

Lesson Plan

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!

Celebrate: Share a story of seeing God work in your ministry, in the life of a child, or through a volunteer.

Connect: We often cannot see anything good while we are in the middle of something hard. In hindsight, what have you learned from a tough season in your life? (Share your own story, or invite volunteers to share.)

Read: Nehemiah 2:19-20

Share: Today we can encourage kids that no matter what is happening around them, God knows! When things are hard and we want to give up, God is there to help us. God told Nehemiah that He would fight for him! (Read Nehemiah 4:20.) Just like God provided a way for Nehemiah to finish the wall, He provides us the wisdom and strength when things are hard. We can trust in Him to always be there to guide us.

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: Connection Questions

Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning of the session, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- What was the best part of your week?
- What is one of your favorite movies?
- If you could choose between learning how to be an artist or learning how to build something, what would you choose?
- If you could make the ultimate ice-cream sundae, what would be on it?
- Would you rather jump as high as you can or swim underwater for as long as you can?

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!

Chase the Train

Game Rules:

1. Invite one player from each team to the front.
2. Display a slide, directing players to follow the command that matches the direction they think the train will go. Assign a point for each correct guess.
3. Encourage teams to cheer on their players.
4. Tally the points, and declare the winner.

What You Say: Let’s get started with a fun game! This game is called “Chase the Train!” See that train? (Point to the train on the screen.) We are going to call a friend from each team to come to the front. (Choose a player from each team.) Let’s see which direction the players think the train is going to go and then follow the train by seeing which direction it goes. We will have some different commands with each challenge, so listen closely and cheer on your teammates as they make their decisions. You can even call out which way you think the train is going to go. If you are ready to get started, let me hear your best train noise! (Choo-choo!)

Remember, listen closely and let me see the motion that matches where you think the train is going to go! All aboard because here we go!

Do you think the train will go up or down? Hop back and forth from foot to foot if you think it will go up and jump up and down with both feet if you think it will go down. (Allow kids to make their choices.) Let's see where the train is going!

Great job, everyone. If you chose down, then you were ... right! Let's try again!

Will it go to the track that is up or to the track that is down? Wave your hands in the air if you think up and turn in a circle if you think down. (Allow kids to make their choices.) The train is going—

Up! So, if you chose up, then you are correct! Great job! Let's see which way our train goes next!

If you think the train will go up, clap your hands. If you think it will go down, stomp your feet. (Allow kids to make their choices.) The train is about to move!

Up again?! Our train went up! Want to try just one more time?

Last chance—up or down? Which way will our train go? Pump your left fist and say, "Choo Choo!" if you think it will go up and pump your right fist while saying, "Choo Choo!" if you think it will go down. (Allow kids to make their choices.) The correct answer is—

Down! If you chose down, then great work! (Tally the points.) Our winner is ____ ! Let's cheer for our players as they return to their seats. (Allow time.)

Was there any way to know for sure where the train was going? (Allow responses.) No! It was impossible to know what was going to happen next. You had to wait to see and if you were right. It was a fun aha moment. An aha moment is when you discover something amazing.

Today we get to discover something amazing—the truth that we are known by God. Let me hear you say, "I am known!" (I am known!)

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: We are going to look in on a lab and see some cool scientists named Grace and Chase, who are ready to have an aha moment while they make an

incredible scientific discovery! If you are ready for the “Aha! Science Show,” let me hear you say, “Aha!” (Aha!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: Everyone, burst your hands over your head like a volcano and say, “Aha!” in 3-2-1! (Aha!) That volcano was so cool! We also learned that God knows every situation. No matter where we are or what is happening, God knows all about it! Let me hear you say, “God knows every situation!” (God knows every situation!)

Worship

What You Say: Let’s all stand up and worship together this morning! 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 to 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.

Offering

What To Do:

- Play video explaining offering to kids
- Play offering time video while kids pass the bucket
- Ask a student(s) to come up and pray over the offering

Theme Verse Review:

Choose between the Video-Led Theme Verse option or the Host-Led Theme Verse option.

Theme Verse Motions: Humans see what is visible, (Hold one hand above your eyes and move your head, looking from left to right.)

but the LORD sees the heart. (Starting with your hands up facing inward, bring your hands to your heart.)

1 Samuel 16:7b (Hold both hands out like a book.)

Option #1: Put the memory verse slide on the screen.

What You Say: Our Theme verse reminds us that God knows us because He sees our hearts—the thoughts and feelings we have on the inside. He not only knows us, but He knows our situations too. Let's stand and learn our Theme verse together!

Repeat after me: (Use the motions above.)

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

Great job, everyone! Let's try saying our Theme verse again, but I want us to use a high voice for one line, and then a deep voice the next line. Let's go!

(Speak in a high voice.) Humans see what is visible, (Humans see what is visible,)
(Speak in a low voice.) but the LORD sees the heart. (but the LORD sees the heart.)
(Speak in a high voice.) 1 Samuel 16:7b (1 Samuel 16:7b)

How about one more time, but let's switch the highs and lows.

(Speak in a low voice.) Humans see what is visible, (Humans see what is visible,)
(Speak in a high voice.) but the LORD sees the heart. (but the LORD sees the heart.)
(Speak in a low voice.) 1 Samuel 16:7b (1 Samuel 16:7b)

No matter what anyone may see on the outside, God knows what is really going on inside us. No matter what our situations make us think or feel, God knows every situation, and He knows what is in our hearts. We are known, and we are loved! Say, "I am known!" (I am known!)

Option #2: Play Memory verse video

What You Say: Our Theme verse reminds us that God knows us because He sees our hearts—the thoughts and feelings we have on the inside. He not only knows us, but He knows our situations too. Let's learn our Theme verse together!

Play Memory Verse Video

What You Say: No matter what anyone may see on the outside, God knows what is really going on inside us. No matter what our situations make us think or feel, God knows every situation, and He knows what is in our hearts. We are known, and we are loved! Say, "I am known!" (I am known!)

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: Connection Questions

What You Say: Let’s talk together about the truth that God knows us, and He knows every situation.

1. Where is a place that you would love to travel? Who would you trust to get you there and how would you go? (Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)
2. When you are on a train, you have no control; you simply have to trust the train and the conductor. How does it feel not to be in control? How does it feel to know that God is always in control and knows every situation? (Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)
3. The Bible tells us that we are known, and that God knows every situation. Let’s open our Bibles to Nehemiah 2:19-20 and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.) Nehemiah answered the people and said that God was the One who would grant them success. What is the difference between trusting in yourself and trusting in God? (Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)

4. What can help you turn to God when you are in a difficult situation? (Answers will vary but may include memorizing Scripture, praying, writing reminders in your Bible, and so forth.)
5. The Bible tells us we are known by God, even when we are going through hard situations. Our aha moment for today is that God is with us in whatever situation we find ourselves in. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Bookmark Test

Leader Prep: Cut yarn into 6-inch pieces, 1 piece per kid. Set out supplies.

1. Cut out their bookmark printable.
2. Cut a small rectangle that is the same size and shape of the bookmark.
3. Glue the bookmark onto the rectangle.
4. Punch a hole through the top.
5. Loop and tie the yarn through the hole.
6. Decorate the bookmark.

What To Do: I am so excited to make this craft with you! We are going to make a bookmark with our Theme verse on it. First, grab a piece of construction paper, and cut it to be the exact shape as our bookmark. You will glue your bookmark on top of the paper rectangle. This will make our Theme verse bookmark stronger! (Allow time.)

Now, let's punch a hole in the top of our bookmarks (through both paper layers), and attach a string to the end. Let's use our bookmarks to help us learn the Theme verse together! (Allow time for kids to complete the craft.)

These look awesome! Let's pair up and use these bookmarks to practice our verse. Try covering up some of the words and saying the verse with a friend.

Keep It Going: Allow kids to switch and work with different friends to practice the Theme verse together.

What You Say: I love how this verse reminds us that God sees our hearts. We are known by God, meaning that He sees us, knows us, and loves us. In every situation we find ourselves in, we can trust that God is with us and for us.

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we have learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story, or explain how Nehemiah told the people that God would grant them success. God knew their situation, and He knows ours too! Whenever we are worried about our situations, we can trust that we are known by God.

Loud And Clear: Just like God knew Nehemiah in our story, God knows us too! We are known by God—what an incredible truth! We can be thankful that God knew our need and sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sin so that we can have a forever relationship with God.

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.