



Supplies

- Bibles*
- “Curved or Straight?” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- painter’s tape*
- paper
- washable marker

Easy Prep

- Make a sign that says “God,” and hang it on the wall.

Set It Up

Ask: • **Tell about something interesting that happened this week.** Have kids share in pairs.

• **On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being you didn’t even think about God and 5 being you really felt God with you, how aware were you that God was with you when that happened?** Have kids hold up fingers for their vote, and then ask a few kids with various numbers to explain why.

Say: **We’re talking about the fact that God is always with us. I don’t know about you, but I don’t always feel God with me. Why is that? Why can’t we always feel God with us? Let’s dig in to that.**

Look at a Tricky Picture

Say: **Let’s start to answer this question by looking at a picture.** Have small-group leaders give each child a “Curved or Straight?” handout, and have kids determine whether the lines running across it are straight or curved. Then have kids fold their papers and use the straight edge to check their answers.

Ask: • **Why do you think the lines *appear* to curve?**

Say: **This picture is an optical illusion. It uses visual tricks to make the lines look curved, even though they’re straight. Feelings can be kind of like optical illusions, too. Sometimes they can trick us into thinking God isn’t there... but that’s not the truth.**

Dig Deeper

Say: **If you don’t always feel God with you, you’re not the only one. A big name of the Bible, David, had all kinds of feelings about how close or far away God felt. Let’s listen to some words he wrote. As I read each verse, stand far**

from or close to the “God” sign to show how far or close you think David felt from God when he wrote those words.

Read the following verses one at a time, pausing after each for kids to choose a spot. Have small-group leaders distribute small pieces of painter’s tape to have kids mark their spots each time.

- Psalm 18:19-20
- Psalm 22:1-2
- Psalm 39:12-13
- Psalm 40:1-2
- Psalm 63:7-8
- Psalm 101:2
- Psalm 139:7-10

Pick a Spot

Have kids gather with their small groups.

Say: **As you can see by looking at our tape spots, David’s feelings were all over the place. But let me ask you this.**

Have small groups discuss this question.

Ask: • **What changed distance in this experience—us or the “God” sign?**

What does that show you?

Say: **David’s feelings made him feel close to or far from God. But God was there the whole time.**

Maybe you feel like David in his close-to-God times right now. Or maybe you feel far, far away. However close or far you feel from God, you’re going to sit that distance and take the time to talk with God about that. We’re not going to judge where anyone else is sitting. We’re just going to focus on talking with God about why he feels close or far. We can talk to God honestly, just like David did!

Choose a spot in the room that demonstrates how close you feel to God, and sit and pray. In order to help set a tone of vulnerability, it’s best to choose a spot that’s not right next to the sign. Then have kids choose their spots, and allow a minute or two for silent prayer where kids can talk with God about why he feels close or far.

Say: **God was always there with David. David’s feelings changed a *lot*, just like you moved around to show how David felt. But God didn’t change at all, just like the sign on our wall didn’t move. Our feelings can change, too, and sometimes they make something *untrue* seem *true*. The truth is, no matter how we feel, God is always with us.**