

WEEK 1

LESSON GUIDE

ANIMATED

BIG IDEA

Because of God, I can feel secure.

BIBLE

Jeremiah at the Potter's House:
Jeremiah 18:1-11

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Animated Praise!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Abound in Hope" (Seeds Family Worship)
 - "No Matter How I Feel" (Lifetree Kids)
 - "Even When" (Yancy & Little Praise Party)
 - "God Loves You and You and You" (New Wine)

ACTIVITY | Blindfold Security

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pair kids up and have them form a straight line at one end of the room. Put a blindfold on one of the kids and tell them to walk to the other end of the room without looking and without any help from anyone (stop them before they try, you won't actually let them do this!). Now, instruct their partner to hold their hand to guide them and verbally instruct them through the room to the other end. Allow all pairs of kids to try this activity.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers are still developing their senses and it could be scary for them to lose their ability to see or to be touched without being able to see who's touching them. Instead of blindfolding toddlers, invite them to hold hands and walk across the room together over some small obstacles (jumping over a jump rope that's laying on the floor, or finding a way to go around a cone, or crawling through a tunnel together). Ask them questions about how they felt about having a helper. Was it fun? Did having a helper make things easier or less scary?
- **How did it make you feel to be asked to walk across the room blindfolded with no help?**
 - Did you feel nervous?
 - Scared?
 - In danger?
- **How did you feel once you were able to have a partner guide you through the room?**
 - Did you feel like you could do it better?
 - Did it make you feel safe?

- Today, we're going to hear about the word "secure." That means you feel safe and someone is looking out for you.
- Just like your partner leading and guiding you made you feel more secure walking through the room blindfolded, God makes us feel secure by always being with us. Let's talk more about this!

ACTIVITY | Animated Emotions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#) from "Inside Out" and have kids try to guess each of the emotions on the screen. Then, talk about emotions with kids using the prompts below. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Leaders will offer the list of simple emotions (happy, sad, mad, sleepy, hungry) that kids will act out, rather than the kids coming up with feelings and emotions.
- Let's talk about what emotions are. Emotions are feelings you have when something is happening.
 - If you lost your favorite toy, you might feel sad.
 - If your brother or sister took your toy away, you might feel angry.
 - If you get to have ice cream after dinner, you might feel happy.
- **What are some other emotions we might feel?** [Possible answers: sad, angry, happy, excited, confused, scared, shy, disgusted, etc.]
- This is a great list of emotions. Let's try to act each one out. I'll say the emotion and you show me what it might look like to feel that way.
 - For example, if I say "sad," you might make a little frown and pretend to cry. **Show me sad!**
- No matter what kinds of emotions we feel, we can feel safe and secure knowing God is there for us. God cares about the feelings we feel!

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Jeremiah 18:1–11 (Jeremiah at the Potter's House)

- **Do you like movies?** I do! Some of my favorite movies are animated . . . you know, the movies that are also cartoons. We can learn so much from these movies and today, we're going to watch a short clip from a classic animated movie.
- The movie is called, *The Lion King*, and in the clip, Simba, the future king of the jungle, has just made a big mistake. He disobeyed his dad, the king, and that led him being in danger. Now, he's about to learn a lesson, but it might not go exactly how you think.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** To prepare for today's Bible story, prepare to show [this clip](#) from "The Lion King," as well as a kids pottery video (like [this one](#)). For the Scripture readings, feel free to use an easy-to-understand Bible translation of your choice. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- Within a few short minutes, Simba must've experienced lots of different emotions. Maybe he went from feeling afraid to feeling relief and love.
- Animated can mean a type of movie like we just saw, but the word can also be used to describe people. When someone is "animated," they show their emotions in a big way!
- In today's Bible story, we're going to talk about a guy, named Jeremiah, who knew what it was like to experience all of these same feelings.
 - Jeremiah was so big in his emotions, his nickname was "the weeping prophet." **Does anyone know what "weep" means?** It means "to cry!"
 - Prophets were people who God asked to deliver messages, and sometimes, the messages were really hard to deliver. And the truth God wanted Jeremiah to share made Jeremiah really, really sad.

- Just like Mufasa told Simba, God’s message to Jeremiah was that God’s people had messed up. Not only had they done wrong, but they kept doing the wrong things for a long time. That made God sad because the people were going to get into trouble for what they did.
- Let’s read from the Bible to see what Jeremiah had to say.
- *[Read Jeremiah 18:1–4.]*
 - **Does anyone know what a potter does?** *[Show video you prepared.]*
 - A potter uses a wheel to help shape whatever they’re making. I wonder why God sent Jeremiah to see this? Let’s keep reading.
- *[Read Jeremiah 18:5–11.]*
 - God compared the clay in the potter’s hands to God’s people in God’s hands. God would tell them what would happen if they didn’t do what God asked them to do . . . and what good things could happen if they obeyed. Either way, God’s people were still in God’s hands.
 - God was shaping and molding them like a potter does with clay. God cared for them and would be there for them like Mufasa was there for Simba.
- **What kinds of things make you feel safe and secure, like when you go to sleep at night?**
- All of those things are great, but now, you heard how God will help you feel secure, too. Even more than blankies and night lights. God watches over you and keeps you safe.

BIG IDEA | Because of God, I can feel secure.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create two speech bubbles out of poster board (or get [these](#)) and write “Because of God” on one and “I can feel secure” on the other. Invite volunteers to hold up each speech bubble and freeze in a funny, cartoon pose. Have the volunteers unfreeze and say what’s in their respective balloons when the kids yell, “Animate!”*
- Let’s all say the Big Idea together: **Because of God, I can feel secure.**

VIDEO | Animated, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week’s episode of [Cali’s World](#).*

ACTIVITY | Molding Emotions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a printable and one tub of Play-Doh. Say the name of an emotion (happy, sad, angry, etc.) and instruct kids to use their Play-Doh to create the face of that emotion on their Play-Doh mat face. Feel free to laminate the mat so the dough comes off easier.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Allow toddlers to play with [taste-safe dough](#) as you name and demonstrate different emotions, encouraging them to participate and try imitating the emotions.*
- Remember, emotions are feelings you have when something is happening.
- It’s okay to be animated with your feelings and express big emotions. Just like the Play-Doh we hold and mold in our hands, God holds us and molds us and makes us feel safe and secure, no matter what emotions we’re feeling.
- **Because of God, I can feel secure.**

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before prayer time each week, play this emoji music video, [“Jesus Loves Me,”](#) and have kids sing along.*
- God, help us to remember that you are with us in hard times and in really good times. You’re molding and shaping us all the time. So, no matter what comes in life, we can feel secure in you. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Fruit Smiles

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will enjoy eating smile fruit snacks as they discuss having similar feelings and emotions that Jeremiah experienced in the Bible story today. You can also cut fruit into wedges to be “smiles” to serve as well.

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will pass around a ball of Play-Doh as they sit in a circle and answer review/application questions.
- **What does “secure” mean?**
- **Why did Jeremiah feel sad in our Bible story today?**
- **Why could he feel secure, though, even in times of sadness? Can we feel secure, too? Why?**

ACTIVITY | Potter’s Clay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will use [air-dry clay](#) to create a shape that will dry and they can take home.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Allow toddlers to play, bang, and explore different sizes and shapes of pots (metal or plastic – not glass). For additional fun, consider making a [pouring station](#), allowing toddlers to pour and play with water in the pots.
- Let’s pretend to be potters today! Use your molding clay to shape and create something. You can make a pot, just as the potter did in the Bible story.
- Just like a potter with clay, God molds and shapes us, too. That means God helps us make the right choices and corrects us when we don’t. Because of God, we have someone to turn to when we feel sad, or mad, or we don’t know what to do.
- **Because of God, I can feel secure.**

MEMORY VERSE | Romans 15:13a (NIV)

- **“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.”**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will practice reciting the memory verse from Romans 15:13a in different animated voices that you call out (angry, excited, scared, sad, shy, surprised, etc.). Make sure you demonstrate for them and have them repeat the verse after you one chunk at a time.
- We’re going to say our memory verse five times. Every time we do it, I will call out a different animated voice that I want you to use to say your memory verse.

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today’s Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.

ACTIVITY | Making Faces

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will hunt in a sensory bin of dried white beans or rice to find the bottom of a [plastic capsule](#) and the top to put together to make an animated face. Ask kids what kind of face their completed capsule is making!

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Allow toddlers to play with the capsules in a bin, but do not add dried rice or beans, as this can be a choking hazard.

ACTIVITY | “Ready, Action!”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids can animate different characters using dress-up clothes. Have them make up actions and catchphrases while in costume.