



## Lesson 1: God is With Us 3-5 In-person Plan

<b><u>Key Teaching Point</u></b>	God is with us, so I am never alone.
<b><u>Bible Verse</u></b>	“Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you” (Deuteronomy 31:8, NLT).
<b><u>Scripture Passage</u></b>	“God leads the Israelites.” (Exodus 5-12, 13, 14)
<b><u>Materials</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bible</li> <li>● A device to play music (such as a smartphone)</li> <li>● Handout 2, one copy supplies prayer cards for six students</li> <li>● Pens or pencils*</li> <li>● <a href="#">Dowel Rods</a>, approximately 10-20 (preferably between 18-36 inches long)</li> <li>● Optional craft materials             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scissors, two or three pair</li> <li>○ Glue sticks, three or four</li> <li>○ Craft sticks or cardstock strips cut approx. 8 in. by 1 in., one per student</li> <li>○ Construction paper or cardstock paper cut into fourths, one per student</li> <li>○ Handout 1, one color copy per student printed on cardstock</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

\*Materials marked with an asterisk are in the CKC Games Bag.

### **Relate** (20 minutes)

Welcome students with a snack.

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one):

- God sightings: Ask students to describe how they've seen God at work in their school or at their home in the past week.
- Let students take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- Open a discussion with a question, "What gives you comfort when you feel alone?"

### Play a game.

#### Don't Get Trapped in the Sea

Choose two students to form the walls of the "Red Sea." They should stand facing each other and hold their arms up to form a tunnel in between them. To play, students walk in a circle through the tunnel and around the outside while music is played. When the music stops, anyone inside the walls of the "Red Sea" gets trapped. Then they become part of the wall, and the length of the tunnel increases. Play until only one student remains and is declared the winner.

You may want to play a song from the [Praise and Worship Guide](#).

#### Israelites Vs. Pharaoh's Army (A.K.A. Sharks and Minnows)

Choose one student to be "Pharaoh's Army." The rest of the players are "Israelites" and should line up on one side of the playing area. When "Pharaoh's Army" yells "1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . all the Israelites cross the sea!," all the players must run across the playing area to the opposite side. "Pharaoh's Army" should try to tag as many "Israelites" as possible before they reach safety on the other side. Any "Israelite" who has been tagged becomes a part of Pharaoh's Army and assists in tagging remaining "Israelites" as they cross the sea. Play continues until one player is left.



## **Receive (20 minutes)**

### Read God's Word.

#### Optional Craft:

Distribute supplies for the craft:

- Handout 1, one colored copy per student printed on cardstock
- Scissors, two or three pair
- Glue sticks, three or four
- Craft sticks or cardstock strips cut approx. 8 in. by 1 in., one per student
- Construction paper or cardstock paper cut into fourths, one per student



Students should cut out their pillars of cloud and fire from the handout and glue them on their half sheet of construction paper, one on each side. Then, they should attach the craft or popsicle stick

to the paper using the glue stick or a piece of adhesive tape.<sup>1</sup>

**Today we are learning a new name of God - “Yahweh Shammah.” The Hebrew word “YAHWEH” refers to the name of God that means: “I AM.” Can you guess what the Hebrew word “Shammah” means? It means God is with us. So Yahweh Shammah literally means “I AM” is with you.” Today’s story is all about how God is with his people.**

Choose several students to help you tell the story using dowel rods. Ask for students who can be safe and responsible. Once you have several students selected, give them dowel rods and say, **The purpose of the rods is to help me tell the story.**

- Stress the importance of safety and allow appropriate space between students and others.
- Teach a specific instruction for “freezing” and allow students to practice it.
- Clarify that any student not handling the responsibility well will lose the opportunity to participate.

**God’s people had been slaves in Egypt for many years.** (*Rods on back like carrying something heavy*).

**Pharoah and the Egyptians were cruel to the Israelites. They whipped them and beat them.** (*whipping motion*) **They made the Israelites work hard to build giant buildings and monuments.** (*clanging rods like building noises, hammers, saws*).

**God had promised many years before to his people that he would give them a land of their own and a place where they could freely worship him.**

**God sent a man named Moses to go to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt** (*crown on head*). **Moses shook his finger at Pharaoh and said “Let my people GO!”** (*shaking rod*)

**At first Pharaoh said NO!** (*create an x with the rods*) **But after God brought many disasters upon the Egyptians for Pharaoh’s disobedience** (*add some plagues with rod motions*), **Pharaoh finally said, Okay get out of here! You can leave Egypt.** (*rod pointing to get out/go away*)

**So God’s people packed up their things and left. They took their animals** (*clomping sounds with rods*), **pulled their carts** (*pulling motion*), **carried their babies** (*rocking in arms*), etc. **and left Egypt.**

**They didn’t know where to go, but God led them. God was with them by day and by night. By day, the people saw God in a pillar of cloud, and by night a pillar of fire.**

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<sup>1</sup> You may also use a plastic straw and a piece of tape in place of the popsicle stick and glue.

**They were camping out in the wilderness** (*form a tent*) **when Pharaoh changed his mind. He got together his army - all his chariots and horses** (*clomping sound on floor*) **and weapons** (*swords*), **and hurried to track down the Israelites to bring them back to be slaves again.**

**When the Israelites looked off in the distance and saw Pharaoh's army coming, they almost panicked!** (*drop rods suddenly*) **But God was with them** (*point up with the rod dramatically*). **They watched the cloud in the sky and they followed it. It stopped over a big body of water called the Red Sea. That's when something amazing happened. The water separated into two walls and created a path of dry land** (*hold rods up and pull them apart creating a space you can step through*). **The Israelites followed the cloud through the dry path in the sea to the other side.**

**Pharaoh's army was coming** (*bang ends of rods on the floor in a fast motion*). **They tried to follow the Israelites, but then, God let the waters fall** (*hold sticks up and mimic the walls of water collapsing inward*) **and all of Pharaoh's army was destroyed in the sea. God's people were safe on the other side. They were thankful for God's presence with them.**

**They traveled through the wilderness many more years waiting for God's promised land and nation. But everywhere they went, God was with them, in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. So no matter what troubles they faced, they were never alone.**

**Did you see in the story today how God was with the Israelites? Even though they couldn't see God, they had two signs of his real presence among them: a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God is with his people today too!**



## **Respond (20 minutes)**

Apply God's truth.

Open a discussion:

- **How can we tell that God was with the Israelites?** (Answers may include: He gave them a sign of his presence through the pillar of cloud and fire. He helped deliver them from slavery and miraculously parted the Red Sea.)
- **Why do you think God chose to help Israel?** (Answers may include: God had made a special promise to the Israelites, and he always keeps his promise. He heard their troubles and had compassion. They were his people, and he loves and cares for his people.)
- **If you were one of the Israelites, how would you have felt when you were trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea?** (Answers will vary.)
- **Did God abandon (leave) the Israelites? Why or why not?** (No. God was with them even when it looked bad - he provided a way for them when they didn't see the way out.)

- **Do you ever feel like you are alone or God is far away? When?** (Answers will vary.)
- **How does knowing God is always with you make you feel?** (Answers will vary.)

**If we believe in Jesus, God puts his Spirit in our hearts. That means he is always with us, even in very difficult, sad or scary situations.**

**What are some problems that kids like you might face in their life?**

Take student responses.

**Jesus is with us even in all those times!**

Give students a piece of blank copy paper and ask them to draw a picture of how Jesus is with us today. (If they are struggling for an idea, suggest they draw one of the situations previously mentioned in the discussion.) Allow students to share their drawings if they want.

Ask and discuss:

- **What does it mean for someone to fail you?**
- **What does it mean to abandon someone?**

**God says he will never fail us. He will never abandon us. God's presence is with believers through his Spirit. Also, God lives and works in the world through his people, the Church. When we spend time learning about God and growing with others, we experience God's presence in our lives. That's why we come to Crossroads or other places that we learn God's Word and grow in our faith - so we can experience God's presence more and more.**

Sing and worship together.

Pick a song from the [Praise and Worship Guide](#), or choose one of your own. Incorporate movement into the songs whenever possible.

Close in prayer together.

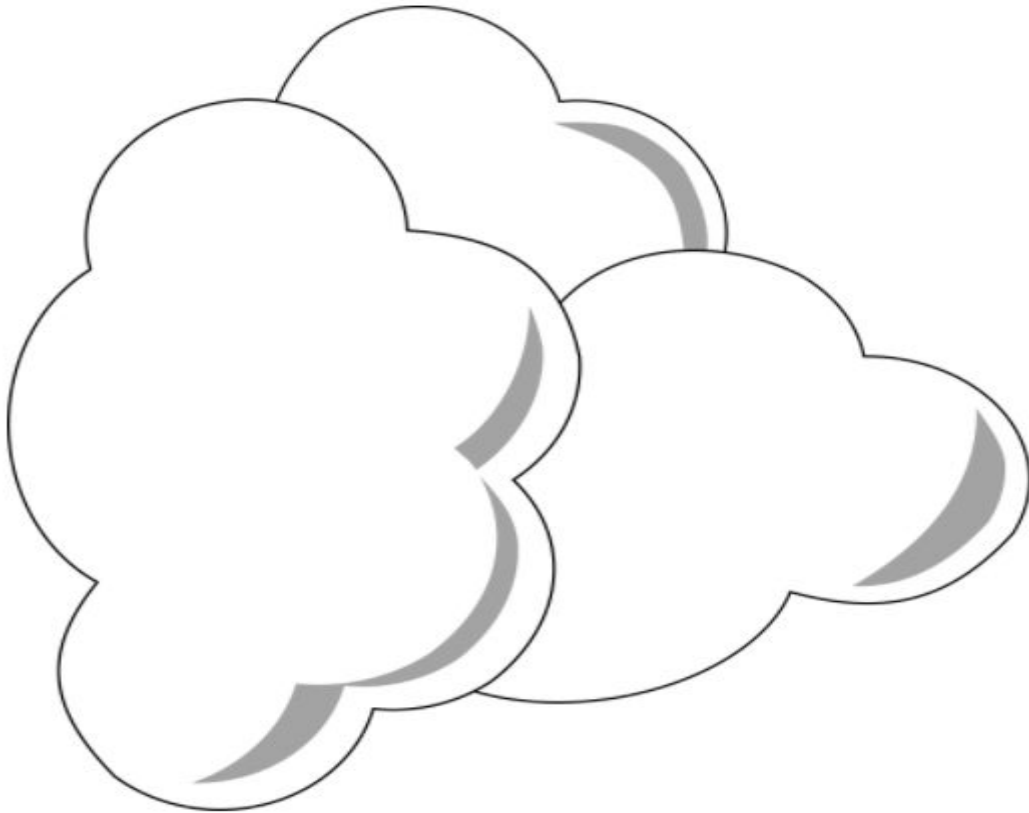
**God's Word tells us to pray with a grateful heart, giving thanks to God. Today we have a great reason to thank God - we can thank him for the amazing gift of being with us always!**

Ask students to fill in the blank on their prayer cards and go around the circle giving each child a chance to say their personalized prayer of thanks for God's presence.

**Dear God, thank you for being with me when \_\_\_\_\_.**

Take prayer requests and close in prayer.

## Handout 1: Pillar of Cloud and Fire<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>2</sup> Images from [openclipart.org](https://openclipart.org)

## Handout 2: Prayer Cards

God, thank you for being  
with me when

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God, thank you for being  
with me when

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God, thank you for being  
with me when

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God, thank you for being  
with me when

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God, thank you for being  
with me when

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God, thank you for being  
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