

# **A Message From God - Older Elementary**

## **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

### **November 10, 2024**

## **GATHER/ Opening Conversation**

### **Opening Lesson Activity**

*Supplies – White board and markers*

**Say:** I want you to think about all the relationships you have in your life. You play different roles with different people. You are all a son or a daughter to your parents. What are some other roles you have in your life (examples might be grandchild, a student, a friend, brother or sister, etc.).

*Write the kids responses on the white board.*

**Say:** We may find ourselves in different roles, but we are always children of God, and we always belong to God.

Let's pray.

**Prayer:** (Kids can respond to each line in the prayer with "I belong to God").

Dear God,  
I know that I am valuable because (I belong to God)  
I can walk with confidence because (I belong to God)  
I am loved forever because (I belong to God)  
Help us, O God, to live as your children.  
Amen.

## **Open the Bible**

**Say:** Today's story is from the book of Deuteronomy. It is part of the Old Testament. It is in the Old Testament section called the Pentateuch. The Pentateuch includes the first five books of the Old Testament. Let's learn the first five books in order. Repeat them after me: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. *Repeat a few times.* Okay, now let's say them to jumping jack sets! Up and at 'em! *Do rhythmic jumping jacks as you say the five books in order.*

Good job. Let's look at the table of contents page in the front of the Bible. These are the five books we talked about. Pentateuch means, "five' plus 'books.

[YouTube Video](#) (can skip past the story about Solomon)

**Ask:** What do you think it means to have God's word on your hand, forehead, doorposts, and gates? (God's word is part of everything we say, do, thank and where we go – in or out!)

## **Activate Faith**

*The following activities will depend on your group. If it is a larger group with several younger kids, it can be split, and activities can be done separately. Read through them and decide what works best for your group.*

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### 1. Name Art – Craft

Kids use their names to create a stained-glass picture. Kids will remember that God knows each of their names and that – no matter what – they belong to God. (If you have younger kids in the classroom, you might offer the 2<sup>nd</sup> craft)

**Supplies:** *white construction paper, pencils, dark and bright colored markers or paint pens, examples of stained glass. (sharpies to outline – optional)*

#### Set-up:

Bring an example of stained glass to share or take a quick walk to view a church window.

#### Instructions:

**We are going to make art out of our names. Do any of you know how you got your name, where it came from, or what it means?** Allow time for kids to share. **Names are important. They remind us of background, who our family is, and whom we belong to.** Show stained glass. **We're going to make stained glass designs of our names today. God knows each of our names. And we know that no matter what, we belong to God.**

1. Choose which name(s) to write – first, last, or both.
2. Using pencil, stretch out the first letter from the top to the bottom of the paper.
3. Draw out the rest of the letters, stretching all from the top to bottom of the paper. Draw some letters straight, tilt others, and connect as many letter lines as you can to create lots of different enclosed shapes. Think of the lines of the letters as the wrought iron in a stained-glass window. The more ways they touch, the greater the number of colored glass pieces there will be.
4. Trace name lines with a dark colored marker. Black gives starkest look. The thicker the line, the more dramatic as well.
5. Color the shapes that fall inside and in between the lines with bright markers, viewing each individual shape as a glass-colored tile. Leave little or no white space.

As kids finish, place pictures directly next to, over, and under each other on the table to create a larger image. Together they'll make a powerful visual statement. Stand so all can see. **Your name art was unique in itself, but when we put all of the names together, the result is incredible.** Point to the whole wall. **We belong to God.** Point to your name. **I belong to God.** Invite kids to point to their name. **You belong to God.** Have kids point one last time to their name and say with you, **I belong to God. Amen.**

If you have more time ...

Outline name with black marker and paint inside the shapes.

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### 2. Heart in Hands – Craft

Kids trace an outline of both hands with index fingers and thumbs touching to create a heart. Their picture will remind them that God's words guide our hands, hearts and heads.

**Supplies:** white copy paper, pencils, markers or crayons.

#### Instructions:

**What do you use to pray?** (*hands, hearts, eyes, heads/mind/brain/thoughts*) **When we pray, we fold our hands, we open our hearts, and we use words from our heads. Today's story reminds us to pray and reminds that God's words guide our hands, hearts, and heads.**

**We're going to trace each other's hands to find hearts today. Hold up your hands with me and spread your fingers. Press your index fingers together and thumbs together. Now curl your thumbs up a little bit toward your index fingers.** Allow time for kids to get hands into place. **What do you see in the middle?** (*an upside-down heart*) **Let's trace our hands like this on paper. Grab a partner and we'll get started.**

1. Lay hands on white paper with fingers spread. Touch index fingertips together and thumb fingertips together, then curl thumbs up toward the index fingers a bit to make the top curves of the heart. You will see an upside-down heart form in the middle.
2. Have a partner trace both hands. Be sure to trace around every finger, even the ones that touch.
3. Rotate the paper 180 degrees, so that the upside-down heart in the middle looks upright.
4. Draw wrists that extend to the top edge of the sheet.
5. Trace and color the picture with crayons or markers.

### 3. Guided Hands

Kids work with a partner to mirror each other's motions. They will remember that God's words guide our hands, hearts, and heads.

#### Instructions:

**God's words guide our hands, hearts, and heads. That's an important thing to remember when you're listening for God's guidance. We're going to work together today to guide each other's hands. Remember as you guide and as you follow that God is helping, too!**

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Pair up the kids. If there's a group of three, have them take turns. **One partner is going to be the guide, and one is going to be the follower. Stand face-to-face with your partner and hold your hands up so your palms are facing your partner's palms but not touching. Leaders, SLOWLY start to move your arms up or down or sideways. Followers, follow the leaders' palms with your palms. No matter what the leader does, your palms should always be facing each other's but not touching.** Give the kids time to do this activity, then have the partners switch roles. Then talk about whether it was harder to lead or follow.