

God knows me and loves me

Psalm 139:1-5

Faith formation for twos

Session 1 introduced the concept that God knows (or “sees”) what happens in dark, secret places such as the womb. Today’s session expands on the idea that God is with us wherever we go and knows whatever we do. Even when the children hide, they are found.

The “Hide and seek” game is really about finding the one who is briefly not seen, and not about staying hidden. Although just a game in this session, it sets the stage for later understanding that God can always find us. As infants learn a person or object still exists even when the infant cannot see it, children learn that God exists even if they cannot see God.

Preparation

- Place a bookmark in your Bible at Psalm 139.
- Practice telling the Bible story using the blanket.
- Prepare a healthy snack.
- Prepare the activity card: cut slit on solid line in center of hands.
- Gather materials for Responsive play.

Environment for twos

Twos cannot wait. It is important to have all your supplies ready before the session begins, so you don’t need to get things ready when the children are present. Cover an activity with a cloth, if you don’t want twos to explore it right away. If they must wait for some reason, always provide them with a novel activity to do. A simple loop of masking tape, a new book or card will draw their attention for a few minutes while you attend to an unplanned clean-up or care of a child.

FAITH FOCUS

God loves us, and we love God.

AT A GLANCE

Gather

- Welcome
- Snack or “Hide and seek” game
- Song (“Hosanna, Jesus loves . . .”)

Share the Bible story

- Chant (“God loves . . .”)
- Song with the Bible (“Jesus loves me”)
- Story (Psalm 139:1-5)
- Praise prayer on blanket
- Action rhyme (“And God sees me!”)
- Activity card: “In God’s hands”

Responsive play

Sending

SUPPLIES

- *Wee Wonder* CD
- CD player
- Bible
- Snack
- For “Hide and seek”
Gather option: blanket
- For telling story: blanket large enough for group to sit on
- For activity card: children’s photos on craft sticks
- Responsive play materials (see p. 130)

MODULE 6 THEME SONG

Hosanna, Jesus loves . . .

Hosanna, Jesus loves ____,
Yes he does, yes he does.
Hosanna, Jesus loves ____,
Yes he does, yes he does.
Hosanna, Jesus loves ____,
Yes he does, yes he does,
And he wants ____ to love
him too.



track 6



track 1

Gather

1. Welcome children by name. Invite them to join your gathering activity.
2. Choose one of these options for children to do as they enter the room:
Option 1: Snack. If you do not offer snack right now, plan to serve it just *before* Responsive play.
Option 2: "Hide and seek" game—Play "hide and seek" with the children as they arrive. Spread out the Bible story blanket for children to hide under, as well.
3. When you are ready to tell the story, sing "Hosanna, Jesus loves . . ." from the *Wee Wonder* CD. Sing each child's name as you gather for the Bible story. You may choose to sing one name for each line, or one name for the whole verse.

Share the Bible story

1. Say the following phrases, using the ASL sign for "love" each time you say the word. Point to yourself on "me" and to the children on "you."
God loves me, and God loves you.
God made me, and God made you.
2. Sing "Jesus loves me" along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. As you sing, make the ASL sign for "love" and the ASL sign for "Jesus." (*See words to the song on p. 271.*)
**Jesus loves me, this I know
for the Bible tells me so . . .**
Hold up the Bible, with today's story marked. Say,
"This is the Bible."
Open the Bible to the story and point to the words.
"Here is the story."
Carefully set the open Bible to the side.
3. Share the Bible story.
Props: blanket
Set the scene: Stand up, holding the blanket.
Tell the story.
4. Place the blanket on the floor. Invite children to lie down together on the blanket. Pray:
I praise you, God! (stretch arms in air)
God, you see me! (hug self)
God, you love me. Amen. (make ASL sign for "love")
5. Act out this action rhyme together, then carefully place the blanket in the Tell-It-Again box.
I sit down, on the ground. And God sees me! (sit on blanket and hug self)
I stand up tall, by the wall. And God sees me! (stand tall on blanket and hug self)
I lie in my bed and rest my head. And God sees me! (lie down on blanket and hug self)

BIBLE STORY: Psalm 139:1-5

God knows you. (*Stand with blanket in your arms.*)

God knows when you sit. (*Sit on blanket.*)

God knows when you lie down. (*Lie down on blanket.*)

God knows when you stand. (*Stand on blanket.*)

God knows what you think. (*Touch middle of forehead.*)

God knows what you are going to say before you say it. (*Touch mouth.*)

God is all around you. (*Wrap blanket around you.*)

You are in God's hands. (*Open hands, palms up, with blanket wrapped around you.*)

6. Activity card: "In God's hands." Give each child an activity card and the craft stick with his/her own photo. Show how to place the photo figure in the slit in the hands. Say:

" (Name) is in God's hands. God loves (name)."

Return the photo figures to their container.



Offer snack now, if you did not at the beginning of the session.

Responsive play (See p. 130.)

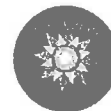
Using the suggestions, set up areas for "free play" around the room. After Share the Bible story provide ample time for children to play alone or with others in the areas they choose.

Sending

As each child leaves, kneel at the child's level. Offer a hug for the child to accept or refuse. Say:

" (Name), God loves you so much."

Option: Sing "Holding hands together" from the *Wee Wonder* CD, while holding hands.



track 13

Responsive play

CONNECT

Set out baby dolls and housekeeping items for children to act out loving family relationships.

Faith Link: "We love people in our family."

Supplies: baby dolls, baby blankets, child-sized dishes, child-sized cleaning tools, sturdy crate

Tip: Be mindful of the different types of families of which children are a part. Families can look very different.

BUILD

Set out soft blocks for building, along with various hearts and heart shapes.

Faith Link: "God made you. You can use your whole body to build."

Supplies: soft blocks (see *module introduction*, p. 121, for options), heart-shaped sponges, heart-shaped boxes, hearts cut from paper or cardboard

Tip: Expand the children's way of building. Ask, "Can you sit and build? Can you stand and build? Can you lie down and build?"

TELL-IT-AGAIN

Set out the day's story items for children to retell the story in their own way.

Storytelling item: blanket

EXPLORE

Add small towels or pieces of cloth to the various self-exploration materials, children's photos, and fetal ultrasound images.

Faith Link: "God sees you wherever you are."

Supplies: small towels or pieces of cloth, various sizes of mirrors, magnifying glasses, photos of the children, fetal ultrasound images

Tip: When children run out of their own ideas, model a new idea or ask them a question such as, "Could you cover (*hide*) part of your arm?"

CREATE

Trace each child's handprint inside a large heart shape cut from paper. Child may color handprint if interested. Write on the large heart, "God loves (name)."

Faith Link: "God loves you, (name)."

Supplies: large hearts cut from paper, crayons

Tip: Talk about God being all around you.

READ

Read about God's deep love.

God Knows All About Me by Kate Toms

God Loves Me by Daphna Flegal

God Loves Me More than That by Dandi Daley Mackall