

Lesson Plan

5th Sunday

September 28th, 2025

This Month's Truth: I Am Known

Bible Story: Jerusalem's wall was rebuilt (Nehemiah 1–6)

Theme Verse: Humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7b)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day! Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus!

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, thanking God for the team and inviting Him to work in big ways in the hearts of kids today.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use either one of these options as kids arrive for the morning to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Option # 1: Hopscotch Mania

What To Do: I am so glad you are here today, and I cannot wait to have some fun together! Let's get started by playing a fun game called "Hopscotch Mania." What's it called? (Hopscotch Mania!) You got it. Hopscotch is a fun game where you hop on one foot for one square of the pattern on the floor, and then both feet for two squares side by side. (Demonstrate.) I am going to place you in teams, and players will hop down the hopscotch line one at a time while the rest of the team cheers! If you are ready to play, let me hear you say, "I'm ready!" (I'm ready!)

Connect It: That was awesome! You all are really good at working together and cheering each other on. As we continue today, let's look for ways that we can continue to build each other up and cheer each other on!

Option # 2: Alphabet Toss

Community Big Kids

What To Do: Let's play a game called "Alphabet Toss!" Alphabet what? (Toss!) We are going to take this playground ball and toss it around in a circle. Sounds simple enough, right? But we are going to add a twist! Say, "Ooo, a twist!" (Ooo, a twist!) The first person with the playground ball will say his name and a food that starts with the letter of his name, and then toss the ball to the next player. He might say, "My name is Judah, and I like jelly donuts." The next person will take the ball, say her name and a food item with the same letter of the alphabet as her name, and then toss the ball to the next player. If you think you can do it, say "We can do it!" (We can do it!) Let's get started!

Keep It Going: Challenge the kids to repeat the phrase of the player who goes before them each time. Allow kids to play the game with two teams, but saying the letter order of foods, and racing to see which team can finish the alphabet first. If desired, try to run the alphabet backward!

Connect It: Wow! What a fun game! You all did great naming different things! It was so fun seeing you all build connections with others as you worked together to name different foods. Let's keep it going today and look for ways we can cheer on our friends!

Option # 3: Community Kids Poster

What To Do: Have you ever had something with your name on it, like a name tag or poster? Posters are fun ways to make someone feel special. Well today, we are going to make a fun and unique poster not for a person, but for our whole group! We already have Community Kids written on our big poster, but we are going to spend the next few minutes adding some of our favorite things to it. Let's all grab some crayons or markers and draw three of your favorite things on our banner. How many things are you drawing? (Three!) That's right! When we are all finished, our church poster will be full of things that we all like! If you are ready to get started, let me hear you say, "I'm ready!" (I'm ready!)

Leader Tip: Assist younger kids in coming up with ideas or ways they can draw out their favorite things.

Connect It: Wow! Look at this awesome poster for us! It is so fun to work on a project together. Do you see how different all the favorite things are? (Point out a few items on the poster.) Each of us brings something special to our church. I'm excited to continue to learn as a group that God knows us!

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time**. The Countdown Video is meant to be played as a signal to transition to Large Group. The video is fun and interactive with opportunities for the kids to respond and cheer. Help kids engage and interact with the video by calling out what's happening, asking for their guesses, and cheering with them.

Teacher Opener: Hello, everyone! I am _____, and I am so excited today! Ask, "Why?" (Why?) I am glad you asked! I am excited because we are going to discover some amazing things today, like the truth that we are known by God! Put your pointer finger in the air and show your best excited face as you say, "Aha!" in 3-2-1! (Aha!) Aha! I think we are ready for discovery!

Penguin Races

What To Do: Today, we are going to play a game called "Penguin Races". First we are going to split into two groups. To play this game we are going to use balloons and put them in between our knees. We are going to race one another with our teams. We are going to go from this side of the room to the other (identify clear points for the kids to race to and from). So, one person will put the balloon in between their knees and race down and back, then give the balloon to the next person on your team.

Leader Tip: Be cautious of kids that have latex allergies.

Keep It Going: Change up the teams for new kids to play with one another. Even try changing the distance of how far they have to go, either shorter or longer.

Loud And Clear: That was such a fun game! I loved watching you all try to run with the balloon in between your knees.. Was it difficult to move with the balloon in between your knees? It can be hard to play a game like this. But we never have to worry about things being too hard for God when it comes to our lives and situations. God knows us, meaning He knows our situations too! He cares for us, and He knows exactly what we need.

Worship

What You Say: Let's all stand up and worship together this evening! Come join me up front!

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2-3 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

Bible Story Video

Transition script Teachers please use this to set-up the Bible Story and to encourage the use of Bibles in the classroom with the Kids: (Open the Bible to Nehemiah 1–6.) We are going learn a Bible story from the book of Nehemiah (nee huh MIGH uh). Say, "Nehemiah!" (Nehemiah!) Nehemiah is a book in the Old Testament, which is the first part of the Bible. We will see that God will help His people know that He knows them, and He knows every situation. If you are ready for our Bible story, say, "I'm ready!" (I'm ready!)

What To Do:

- Play the Bible Story
- When it's over, turn lights back on and ask what the Bible story was about (as well as the questions below), have kids respond, take some answers from the **small group leaders** and share some yours as well, use the script below to help make the connection for the kids.

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
 - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection Script: That was a difficult situation! Nehemiah asked God for help, and God provided for him! Nehemiah had to do some bold things and even found himself in scary situations, but God was with him and helped him. In the end, Nehemiah was able to help rebuild the walls around Jerusalem! God knew what was happening and what was needed because God knows every situation. Say, "God knows every situation!" (God knows every

situation!) This was a huge victory in Nehemiah's life, but this victory came from some hard situations. God knows every situation because He is the One who created everything and everyone.

Play Three Circles Video:

What You Say: This does not mean that every situation will be good and wonderful. But we can know that, no matter what is happening, God is with us. He loves us, guides us, and helps us follow Him in every situation and circumstance. Look at your neighbor, and say, "God knows every situation" (God knows every situation!) If you have questions or are interested in talking to someone about what it means to follow Jesus and have this relationship with God, please talk to me or one of your leaders.

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: We have discovered so much today! Say, "Aha!" (Aha!) How great to discover that God knows us, even when we walk through really hard and confusing situations. We can trust and know that God is with us and that He cares for our needs. Repeat after me: "I am known!" (I am known!) "God knows every situation!" (God knows every situation!) Let's pray and talk to God in 3-2-1.

Closing Prayer: God, we love You and are so grateful for how much You love us. Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin situation. Help us remember the truth that we are known by You and that You are with us in each and every situation. Amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Scavenger Hunt

Leader Prep: There will be Theme Verse and Fall items posted around in prep for this activity. You will not have to put anything around the room, just play the game!

Community Big Kids

What To Do: We're going to play a game today that involves finding our Theme Verse around the room. We're going to go on a scavenger hunt. (You can do this individually or as a group.) We have papers here to show what we are looking for and a box to check off when you find it. Now let's go look around for the items on our list!

Keep It Going: Now that we found our Theme Verse pictures, we are going to look for items on a different list. We are going to look around the room for Fall items. Let's do it!

Loud and Clear: That was such a fun time. I loved searching around the room with you all for our Theme Verse and Fall items. Let's keep going and having fun today!

Option #2: Animal Charades

What To Do: We are going to play a game all together called Charades. Does everyone know how to play? (Allow responses)

We are going to be playing animal charades. You will pull a paper out and read (not out loud) what animal is on the paper and then act out what that animal does. You cannot make any noises while you act it out. We will guess the animal until we get it right. Does everyone understand? Alright let's play!

Loud and Clear: That was such a fun game being able to act out all those animals. I hope you all had fun being silly as different animals. Let's play another game!

Option #3: Verse Toss

Kids will toss a ball into a cup after saying the verse to acquire points for their team. The Theme Verse will have words missing as the kids continue to play. Until the last person has to say the whole Theme Verse without help.

Leader Prep: Display the Theme Verse Slides with the whole Verse shown first.

What To Do: Let's play a fun game as a way to remember our Theme verse! In this activity, we are going to practice saying our Theme verse together. First, let's make two teams. (Allow time.)

I will give each team one table tennis ball. Each team is going to send one person from your team to say the Theme verse, and then toss the ball into the cup. After that person throws the

table tennis ball, she will pass the table tennis ball to the next player on your team. If you are ready to play, let me hear you say, "I'm ready!" (I'm ready!)

Keep It Going: Set up this game in stations, giving players different tasks at each station as they say the Theme verse. In one station, it could be one word at a time, another station could be filling in missing words of the verse, and so forth.

Leader Tip: Allow younger kids to say the verse all together before the player tosses the ball.

Loud And Clear: Even if we do not say the right words, what does our Theme verse say that God sees and knows? (Our hearts!) Yes, God sees and knows our hearts, meaning He knows the thoughts and feelings that are inside us. This helps us remember that God knows every hurt that we experience and feel, even if other people cannot see or know about them. God knows us, and He loves us!

Option #4: Would You Rather

What To Do: Today, we are going to play a game called "Would You Rather?" What's it called? (Would You Rather?) Yeah! Have you ever heard someone ask a "Would You Rather" question before? For instance, would you rather eat ice cream in the winter or drink hot chocolate in the summer? (Allow responses.) Today, we are going to answer those type questions but with a twist! I am going to give a question and an action. You will all do the same action all the way to the side of the room that applies to what you like! If you think you are ready to play, let me here you say, "I'm ready!" (I'm ready!) (Point to the sides of the room that match each question.)

Suggested Questions:

- Would you rather live in an igloo or a tree house? (Walk like a bear as you go.)
- Would you rather breathe in water or stand in fire? (Hop on one leg as you go.)
- Would you rather be a bird or a fish? (Pretend to fly like a bird or swim like a fish as you go.)
- Would you rather have a tiger's stripes or a porcupine's needles? (Skip as you go.)
- Would you rather have a food fight or a water balloon fight? (Crab walk as you go.)

Keep It Going: Allow kids to lead the question portion of the game or come up with their own questions and actions.

Connect It: Wow! Great job, everyone. That was so fun learning more about you. Did anyone learn something new about someone? (Allow kids to respond.) Did anyone find something in

common with someone else? (Allow kids to respond.) That's awesome! I love learning more about our friends and making connections with people at church.

Option #5: 10 Question Switch

What To Do: Let's play a game! Do you like asking questions? I sure do! We all know how to ask questions, and that is how we are going to figure out our hidden word. In this game, we are going to ask questions and make guesses to figure out the word.

First, I will pick someone to be It. The It player will pull a slip of paper from my box and prepare to answer questions about that word. Then, one at a time our team will ask yes-or-no questions about the word. We will get to ask 10 questions. Questions can be things like, "Is it living?" or "Does it bark?" and It will answer the question with a simple yes or a no. As a group, we have only three guesses to figure out the mystery word, so do not guess until you are ready! How many guesses do you have? (Three!) Yes, only three! So, talk to your team! If you are ready, let me hear you say, "Let's guess!" (Let's guess!)

Leader Tip: Ensure It only responds with a yes or no and provides no other information about the word.

Loud And Clear: What a fun time! I loved watching you all guess the questions and figure out the words. Was it difficult figuring out the words? It can be hard to play a guessing game like this. But we never have to worry about God guessing when it comes to our lives and situations. God knows us, meaning He knows our situations too! He cares for us, and He knows exactly what we need.

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

What You Say: God, thank You for the truth we learn in the Bible that You know us, and You know every situation. Help us to live out this truth this week and remember that whenever we are feeling scared, lonely, or unseen, we can trust that You see, know, and love us, we can trust You. Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.