cake covered with cream cheese, and set out the mini chocolate chips. Show children how to place mini chocolate chip eyes and noses on their cookies. Then use the tube of red icing to add a smile to each of the snacks.

When children have finished eating their treats, have them throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Remind children to take home their shiny shields as well as their harps if they did Option 1.



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.

■ Stone Necklaces

Set out cereal loops and 14-inch lengths of yarn or string. Let each child string five “stones” on his or her piece of yarn. Remind children that David used stones to fight Goliath. Then help children tie their pieces of yarn into loops to make nifty necklaces to wear. Provide extra cereal for snacking, and retell the story of David and Goliath as children munch pretend stones.



■ Sing-a-Ling

Without using the CD, lead the children in singing “He’s With Us All the Time” (adapted from Joshua 1:9c) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



SING

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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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.*)

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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.*)

Patterns

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

