



## Lesson 1: God is With Us Online 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 href="#">01: “God is With Us” Zoom Slides</a></li> <li>• Two <a href="#">Dowel Rods</a> (preferably between 18-36 inches long)</li> </ul>
<b><u>Mystery Bag</u></b> (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide students with two unsharpened pencils in their mystery bag.</li> </ul>

### **Relate** (10 minutes)

#### Welcome crew members.

Greet crew members as they sign on.

#### Icebreaker Options (choose one):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week.)
- Rosebud: Ask students to share a highlight or success from the week (a rose), a challenge or disappointment from the week (a thorn) and something they are looking forward to doing or experiencing in the week ahead (a bud).
- Open a discussion with a question, “What gives you comfort when you feel alone?”

#### Play a game.

Emojis: Guess the word or phrase!

Pull up the Zoom slides for lesson 1 and share your screen. Divide students into two

teams, writing down the teams on the chat so the students remember which team they are on. Flip through each slide individually, asking students to guess the phrase that the emojis represent. The first student to guess correctly wins a point for their team. Keep track of points until the end. The team with the most points wins the game.

Answers:

1. Rainbow
2. Toothbrush
3. Running late
4. Sunflower
5. Snowball
6. Cupcake
7. Cherry on top
8. Quiet as a mouse
9. Goodnight!
10. Starlight



## **Receive (10 minutes)**

### Read God's Word.

This is an interactive story that can be acted out using two pencils or dowel rods. You may send a mystery bag to students with two unsharpened pencils in it or you may ask them to retrieve two pencils from home that they can use to follow along with the actions in the story.

Lead the students through the story by making motions with the pencils or dowel rods to dramatically illustrate the story and the rest of the participants in the group will follow along with their own. Make sure that your camera is set up so that students can see all the motions.

Explain the concept to the students and perhaps 'prepare them' by doing the first three sentences in the story that require their involvement. The script below includes suggested motions you can make but feel free to be creative and add your own twist to it!

**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.**

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

**Pharaoh 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.**

**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 (10 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.**

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, 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.