Lesson 10: God Is There

Overview:

Key Focus: Jehovah Shammah; Ezekiel had a vision of God dwelling among His people. God restores us with His Presence!

Bible Story: Ezekiel's Vision (Jehovah Shammah)

Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:10–14, 40:1–4, 48:35; Matthew 1:23, 28:18–20; Revelation 21:1–5

Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV) For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Sign with the words "Jehovah Shammah."
- Camouflage clothing or a picture of a camouflaged animal from the Internet
- Calendar
- Ball

Engage:

Review the names of God Jehovah Jireh (Provider), Jehovah Rapha (Healer), Jehovah M'Kaddesh (Sanctifier/Holy) and Jehovah Nissi (Protector/Banner).

Invite a volunteer to hold up or wear the camouflage clothing or the picture of a camouflaged animal. **Why do people or animals use camouflage?** (to hide themselves) **If you are a hunter, you wear camouflage so the animal doesn't see you. If you are an animal with camouflage, people or other animals can't see you and leave you alone.**

Hold up the "Jehovah Shammah" sign. **Do you think God wants to be hidden or left alone?** (No.) **We know that God loves us and wants us to be in a relationship with Him. The camouflage clothing and camouflaged animals are hidden and not seen, but they might be right in front of you watching you. God is always there with us, even though we don't see Him**

with our eyes. The camouflage reminds us that just because we don't see something; it is still there. God's name Jehovah Shammah means "God is there." Today's lesson will show us how important His name is. Place the "Jehovah Shammah" sign by the other names of God.

Memory Verse Activity:
Display the verse and explain that Jesus said this about Himself and forsake means "to give up on." Have the children crouch down as low as they can get. As they say the verse they slowly rise until they are as tall as they can get as they say the last word of the verse. Repeat but start as tall as they can get and then they shrink down as they say the verse. Remind them they must be saying the verse while moving. Continue this pattern several times.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV) For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Bible Story:

Hold up the calendar and flip through as you name the months and holidays already passed this year. Then flip through and name the months and holidays in the future. Hand the calendar to a child to hold up when you say anything about the future. As you go through the lesson, check that the child is holding the calendar, and then pass the calendar to the next child to keep the group listening for the clue words about the future.

In today's Bible lesson we will learn about two men who were given a special vision of something in the future. These men lived hundreds of years apart but God showed them a special glimpse of something that is still to come. Let's find out what that vision was and how it fits with God's name, Jehovah Shammah.

The Old Testament book of Ezekiel was written by an Israelite priest. He, Daniel, Shaddrach, Meshach, Abednego, and thousands of Israelites were taken away to Babylon. The people knew they were being punished for disobeying God and were very discouraged. Ezekiel told them messages of hope from God. One important message came when God showed Ezekiel a valley of dry bones representing the Israelites who had not followed God's ways. God told Ezekiel to prophesy, which means to speak about the future, and tell the bones to live again. Read Ezekiel 37:10–14. **Ezekiel didn't mean that all of the current graves would open up and dead people would come alive. Ezekiel prophesied that although the Israelites were currently held captive in Babylon, in the future God would restore the people to live in their own land again. The people's sins caused the problem, but God wanted to fix the problem and restore the people to the land He had given them. How do you think the**

people reacted when Ezekiel told them what God showed him? (Possible answers: excited, hopeful, glad that God would restore them) **The people were filled with hope for the future.**

Later in the book of Ezekiel, we learn about a vision God gave to Ezekiel that would bring even more hope for their future. God speaks to people in many ways, and one of the ways is through visions, which is almost like watching a movie about the future. Read Ezekiel 40:1–4. **Ezekiel is being shown the land that was destroyed when the Israelites were taken away into captivity. The vision continues from chapter 40 through chapter 48 and describes a new city and a new temple. God gives very specific measurements of the city, temple, city wall, and gates. In the very last chapter of Ezekiel and the very last verse of his vision, we discover the name of the city.** Read Ezekiel 48:35. **What is the name?** (the Lord is there) **What is the special name of God that we are talking about today?** (Jehovah Shammah) **This verse is the only verse that uses this special name of God. God wanted His people to know that even though sin separated them from Him, in the future there is a perfect temple where God will dwell with people. The exact details given showed the Israelites that God really wanted to be in a relationship with them.**

The Old Testament shows us the problem that God wanted to be with the people He created in His image—but sin kept people from God's presence. In Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament, we learned that God created Adam and Eve, and they lived in the Garden of Eden. Every day God came and walked and talked with them. Things changed when Adam and Eve sinned. They could no longer be in presence of God, and they had to leave the Garden of Eden. People were physically separated from God's presence all throughout the rest of the Old Testament. Did God have a plan to fix the problem and restore the relationship? (Yes, Jesus came to die for our sins so we can be in a relationship with God again.)

The New Testament begins with the book of Matthew. The first chapter of Matthew talks about a baby, the Messiah who would be the Savior. Let's read what special name this baby was given. Read Matthew 1:23. **What was the name, and what did it mean?** (Immanuel, God with us) **Jesus is part of God, so God was with people again. Jesus grew up, died for our sins, and rose from the dead. Just before He returned to heaven, He made a very special promise to everyone, and that includes us!** Read Matthew 28:18–20. **These verses give us a job to do. What job is given to Jesus' followers, then and now?** (We are to go, make disciples, baptize the, and teach them the things Jesus said.) **What promise did Jesus give to help them do their job?** (Jesus promised to be with them always.) **How would knowing Jesus was with them help them?** (Possible answers: They would feel bold and courageous; they knew Jesus' power was with them; they would feel comforted knowing Jesus was with them.) **Is Jesus with you right now?** (Yes.) **How can you know for sure?** Allow time for responses.

Sometimes we say that when you ask Jesus to forgive your sins, you ask Him to come into your heart to live. Jesus doesn't shrink down in size and live inside your actual heart. When we say Jesus lives in Christians, we talk about an invisible part, the Christian's spirit. If you had an x-ray of your body, you could see your heart on the x-ray but not your spirit. The Bible says that when anyone asks Jesus to forgive their sins, He comes and dwells, or lives,

with them forever in the spirit part of them. Jesus promised His followers that He would always be with them, and He always keeps His promise.

One of Jesus' disciples, John, wrote the last book of the New Testament. When John was an old man, he was given a vision of a New Jerusalem, a city that is still to come in the future. John and the disciples had spent much time in the city of Jerusalem, but the New Jerusalem would be an absolutely perfect place. The most exciting detail about the city would be that God and Jesus would live there. Read Revelation 21:1–5. **What was special about the tabernacle or temple in the vision?** (God would dwell with people.) **Where else in the Bible did it say there would be a new temple where God would dwell with His people?** (Ezekiel) **Even though these men lived hundreds and hundreds of years apart, God showed both Ezekiel and John the New Jerusalem that is still to come. This vision gave hope to the people who heard Ezekiel say it, the people who heard John, and also the people read it today in Revelation 21. We know that God is with us, loves us, and someday in the future we will be with God in a special place where there is no tears or death or crying or pain. God's presence is in us.** Lead a cheer for our future place with God in the New Jerusalem and God's presence in us now.

Bible Story Questions:

- **Why were the Israelites discouraged?** (They were captured and taken to Babylon because they were punished for their sins.)
- **What brought hope to them?** (God showed Ezekiel a time in the future when God would restore them to live in their own land again.)
- **What vision did God give Ezekiel?** (God showed Ezekiel a new city and temple where He would dwell with them there.)
- **What does Jesus' name Immanuel mean?** (God with us)
- **What promise did Jesus give to all of His followers?** (Jesus promised never to leave or forsake us.)
- **What vision of John's brings hope to us?** (John saw a New Jerusalem where God and Jesus would dwell and there will be no tears, death, crying, or pain.)
- **How does knowing Jesus is with you affect how you will live each day of this week?** Allow time for responses.

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Point out that when Ezekiel commanded the dry bones to get up and live—they did. Play Simon Says, but switch it to "Ezekiel Says." Give commands but the children listen and only do the commands that begin with the phrase, "Ezekiel says …" Choose volunteers to take a turn being Ezekiel.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Have the children sit on the floor in a circle. Roll the soft ball to someone and use their name as the class says, "God will not leave ___." Have that child roll the ball to someone and together say the child's name in the sentence.

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Compare the Old Testament vision of Ezekiel in Ezekiel 40–48 (a New City and New Temple), and the New Testament vision of John in Revelation 21:1–7 (New Jerusalem). What do they both say about a man and a measuring device? (Ezekiel 40:3; Revelation 20:15) What do they say about the gates? (Ezekiel 48:30–34, Revelation 21:12–14) What do they say about the shape? (Ezekiel 48:30–34, Revelation 21:16)

Worksheet:
Have the children use the code to find the missing words from Romans 8:38–39 (NKJV). Encourage them to use their Bibles to check their answers. Instruct the children when they finish the front of the worksheet, to turn the paper over and create a "God is with me" sign as a reminder that every day God is with them.

Affirmation/Declaration:
God will never leave me.
The presence of the Lord is with me because Jesus is with me!

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
Atheism permeates society, yet in desperate situations, many atheists cry out to God for help. God created us in His image to know Him and worship Him. Help the children recognize that living their biblical worldview shows people that God's presence is in them and is real. As Christians, we should be living examples of the power of God in us and sharing our testimonies of God's redemptive and restorative miracles in our lives.

Missions Connections:
Some religions believe the gods live in the temples, so people make pilgrimages to visit the temple. Our God is not confined to a building, but lives inside every believer and never leaves.

Lead the children in a prayer for people worshiping their gods in temples to desire to know about the One, True God who loves them and desires to live in them.

Family Connection:
Today's lesson focused on recognizing that God desires to be with people and that He restores our relationship through Jesus. We used the calendar to discuss prophecies for the future New Jerusalem, where God is there with us. Look at a calendar and talk about activities coming up in the next week and month. Take time to talk about how God is eternal and goes with us into each day and each activity. Remind your children that if they feel fearful or nervous about any activity, God is with them! Pray together and thank God for being with them every day. Make a "God is with me" sign to put on the door so your children see it every day when leaving the house.

Prayer Points:
Remind the children that God is with them, so when they pray, they are not talking to someone millions of miles away—He is in them and always with them. Encourage the children to start their prayer focusing on Jehovah Shammah, who is right there with them listening. Ask volunteers to pray.

Dear God, Thank You for being Jehovah Shammah and with me right now. I feel Your comfort and peace because You will never leave me. Help me… . In the name of Jesus, amen.

Name _____

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Use the code to find the missing words from Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV). When you finish, look up the verse in your Bible to check your answers.

♥	∞	⇓	♦	⇐	∇	⇑	♠	⊗	↔
a	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	l	m

⌉	♣	°	◊	∅	}	•	⇒	{
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For I am _____ that neither _____ nor
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_____, nor _____ nor _____ nor
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_____, nor things _____ nor things to ____,
°♣{♦◊∅ °◊♦∅♦⌉} ∞♣↔♦

[39]nor _____ nor _____, nor any other created
⇑♦♠∇⇑} ⇓♦°}⇑

_____, shall be able to _____ us from the
}⇑♠⌉∇ ∅♦°♦◊♥}♦

_____ of God which is in Christ Jesus ___ Lord.
⊗♣⇒♦ ♣•◊

Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV)

BONUS: *On the back of this page, design a business card for God's restoration business. Choose a name and draw a logo showing how God restores broken relationships*

ANSWERS:

Lesson 10: God Is There

Use the code to find the missing words from Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV). When you finish, look up the verse in your Bible to check your answers.

♥	∞	⇓	♦	⇐	∇	⇑	♠	⊗	↔
a	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	l	m

⌉	♣	°	◊	∅	}	•	⇒	{
n	o	p	r	s	t	u	v	w

For I am persuaded that neither death nor
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life , nor angels nor principalities. nor
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powers, nor things present nor things to come,
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[39]nor height nor depth, nor any other created
⇑♦♠∇⇑} ⇓♦°}⇑

thing, shall be able to separate us from the
}⇑♠⌉∇ ∅♦°♦◊♥}♦

love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
⊗♣⇒♦ ♣•◊

Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV)

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