I'm Thankful That God Is With Us • May 23-24

Bible Point: **God Is With Us**

Parent Bible Basis

■ I'm thankful that God is with us.

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…

Pray for the children in your family and for God's direction to help you prepare to teach the lesson.
Before starting Lesson gather all SUPPLIES

■ Bible Craft – *David's Shield*

SUPPLIES: *aluminum pie plates, duct tape, colored vinyl tape, construction paper scraps, scissors*
DIRECTIONS AT END OF LESSON

Bible Song – Supplies - Bible

Say: Who does Jesus love? (Pause) How do we know that? (Pause) The Bible tells us.
Show children the Bible. Say: The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let's sing a song about the Bible. Sing "God's Special Book" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Tell children that in today's Bible story they'll learn that God helped David topple a nasty giant named Goliath.

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!

Additional Song Options: Jesus Loves Me, The B-I-B-L-E
You can Sing Along with DBCC Children's Song Video

Bible Story: *God Is With Us*

SUPPLIES: *David and Goliath figures from Lesson 10.*
Place Goliath and of David figures, the sheep, and the five stones and sling beside you. Make a butterfly fron tissue paper and chenille stem.

Scene 1 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." Encourage child to say, "Hello, David." Say: 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 the harp that was made as a craft last week. Show children how to make strumming motions.

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

Set out the sheep (or cotton ball). Say: David spent his time watching the sheep in his father's field. 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 child.

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 child in a parade once around the room, taking giant steps. Then have child sit by the figure of Goliath.

Goliath was very big, and he was growly mean. Show me a growly face. Pause for child to respond.

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 child 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 stones on the floor near you. Help child count the stones aloud a few times.

Say: 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.

Say: 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 makes me want to say "Yea!" Invite the child to cheer with you. It even makes me want to fly like a butterfly! Let's play a game that will remind us that *God is with us* all the time!

Sit in a circle with the child(ren). Use the *butterfly* 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 *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 *butterfly* and sit in his or her spot in the circle. Continue until each 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.

■ *He's With Us All the Time*

SUPPLIES: *Lead child in singing "He's With Us All the Time" to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me."*

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!

Bible Game

SUPPLIES: *newspaper (or scrap paper), shields from Bible Craft*

Hand children papers crumpled into "stones." Place their shields on the floor, and have 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 repeating the Bible Point.

After you've tossed the paper stones, say: I'm thankful that *God is with us.* Then toss paper stones into the wastebasket. Then say: Whew! That was hard work! I think after all that work, we need a delicious snack.

Snack - Smile-a-Mile

SUPPLIES: rice cakes, spreadable cream cheese, mini chocolate chips, tube of red icing, napkins, plastic knife
Say: Who is with us all the time? (God.) 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. **HAVE CHILD(REN) PRAY – may need prompting** Pray: Dear God, thank you for your great love. Thank you for always being with us. We love you, too. In Jesus' name, amen.
Then say: Since we're so thankful that *God is with us,* let's make happy faces on our snacks. Hand each child rice cake, spread cream cheese on a rice cake OR help child spread the cream cheese, and set out the mini chocolate chips. Show child 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.

Craft - David's Shield : *aluminum pie plates, duct tape, clear packing tape, construction paper scraps*

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

David Slays Goliath – Print on Card Stock, color, cut on dotted lines, insert strip to move 'stone' to slay Goliath.