



10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

God is with me
so I can be strong.

ESTHER
ESTHER 2:2-8:17

MEMORY VERSE

"We have the Lord
our God to help us."

2 CHRONICLES 32:8, NLT

KEY QUESTION

Who is always with you?

BOTTOM LINE

God is always with me.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at 2 Chronicles 32:8, NLT. You need a music player and this month's worship song, "Very Big Things," which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves video for "Very Big Things" is available on the Very Big Things Dance Moves DVD, at OrangeKidsMusic.com, or in your media package if you subscribe. You also need "God Is with Me," which is available on the Love Like Jesus CD, iTunes®, and Spotify®. The dance moves video for this song is available on the Love Like Jesus Dance Moves DVD and at OrangeKidsMusic.com.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Are you ready to worship? Yay! Let's sing our song for this month called 'Very Big Things!'"

Lead children in singing "Very Big Things," this month's worship song.

"When God is with us, we can be brave. When God is with us, we can be strong! Tell me, **who is always with you?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "God is always with me."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes! It's true. **God is always with me.** The Bible teaches us, 'We have (bend wrists and tap fingertips to chest) the Lord our God (point up) to help us,' (right thumbs-up on top of left palm) 2 Chronicles 32:8. (Open hands like a book.) Say that with me!"

Lead the children to say the verse with the motions.

"Yes! God is always with us, and He can help us, no matter what we face. Wherever you go, God is always with you. Sing this out!"

Lead children in singing "God Is with Me."

"God is with us ALL the time! We don't have to worry because we are never alone. I'm SO glad to know that **God loves me** and **God is always with me!** Thanks for worshipping with me, friends!"



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Table, playground ball, and two heavy hand weights

WHAT YOU DO: Set the table in the middle of the storytelling area and place the weights on it.

The Host, very excited, walks out carrying the playground ball.

HOST: "Hello there, friends! I'm [your name], and I'm SO excited to see you guys today. This is my favorite ball! And I'm so strong that I can kick my favorite ball all the way to the moon."

Hold the ball out in front and start to kick, but then looks up at the ceiling.

"I guess I can't kick it all the way to moon with a ceiling over our heads."

Put ball down and pick up both the hand weights.

"I'm so strong that I can lift these weights a thousand times. Wanna see?"

Start lifting hand weights in a bicep curl.

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven . . . whew, these are heavier than they look. Eight, nine, ten. You get the idea."

Set the weights down.

"I'm so strong that I can do twenty-five jumping jacks. Here we go."

Do jumping jacks.

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. Whew, I just need to catch my breath. Man, I'm so strong! How else can I show I'm strong? I better go think about this. See you guys later."

The Host grabs the hand weights and the ball, if possible, and exits.

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, two plastic crowns, black hat, and a box; *Optional Story Images*

WHAT YOU DO: Place the crowns and hat in the box.

The storyteller enters carrying a Bible and the box.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and it's time to hear a true story from the Bible."

Hold up the Bible and lay it open on the table in the center of the storytelling area. Set the box on the table.



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"Today's true story begins with a king.

Place the bigger crown on your head.

"This king looked everywhere for the most beautiful queen. The king had his people search and search to find a woman to be his queen. And guess what? They found her.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 01)

Take off the larger crown and put on the smaller one.

"Her name was Esther. What was her name?"

CHILDREN: "Esther."

STORYTELLER: "Yes! The king was so happy they found her that he married her.

Take off the crown and put on the black hat.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 02)

"There was also a man named Haman. What was his name?"

CHILDREN: "Haman."

STORYTELLER: "Haman worked for the king, but he did not love God. In fact, Haman had a plan to do something very mean to Esther's family who loved God very much. One day, Haman told the king that he should get rid of a whole group of people—God's people.

Take off the black hat and put on the smaller crown.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 03)

"When Esther heard about this, she was so upset. The king didn't know that Haman's plan would hurt Esther's family and friends. Esther knew she could not let this happen.

"Esther loved God with her whole heart, but going to the king to ask for his help would be scary. She knew she might get in big trouble for going to see the king without being invited. But God was with Esther, and she knew that He would make her strong!

(Option: Display Story Image W4 04)

"So Esther asked the king if he would come to dinner, and the king agreed. It was at dinner that Esther was strong enough to ask the king to save her family and friends.

Take off the smaller crown and put on the larger crown.



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"The king said, 'Yes!' He would save God's people. Esther's family and friends were safe.

Take off the larger crown. Put on the smaller crown.

"Esther knew that God was always with her, and He made her strong! And God can make YOU strong too, because He is always with you.

Take off the crown. Put all hats back into the box.

"Tell me, **who is always with you?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God is always with me!"

STORYTELLER: "Yes, He is! Turn to a friend and say it. **Who is always with you?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God is always with me!"

STORYTELLER: "No matter where you go, no matter what you do, you can be strong because God is with you. Okay friends, it's time to pray and talk to God. Let's close our eyes."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "God, You are SO strong! You are the strongest. Help us remember that we can be strong too, just like Esther, when we remember that You are with us. Thanks for being awesome, God. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

"Friends, I just love spending time with you. Thanks for being such great listeners. I'll see you next time. Bye!"

The Storyteller exits with the Bible; leaves box of hats on the table.

OUTRO SKETCH

What You Need: No supplies needed.

The Host enters smiling.

HOST: (Pick up smaller crown and put it on.) "Wow! God helped Esther be super strong and do the right thing! I think I got the story. If you got it, let me see two thumbs-up. Get it? (Give two thumbs-up.) Awesome!"

Take off crown and set it on the table.

"I don't have to kick a ball to the moon or do 100 jumping jacks to be strong. **God is always with ME**, and He will help me be strong and do the right thing! Stay strong everyone! See you later."

Host exits, waving to the children.