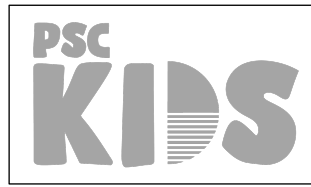


# LOWER ELEMENTARY

May 12, 2024



“To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in  
the heavens!” Psalm 123:1



**BIG QUESTION:** What allows us to not be moved by life's ups and downs?  
(Trusting God in prayer because He is trustworthy)

## Psalm 125:1-5

- <sup>1</sup> Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
- <sup>2</sup> As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds his people,  
from this time forth and forevermore.
- <sup>3</sup> For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest  
on the land allotted to the righteous,  
lest the righteous stretch out  
their hands to do wrong.
- <sup>4</sup> Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,  
and to those who are upright in their hearts!
- <sup>5</sup> But those who turn aside to their crooked ways  
the LORD will lead away with evildoers!  
Peace be upon Israel!

### Family Worship (20 minutes)

Objective: Worship together with our families and the congregation

### Game (all Elementary) (10 minutes)

Objective: Get some energy out in a fun and controlled way

### Video (all Elementary) (5 minutes)

Objective: Introduce the Scripture to the whole group

### Interactive Lesson (20 minutes)

*\*LE goes into their classroom*

Objective: Bring the lesson to life through discussion and hands-on activity

### Pray Together (\*5 minutes)

*\*take as much time as needed*

Objective: Talking to God is our greatest privilege

### Personal Reflection (5-10 minutes)

Objective: Journal to God about what you have learned today

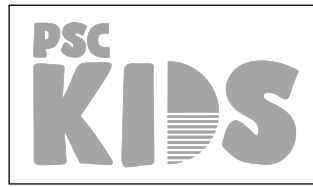
### Review (all Elementary) (3-5 minutes)

*\*LE goes to back to large group room*

Objective: Reinforce what you've learned.

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## Family Worship Experience (20 minutes)

The goal of a family worship experience is to allow children to witness their loved ones drawing near to God as well as connect with the congregation. This incorporates a sense of belonging for the kids, not just in kids ministry, but as a part of the whole body of Christ.

## Game (10 minutes)

The game will be a simple game that serves as a time for both Lower and Upper Elementary groups to interact and learn together. This also gives kids a chance to get their energy out and helps settle them in for the upcoming lesson. Supplies and instructions will be provided.

## Video (5 minutes)

Before splitting into LE and UE groups, kids will watch a short video that helps to introduce the Scripture Passage and topic of the day.

## Interactive Lesson and Prayer Time (25 minutes)

The goal of this time is to help the kids connect with the Scripture Passage. After the video, you will transition to a classroom space that will be set up for interactive learning. After introducing the big question of the day, kid will have the opportunity to hear the Scripture Passage and use their creativity to connect more deeply. This time will be structured as follows, but allow the time to be guided by the needs of the group:

- **Connect the video point and read the Scripture Passage**
- **InterACT It:** Bring the scripture to life by having the kids act it out in various ways
- **Sermon Point:** This could be a statement, a story, an example, etc. that comes straight out of the sermon. This is our opportunity to give families a united *full family experience!*
- **Craft/Activity:** Hands-on activities are key for learning with lower elementary students, so this time will help make the connection and give the kids something cool to take home

Each week may look a little different, but the goal of this time is always to **(1) answer the big question, (2) make the verses become real and personal to the kids and (3) connect with the sermon creating a united *full family experience.***

Once you have worked through the passage and completed the craft or activity, spend time praying with the kids. Ask for prayer requests. Give the kids an opportunity to pray but let them know they don’t have to pray out loud if they don’t want to.

## Personal Reflection (5-10 minutes)

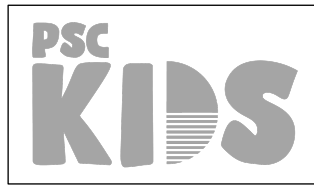
Each week we will spend time in personal reflection as kids write in their “Give Thanks Journals”. Instrumental music can be played from your phone during this time. Kids should be encouraged to be silent and respect their neighbors as they journal. As they finish, have them put their journals back in their cubby.

## Review & Dismissal (3-5 minutes)

Both Elementary groups will come back together for a fun review game in the large group room as they await dismissal. Use this time to drive home the main point of the day.

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## **GAME: Memory Verse Jenga**

Remove blocks trying not to have the tower topple, while also trying to get all the blocks with the memory verse words loose. As the blocks with the words are removed, arrange the verse in the proper order.

## **VIDEO:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3zmdxDo-po>

## **TRANSITION TO LOWER ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM**

## **INTERACTIVE LESSON:**

Have kids sit in a circle on the carpet and discuss the following questions:

1. What are some things that protect you?
2. Who are some people you trust to protect you?
3. What was the unique protection the video talked about? (prayer)
4. Why do you think we can trust God with our prayers for protection?

## **Read Psalm 125:1 (have kids follow along in their Bibles)**

Have you ever felt afraid and when your mom or dad or grandparent wrapped their arms around you in a big hug, you suddenly felt better? When someone we trust surrounds us, we feel protected and safe. The opposite can also be true. If someone who has hurt us attempts to surround us, we feel threatened and ever more afraid.

## **SERMON CONNECTION:**

**We are only as strong as what we put our faith in.** Say that with me. **We are only as strong as what we put our faith in.** When we trust someone, or something, we **depend** on them, **rely** on them and feel comfortable **leaning** on them.

## **InterACT it:**

Let’s use this chair as an example. When I sit down in this chair, I have put my faith in the fact that it will hold me up and not allow me to fall to the ground. Now, I didn’t have to inspect this chair before I sat down in it. I saw the chair, trusted it as a chair and sat in the chair putting my faith in it to hold me up.

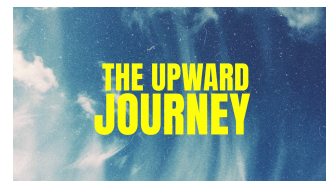
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Why do you think I could so easily trust in this chair? (allow kids to answer – we trust in the things that have always been trustworthy). I have sat in many, many chairs and I have never (hopefully) had a chair not hold me up when I sat down in it. (if you have had a chair collapse on you before, share with the group and enjoy a good laugh together). So, when I see a chair, I can trust it because chairs have been dependable to me in my life experiences.

So, our video encouraged us to trust God with our prayers for protection. And our Bible verse reminds us that those who trust in God cannot be moved. And, our chair illustration reminds us that we trust what we find trustworthy. All this together teaches us that **we can trust in God through prayer because He is trustworthy**.

## **Read Psalm 125:2 (have kids follow along in their Bibles)**

Show the kids the picture of Jerusalem and talk with them about how the mountains surround Jerusalem like arms surround us in a hug.

Remember, these Psalms were songs that the Israelites would sing on their journey to Jerusalem for holidays and festivals. They would be singing this song as they traveled through the mountains to reach the Holy City for the celebrations. Instead of focusing on how difficult it is to travel through the mountains, the psalmist encourages them to remember that God placed the mountains around Jerusalem as a protection of the city. And as they journeyed over the mountains, they were reminded that God surrounds His people just like those mountains surround Jerusalem. Not just then, but forever more! Another reminder that **we can trust God through prayer because He is trustworthy!**

*Have kids move to the tables for craft time.*

## **CRAFT - Shapes & Textures**

Give each child a piece of blue construction paper. Then give the different shapes to create mountains, trees, clouds, etc. Remind them that God surrounds His people like the mountains surround Jerusalem.

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**PRAY TOGETHER** Ask kids for any prayer requests and spend time in prayer. (this can either be done around the tables, or you can come back together on the carpet)

**PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Have kids grab their journals from their cubby and find a place where they can write or draw quietly in their journals. Play soft or instrumental music from your phone or the tv in the classroom. Explain to the kids that when the music is playing, they are to be silent. As kids start to get restless, give them one minute to finish up and have them put their journals back into their cubbies. Proceed to large group room for review and dismissal.

**TRANSITION TO LARGE GROUP ROOM**

**REVIEW:** Ask various questions about today’s lesson as you await dismissal.