

WEEK

ONE

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Conversation Starter
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

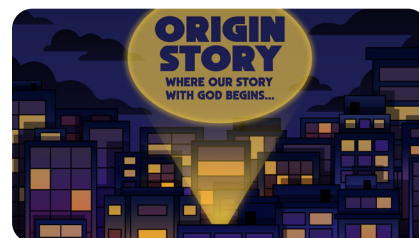
1. Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Extension
3. Discussion Questions
4. Verses to Take with You
5. Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Creation and the Fall Genesis 1–2:3, 3

Supporting Romans 5:8

Conversation Starter

How do you know you can trust God?

Bottom Line

You can trust God no matter what.

Memory Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1 NIV)

Inclusive Pro Tips



This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Yarn pieces
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Permanent marker

MADE TO
↓
Connect



Inclusive Pro Tips

If any kids aren't comfortable over their shoulders, they can toss underhanded while facing forward. Celebrate every kid's attempt to toss the stuffed animals, so all kid feel included and engaged.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to remind every kid that God is with them, even when they don't feel ready. Pray that the kids would find the courage to try new things. Ask God to help the kids remember that even when it feels big or scary, God's plan is perfect!

1. Before you begin, place the pieces of yarn in a pile on the floor. Ensure the ends of each piece of yarn are visible around the edges of the pile.
2. Encourage the kids to get into pairs.
3. Invite the pairs to sit down around the pile of yarn.

Explain the goal

1. Each pair of kids is to find the ends of the same piece of yarn without touching or moving the pile.
2. Once they think they've found it, the pair is to pick up the ends to reveal if they identified the same piece of yarn.

Play Together

1. Show a visual example of how the game works as you explain the goal.
2. Encourage the pairs of kids to communicate and agree on which two ends belong to the same strand.
3. Emphasize that once the pair decides, they can't change their minds.
4. Tape the pair's chosen ends to the floor, and write their initials on the tape with a permanent marker.
5. Invite the next pair to make their choice, then mark the ends with tape and initial. *Note: It's okay if multiple teams choose the same piece. If another team picks the same ends, mark them with another piece of tape.*
6. Continue until all of the pairs have selected a piece of yarn.
7. Once everyone is ready, invite the pairs to pull their ends to see if they're correct.

Gather the entire group to discuss

1. How did you and your partner decide which ends to pick?
2. Was it easy or difficult to agree? Why?
3. If time allows, rearrange the yarn, direct the kids to partner up with another kid, and play again.

② What You Say

"Wow! You all had some great guesses about which tangled piece of yarn would match. This game reminds me of how God's good plan for us got all tangled up after what happened in the Garden of Eden. But there's more to the story! **[TRANSITION]** Because even from the beginning, our good God had a rescue plan to 'untangle' it all. Let's go find out more!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Kaboom" Activity Page



① What You Do

1. Place the "Kaboom" Activity Pages on the floor in three different areas of your group space.
2. Ask the kids: "What does it mean to you to trust God?"
3. Share with the kids that when God created the universe and EVERYTHING in it, it was good because He is good. God is always good, so we can trust Him. We can trust God loves us no matter what and wants to guide us in the right direction, toward more goodness.

Explain the goal

1. The group will discuss various scenarios where the kids will indicate how easy or hard that situation would be for them to trust God by moving to one of the "Kaboom" Activity Pages.
2. Direct the kids' attention to each "Kaboom" Activity Page and explain what each stands for.
3. Instruct the kids to stand by the:
 - "Pfft" sign if kids think trusting God would be easy.
 - "Yikes" sign if kids think trusting God would be a little difficult.
 - "Kaboom" sign if kids think trusting God would be very difficult.

Imagine Together

1. Read the scenarios below one at a time.
2. After each scenario is read, give kids a chance to share why they chose that specific sound effect.
3. If kids faced something similar to a scenario read, invite them to tell their stories by asking:
 - What made it easy or hard to trust God in that situation?
 - How did God help you?

Pfft, Yikes, Kaboom Scenarios (*Adjust scenarios based on your few and what applies more directly to them.*)

1. Your parents don't want you to see a movie that all your friends are going to.
2. Your birthday party got canceled because you are sick.
3. You just found out that your family is moving to another state.
4. You didn't get invited to a classmate's birthday party.
5. Someone you love is sick and not getting better.
6. A friend made fun of you for following Jesus.
7. Your grown-ups are arguing a lot lately, and things aren't good at home.
8. Your sports team counted on you, and you missed the game-winning point.
9. All of your friends have their own cell phones except for you.
10. You really wanted to be picked for a role in the school play, but another kid got the part.

Continued on the next page →

Inclusive Pro Tips



Offer a seated option for this activity. Instead of moving to a sign, allow kids to point to or call out the sound effects ("Pfft", "Yikes", "Kaboom") instead of moving.

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ "Kaboom" Activity Page

MADE TO
↓
Imagine

(Continued)

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Share an age-appropriate time when you or someone you know had to trust God in a significant way. How did God show up in that situation?

Talk Together

1. Share with kids that it can feel hard to trust God when they can't see what's next or when they think they know what's best.
2. Explain that even though people disobeyed God, sinned, and ushered in a curse that infected everyone's hearts and did awful things to the world, God never left us alone. He loves us and He wants to be close to us! God sent Jesus to rescue us, to break that awful curse, and make a way for us to be friends with God again!

Inclusive Pro Tips



Offer a seated option for this activity. Instead of moving to a sign, allow kids to point to or call out the sound effects ("Pfft", "Yikes", "Kaboom") instead of moving.

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Foil
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Prepared foil rod

*Consider using these passages:

- ☐ Genesis 1:1, 3
- ☐ Genesis 1:9-10
- ☐ Genesis 1:20-21
- ☐ Genesis 1:25
- ☐ Genesis 1:26-27
- ☐ Genesis 3:2-3
- ☐ Genesis 3:6
- ☐ Romans 5:8

Inclusive Pro-Tips



Allow extra time for any kids who may need it to finish shaping their foil rods or to respond after each verse.

Pair up kids who might benefit from some extra support to help them during the activity and encourage communication.

① What You Do

Create Together

1. Give each kid a 3-foot piece of aluminum foil.
2. Show kids the prepared foil rod as an example. (This will help them visualize what they're going to make.)
3. Direct each kid to roll their piece of foil along the longest edge to create a 3-foot foil rod.
4. Explain that you will read several verses from today's Bible Story, and they'll shape their pieces of aluminum foil into something that reminds them of the creation story.
5. One at a time, read a passage from the Bible that's from the Bible Story.*
6. Whenever you pause after reading a Bible passage, start the timer for 30 seconds and encourage the kids to shape their foil rods into something that reminds them of the creation story during the time.
7. For example, if you read about the creation of humans (Genesis 1:26-27), kids might shape their foil rod into a heart or stick figure.
8. After each 30-second period, invite the kids to share what they created with the group.

Prompt discussion with the kids by asking:

- What characteristics of God can we see in creation? (Affirm the kids' answers. God is good—He made good things like grass that's soft to walk on, a different beautiful sunset each night. God is creative—He made the duck-billed platypus and creatures that shine at the ocean depths! God provides—everything has all of its needs met, like honeybees and flowers, and we have the exact recipe of air we need! God has infinite wisdom—He put the planets spinning in motion, and they're all exactly where they need to be!)
- In what way does knowing those things about God help you trust Him?
- How did God make a way to fix the mess that people made when they sinned against God? (God sent Jesus.)
- We can't actually see God with our eyes, but what other evidence does God give us to help us know He's real and near? (The Bible—God gave us the Bible so we can know Him; we can see what God has done and what He has made, etc.)

Talk Together

1. Explain to kids that even though people turned away God, God NEVER gave up on them. He loves us and wants to be our close friends! From the beginning, God had a plan to restore the world through Jesus.
2. Encourage the kids that they can trust that nothing will ever change God's love for them. God loves you so, so much! Anyone who believes and follows Jesus can be friends with God!

Note → Be sensitive to kids who might have questions about following Jesus. Follow your church's policy for having conversations with kids about salvation. Involve families in this discussion or decisions as well.

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No supplies needed



① What You Do

Ask

- How do you know you can trust God?
- What do you think it means to trust God with something you can't see or control?
- When you're having a hard time trusting God, what can you do? Who can you talk to?
- What would you tell someone who doesn't believe God exists?

Inclusive Pro-Tips



Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You

MADE TO
Explore

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Cups
- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pens

Note

Before you begin, consider watching a demonstration of the activity here:

bit.ly/4im8gq0


Inclusive Pro-Tips

Print the "Memory Verse" Activity Page to provide a printed visual of the Bible verse. Some kids process information better when they see it rather than just hearing it.

Kids may need extra time to process the verse and respond to discussion questions. Be patient and give them space to think and speak without pressure.

If necessary, consider adapting the game's structure. For example, you can modify the speed or process of taking turns to help kids with physical or processing challenges succeed.

① What You Do

1. Invite kids to get into pairs.
2. Give each pair a Bible and direct them to look up this month's Memory Verse, Hebrews 11:1.
3. Use the Bible Navigation tips below to help kids find the verse.*
4. Repeat the verse together several times.

Ask

- What do you think it means to be "sure of" what you do not see? (Or, to have "confidence in" what you do not see—for the NIV.)
- What things do you know exist even though you've never seen them? (Kids might say air or wind, love, Wi-Fi, germs, etc.)
- What do you know is true about God even though you've never seen Him?

Explore Together

1. Pause after asking kids each question to give them time to process and respond.
2. Give each group four index cards, five cups, and a pen for each kid.
3. Direct the kids to divide Hebrews 11:1 into four parts and write one part of the verse on each index card.
4. For example, if using NIV:
 - Faith is being sure of
 - what we hope for.
 - It is being sure of
 - what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1
5. For example, if using NIV:
 - Now faith is confidence in
 - what we hope for
 - and assurance about
 - what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1
6. Create a model cup tower for the kids to reference as they build their own.

Continued on the next page →

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You

MADE TO
Explore

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Cups
- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pens

Note

Before you begin, consider watching a demonstration of the activity here:

bit.ly/4im8gq0



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Print the "Memory Verse" Activity Page to provide a printed visual of the Bible verse. Some kids process information better when they see it rather than just hearing it.

Kids may need extra time to process the verse and respond to discussion questions. Be patient and give them space to think and speak without pressure.

If necessary, consider adapting the game's structure. For example, you can modify the speed or process of taking turns to help kids with physical or processing challenges succeed.

(Continued)

Walk the kids through the following steps to create the cup tower:

1. Set one cup upside down on the floor, and place the first index card (with the first part of Hebrews 11:1 face up) on top of the cup.
2. Place another cup on top of that card, then add the second index card on top of that cup.
3. Continue stacking cups, alternating with index cards in verse order.

Explore Together

1. As the kids successfully stack the cups, they must recite the portion of the verse on the index card they pulled out.
2. Check the kid's towers to ensure the cups are being stacked upside down.
3. Once each cup tower is complete, challenge the groups to take turns pulling an index card from the cups as fast as possible so that the cup drops onto the one underneath it.
4. Encourage the kids to re-build their tower if the cups fall off.
5. Play a few rounds before inviting the kids to place their verse cards in order and recite the verse together again.

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 1

GROUPS 5/5

Make It Personal with Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No supplies needed

① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to stand in a circle, arm's length apart.
2. Instruct the kids to take a step forward into the circle each time you pause to indicate they are praying along with you.
3. Close the group in a prayer similar to the following, pausing for kids to add their own words:

Dear God, thank You for the amazing world You've created and all the ways it shows us Your goodness, Your creativity, and Your love. (PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO WHISPER OR SAY ONE THING THEY'RE THANKFUL FOR THAT GOD CREATED.)

Help us to trust You this week no matter what comes our way. (PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO SILENTLY THINK OF ONE THING THEY NEED TO TRUST GOD WITH.)

Thank You for the plan You had from the very beginning to show Your love by sending Jesus to make a way for us to be close to You again. (PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO SILENTLY OR QUIETLY THANK GOD FOR SOMETHING SPECIFIC ABOUT JESUS.)

We love You and want to follow You. Help us see ways we can trust You more every day. (PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO SAY, "GOD, I TRUST YOU," IF THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE.)

We pray these things In Jesus' name. Amen.

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

Social

Opening Activity

- ☐ Yarn, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ *Before group time: Cut 15 pieces of yarn, each measuring 24 inches in length.*
- ☐ Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Permanent marker, one for each Small Group

Groups

1. Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Print "Kaboom" Activity Page on paper or cardstock, one set for each Small Group

2. Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Bible, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Aluminum foil, one 3-foot piece for every kid and Small Group Leader
- ☐ Timer, one for every kid
- ☐ *Before group time: Create an example of the foil rod by rolling a piece of aluminum foil along the longest edge.*

3. Discussion Questions

→ No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bible, one for every two kids.
- ☐ Index cards, four for every two kids
- ☐ Plastic cups, five for every two kids
- ☐ Pens, one for every kid

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

→ No supplies needed

Home

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app** and **ParentCue.org**

WEEK

TWO

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Conversation Starter
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Noah Genesis 6-9

Conversation Starter

When is it hard to trust God?

Bottom Line

You can trust God even when you don't understand

Memory Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1 NIV)

Inclusive Pro Tips



This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Laundry Baskets or Large Containers
- ☐ Stuffed Animals
- ☐ Cones or Floor Tape

MADE TO
↓
Play



Inclusive Pro Tips

If any kids aren't comfortable over their shoulders, they can toss underhanded while facing forward.

Celebrate every kid's attempt to toss the stuffed animals, so all kid feel included and engaged.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on a time when God gave you courage when you faced a fear. Ask God to strengthen the kids in your group with courage when they face their own fears. Pray they will remember that God is bigger than anything that makes them afraid! Ask God to give them faith like Joshua and Caleb, even when others around them doubt.

1. Divide the kids into two teams.
2. Give each team a basket and four stuffed animals.
3. Designate starting lines for both teams with cones or floor tape.
4. Direct a kid from each team to stand a few feet away from their team's starting line with the basket.
5. Instruct the teams to line up behind their starting line.
6. Direct the first kid in line to stand with their back facing the kid with the basket.
7. Give the first kid in line the four stuffed animals. Instruct them to hold one of the stuffed animals and place the other three at their feet.
8. Explain the Toss Challenge:
 - Challenge the kid at the start line to toss the stuffed animals over their shoulder, one at a time, aiming for the basket.
 - The basket holder should try to catch them.
 - If the team doesn't successfully get their stuffed animals in the basket, their team can quickly retrieve the stuffed animals and keep going.
 - Retrieve the four stuffed animals and give the next kid in line a turn.
9. The team that successfully catches all of their stuffed animals first wins!
10. Play until every kid gets a chance to throw the stuffed animals.

② What You Say

[TRANSITION] "If you think it was a challenge to toss stuffed animals into a basket behind your back, wait until you hear about a man in our true story from the Bible today, who had to trust God to do something really EPIC! Let's go!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Pens or Pencils



Inclusive Pro Tips

If a kid doesn't want to share, allow them to listen and reflect instead.

Consider pairing the kids up to fold the paper - one can hold it while the other presses it down. Instead of folding the paper, kids who are struggling can also count every time another kid folds theirs.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil.
2. Ask the kids to write or draw a situation when it would be hard for them to trust God.
3. To get the kids started, share an example:
 - "A friend stops talking to you and starts hanging out with another group of kids. You don't know why, and it hurts. It could feel hard to trust that God has a good plan when you feel left out and alone."
4. Encourage kids to share (if comfortable) why the situation they chose would be challenging.

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Share an age-appropriate story from your own life when trusting God was difficult. Was there a truth about who God is, or a story from the Bible that encouraged you?

5. Explain the Folding Challenge:

- Ask kids to estimate how many times they can fold their paper in half before they can no longer fold it.
- Instruct the kids to write their guesses on the back of the piece of paper.
- Each kid is to fold their paper one fold at a time, counting each one. (Most will reach a max of seven folds.)

6. Celebrate the closest guessers and every kid's participation!

7. Discuss

- How might tough times shake our trust in God?
- What can we do when we don't understand why something is happening?
- How does trusting God help us grow stronger like the folded paper?

8. Encourage the kids:

- To take the folded paper home as a reminder that even when things don't make sense, God is with you!
- Just like the paper got tougher, your faith grows stronger when you trust God!
- Remember, God is good and He is still at work! When things are confusing, trust God one step at a time.
- Pray—share your feelings with God and ask God to help you have faith!
- Read the Bible and remember who God is and what God has done!

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

MADE TO
↓
Connect

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Styrofoam Plates
- ☐ Toothpicks
- ☐ Permanent Markers



Inclusive Pro-Tips

If a kid struggles with fine motor skills, allow them to use the marker instead of the toothpick to create their design.

Reassure kids that everyone sees things differently. It's okay if a kid's guess doesn't match the original drawing.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a toothpick and a Styrofoam plate.
2. Instruct the kids to gently use the toothpicks to poke holes in the plate to outline something from today's Bible Story (but not an ark or rainbow).
3. Encourage the kids to keep what they're outlining a secret!
4. Once they've finished, invite the kids to exchange plates.
5. Give each kid a permanent marker.
6. Challenge the kids to "connect the dots" to guess the picture.

NOTE: In some cases, the kids may not guess closely what the original kid was creating, and that's okay!

7. Direct each kid to reveal their original intention for their drawing.
8. Discuss how Noah trusted and obeyed God without seeing the full picture! Because Noah trusted God without seeing the full picture, he had to trust God each step of the way. He obeyed God and built an ark, even though he'd never built one. Noah got ready for it to rain for days and days because he trusted God when God said it would.
9. Ask:

→ Why do you think it could've been hard for Noah to understand what God was doing?

10. Encourage kids to share situations they might face this week, situations that they don't understand or are confusing.

11. Encourage the kids:

→ God is good and He is working for good in that situation. He loves you so much!
 → Even when you don't understand, God is with you, and He will go through whatever you're facing with you.
 → The same God who was with Noah, the God who is King over all things, is with you too!

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 2

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed



① What You Do

Ask

- When is it hard to trust God?
- How can Noah's story remind you of God's rescue plan for us through Jesus?
- What helps you trust God when things feel confusing?
- How do you know God takes care of you? How does that help you trust that God will provide for you again tomorrow?

Inclusive Pro-Tips



Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Prepared Origami Boat Example
- ☐ "Origami Boat" Activity Page
- ☐ "Origami Instructions" Activity Page
- ☐ Scotch tape
- ☐ Pens or Pencils



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Some kids might prefer writing or drawing instead of folding. Allow them to design a boat on the paper triangle instead!

① What You Do

1. Give every kid a Bible.
2. Direct them to look up Hebrews 11:1 using the Bible Navigation tips below.
3. Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
4. Discuss Hebrews 11:1.
 - What does this verse tell us about faith?
 - When have you had to trust God without knowing how things would turn out?
 - How does this verse help you trust God more?
5. Give each kid a pen (or pencil) and a triangle from the "Origami Boat" Activity Page.
6. Show the kids your origami boat example.
7. Give each kid the "Origami Instructions" Activity Page, and walk them through the folding process.
 - If a kid is struggling, encourage them to work with another kid.
 - Explain each step one at a time, waiting for each kid to finish before explaining the next step.
 - Give each kid a small piece of scotch tape when you arrive at Step 4.
8. Once everyone's finished, encourage them to write "Hebrews 11:1" on the origami boat.
9. Encourage the kids to use their boat as a Bible bookmark for Hebrews 11:1.
10. Share with the kids:
 - Noah had faith and obeyed God even before he saw the flood.
 - Faith is trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.
 - God is good, He is always working for good, so we can trust God no matter what!

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

GROUPS 5/5

Make It Personal with Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible Marked at Psalm 145:3



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Some kids might prefer writing or drawing instead of folding. Allow them to design a boat on the paper triangle instead!

① What You Do

1. Encourage the kids to sit with you in a circle.
2. Give a kid in the circle the marked Bible, and invite them to read Psalm 145:3.
3. Ask:
 - "Think back on today's Bible Story about Noah. What did you see about God's power?"
 - "What did you see about God's patience, love, or God's attitude toward sin?"
4. Let several kids share their thoughts.
5. Invite kids to participate in a call-and-response prayer.
6. Begin praying, filling in the blanks with what kids share.
 - (Leader) "Dear God, thank You for being . . . (fill in with one of the qualities kids named)."
 - (Kids) "I can trust You even when I don't understand."
 - (Leader) "We can have faith because we know You are . . . (fill in the blank with something about God's character)."
 - (Kids) "I can trust You even when I don't understand."
 - (Leader) "When it's hard to trust You this week, remind us that . . ."
 - (Kids) We can trust You even when we don't understand."
7. Close the prayer by thanking God for being so good and for loving us so much. Ask God to help the kids grow to trust Him more every day.

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

Social

Opening Activity

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Laundry baskets or large storage container, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Stuffed animals, eight for each Small Group
- ☐ Cones or floor tape, enough to mark two starting lines

Groups

1. Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Paper, one sheet for every kid
- ☐ Pen or pencil, one for every kid

2. Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Bible, one for every kid
- ☐ Styrofoam plate, one for every kid
- ☐ Toothpicks, one for every kid
- ☐ Permanent markers, one for every kid

3. Discussion Questions

→ No supplies needed.

4. Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bibles, one for every kid
- ☐ Pens or pencils, one for every kid
- ☐ Print "Origami Boat" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one triangle for every kid.
- ☐ Print "Origami Instructions" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid.
- ☐ *Before group time: Use the supplies and instructions to create an origami boat example to show the kids.*

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

- ☐ Bible marked at Psalm 145:3

Home

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app** and **ParentCue.org**

WEEK

THREE

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 3

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Key Question
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

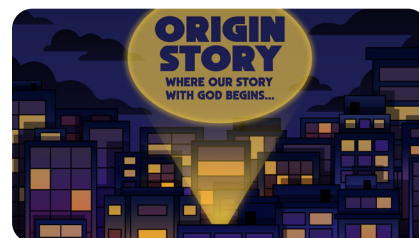
1. Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

God Chooses Abram Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6

Conversation Starter

What does it look like to trust God?

Bottom Line

You can trust that God has a plan.

Memory Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of we do not see.
(Hebrews 11:1 NIV)

Inclusive Pro Tips



This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Water Bottle

MADE TO
↓
Move



Inclusive Pro Tips

Start the game off slowly and gradually speed things up. This can help the kids process words before reacting.

You can modify the "grab" action by letting both the kids point at the bottle instead.

Consider providing alternative motions, like stepping side to side if turning in circles is difficult for the kids.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Express gratitude for God's Son, Jesus, who showed us what it looks like to look out for others, no matter what people may think. Ask God to give the kids in your group hearts that notice and care for others in need. Pray they will have the courage to be kind and stand up for what is right, even when it's hard.

1. Instruct two kids to stand and face each other a few feet apart.
2. Place the water bottle on the floor between them.
3. Explain that when you say a command, they are to make the action you say.
4. Demonstrate each action.
 - "STARS!" —raise your hands above your head.
 - "BYE!" —wave your hand.
 - "OFF WE GO!" —turn around in a circle.
 - "BOTTLE" —reach down and grab the water bottle.
5. Say, "I will say the words in random order. When I say 'BOTTLE!,' be the first to grab the water bottle to win the round."
6. The winner stays for the next round, and a new kid steps in.
7. Play until each kid has had at least one turn.

② What You Say

"Whew, that game was fast, but FUN! The actions in our game may have seemed random, but a lot of them actually show up in today's true story from the Bible. **[TRANSITION]** Can you guess what the story is? **(INVITE RESPONSES.)** Let's go find out how God did something EPIC for all of us through a guy named Abraham!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 3

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed



① What You Do

1. Invite kids to share thoughts about today's Bible Story in a game called "Read My Mind."
2. Explain how to play "Read My Mind."
 - Two kids will be given a sentence starter related to the Bible Story.
 - Instead of finishing the sentence separately, they will try to say the same thing at the same time as if they were speaking in one voice.
3. Choose two kids to go first.
4. Read a sentence starter aloud (see below for suggestions).
5. Encourage the kids to watch each other's mouths and speak slowly to match words.
6. After they finish, discuss what they said and allow others to share their own thoughts.
7. Rotate the kids so every kid has at least one turn.

Suggested Starters

- Something that stood out to me in today's Bible Story was . . .
- I think the story of Abram is important because . . .
- God's plans for us . . .
- I wonder if Sarai . . .
- Abram had faith when . . .
- I think it would have been hard for Abram to . . .
- I think trusting God means . . .



Inclusive Pro Tips

If a kid is non-verbal or prefers not to speak, let them draw a picture or use a gesture to communicate their response.

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

MADE TO
↓
Imagine

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ "Unlikely Heroes" Activity Page


Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of kids in your Small Group. Some kids might need more time to process or read the statements.

If any kids struggle to speak or read aloud, allow them to have another kid help them read the story statement.

① What You Do

1. Mix together the cards from the "Unlikely Heroes" Activity Page and hand them out in no particular order.

If you have fewer than 10 kids, it's okay if some kids have more than one card.

2. Tell kids to look at their card but not to let other kids see what it says.
3. Explain the activity:

- Each kid is to take a turn reading the story statement at the top of their card, which describes something that happened in today's Bible Story.
- When each kid reads the card out loud to the group, they are to read the statement using the "secret superpower" described at the bottom of their card.
- The rest of the kids will try to guess their unusual "superpower."

4. After all the cards have been read, recap by reminding kids that from the very beginning, when people turned away from God and ushered in that evil curse, God had a plan to restore us because He loves us and wants to be our close friends. Throughout God's Big Story—which is recorded in the Bible and which we are going through this year—we see how God has been working out that plan. He worked on His great rescue plan for a long, long time.

5. Ask:

- Why would it have been a challenge for Abram and Sarai to trust God's plan and promise?
- What does it teach you about who God is that He stayed faithful to His promises even when Abram and Sarai made bad choices?
- What is something you learned about God's character from the Bible Story?
- What does it look like for a kid your age to trust God in a situation that might require you to wait a long time?
- What can we take from Abraham and Sarah's story to encourage us to trust God?

6. Encourage kids to share their own stories or the stories of someone they know who trusted God in a situation that took a long time to work out. Discuss why these stories help us have faith too.

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Share an age-appropriate example of a time you had to trust God for something that took a long time to happen. How did you wait well and show your faith in God's plan and timing?

7. Encourage kids with that even when things take a long time, we can trust that God still has a plan.
8. Share that nothing can stop God's plan to work things for good!

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 3

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed

MADE TO
↓
Connect

① What You Do

Ask

- What does it look like to trust God in your everyday life?
- Think about a person you really trust. What makes them trustworthy?
- Now, think about God. What do you believe about God that makes Him even more trustworthy than the most reliable person you know?
(Examples: God always keeps His promises, God knows everything, God loves me no matter what.)
- Why is it still possible to trust God even when things don't go as expected?
(Point kids to the idea that God has a plan, and God sees things we can't see yet!)
- Faith means trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see. What's something you can see in your life that reminds you to trust God?

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] by sharing an age-appropriate time God helped you through something hard, God answered a prayer, or how God has provided for you in another way!

Inclusive Pro-Tips



Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ "Psalm 3:5" Activity Page
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-Erase Marker



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Think about your group's needs. If any kids need more time to process, consider changing the time or playing without a timer. If running isn't an option, let kids answer the questions and pass the clipboard to a teammate to run. If kids in your group process best visually, consider writing the fill-in-the-blank questions on the whiteboard and keeping score on the side portion of the whiteboard. High-energy games can be overwhelming for some kids. Offer an alternative role, like keeping score or writing questions on the whiteboard.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a Bible.
2. Instruct kids to look up Proverbs 3:5 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
3. Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
4. Invite kids to share their thoughts about the meaning of Proverbs 3:5. Ask:

- What does this verse say about trusting God?
- The word "heart," in this verse means more than feelings. What do you think it means to "trust in the Lord with all your heart"?

5. Divide kids into teams of 2-3.
6. Direct the teams to spread out.
7. Give each team a clipboard with 10 sheets of paper, and markers.
8. Explain the game:

- You will ask a question about the verse from the "Proverbs 3:5" Activity Page.
- One kid from each team will write the answer on the paper on the clipboard, then run it to you—all within 10-20 seconds.
- The kids are not to run until they finish writing.
- You will check each team's answer.
- Teams that answer correctly within the time get 10 points.
- The team with the most points at the end wins!

9. Set the timer for each round.
10. Use the whiteboard and dry-erase marker to keep score.
11. Before each question, instruct the teams to move their top paper to the back so the next kid has a fresh piece of paper for each round.
12. Share with kids that spelling isn't the focus; just do your best to choose an answer quickly!
13. Celebrate the kids' effort and calculate the scores!

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

GROUPS 5/5

Make It Personal with Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Notecards
- ☐ Pens or Pencils



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Give extra time to write the prayers for kids who need it. Let them know it's okay if they need a few extra minutes.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a notecard and pen (or pencil).
 - Invite kids to write a 1-2 sentence prayer to God.
 - Encourage kids to ask God for help to trust Him and strengthen their faith this week.
2. Once the kids are finished, encourage them to take turns reading their prayers aloud.
 - It's okay if kids don't feel comfortable sharing their prayers aloud.
3. Close in prayer, asking God to help the kids continue to trust in Him and in His good plan because He is good! Ask God to help the kids learn to trust in Him because of who He is and what He's done!

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

Social

Opening Activity

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Water bottle, one for each Small Group

Groups

Take a Snapshot

→ No supplies needed

Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Print "Unlikely Heroes" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group

Discussion Questions

→ No supplies needed

Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bibles, one for every kid
- ☐ Print "Proverbs 3:5" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Clipboards, one for every two kids
- ☐ Sheets of paper, 10 for every two kids
- ☐ Markers, one for every kid
- ☐ Timer, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Whiteboard and dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group

Make It Personal with Prayer

- ☐ Notecard, one for every kid
- ☐ Pens or pencils, one for every kid

Home

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app** and **ParentCue.org**

WEEK

FOUR

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Conversation Starter
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jacob's Dream Genesis 28:10-22

Supporting: Genesis 25:19-34; 27

Conversation Starter

What does it look like to trust God?

Bottom Line

You can trust that God has a plan.

Memory Verse

**Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of we do not see.
(Hebrews 11:1 NIV)**



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Pillows
- ☐ Rocks
- ☐ Plastic Bowls
- ☐ Wooden Spoons
- ☐ Floor Tape

MADE TO
↓
Play



Inclusive Pro Tips

Be mindful of pairing kids with someone they feel comfortable with or allow them to choose their partner.

For any kids with limited mobility, allow groups to stay in one spot and work as a team to balance all of the items on their heads.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Recall a time in your life when you experienced uncertainty, but you knew that God was with you. Ask God to give each child courage when they face uncertainty. Pray they will trust God even when they don't know what's next. Ask God to help the kids see that God is always working in their lives!

1. Mark a starting line and a finish line using floor tape.
2. Divide the kids in groups of two.
 - It's okay if you have a group of three.
 - Partner boys together, and partner girls together.
3. Give each group a plastic bowl.
4. Explain and demonstrate the challenge:
 - Each pair is to stand back-to-back with one teammate facing the finish line.
 - Each pair must hold a plastic bowl between their backs.
 - If the bowl drops, they must stop, pick it up, and restart from where they are.
 - The first group to cross the finish line with the bowl between their backs wins.
5. For each new round, add a new object for groups to try to keep between their backs.
 - rocks
 - wooden spoons
 - a pillow
6. By the last round, the groups should be attempting to balance all the items at once.
7. Gather the kids to discuss.

② What You Say

"All of these objects give us clues about today's Bible Story! **[TRANSITION]** We'll hear about someone who made unwise choices. BUT God was with him and proved it by showing up in a very unexpected way. Let's go find out more!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 4

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Paper

MADE TO
↓
Imagine

① What You Do

1. Instruct the kids to sit in a circle, putting some space between them and the kid next to them.
2. Give each kid a clipboard, a marker, and a stack of paper that is equivalent to the number of kids in the group.
 - For example, if you have eight kids, each clipboard should have eight sheets of paper.
3. On the first page, instruct kids to write about a situation in which it would be important to remember that God is with them.
 - If kids are stumped, share these examples: taking a big test, or moving to a new school
4. After a minute or so, direct the kids to pass their clipboards to their left.
5. On the second page, instruct the kids to draw a simple picture representing the words on the first page.
6. Once they're finished, encourage the kids to move the first paper with the words on it to the back of the stack.
7. Instruct the kids to pass the clipboards to the left again.
8. Direct the kids with the clipboards to use the picture to write a short description of what they think the picture represents on the next page, then move the paper with the picture to the back of the stack.
9. Keep passing, alternating between drawing and writing until each person has their original stack of paper back.
10. Encourage the kids to read and share what they originally wrote and how their message changed.
11. Discuss with your group:
 - Why is it a situation where you'd want to know God is with you?
 - How can you remind yourselves of God's presence in hard times?
 - Is it a sign of weakness or strength to rely on God?

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Share an age-appropriate time when you knew God was with you. How did God show up and remind you that He was there?



Inclusive Pro Tips

Be patient with the kids and give them extra time to write or draw for each round if needed.

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

MADE TO
↓
Create

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Fine-Tip Markers
- ☐ "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Think about the needs of your group. Let the kids verbally describe the word instead of writing it if they don't feel comfortable.

Be mindful of any kids with sensory sensitivity by offering a quiet guessing option where kids raise their hands to guess a word.

① What You Do

1. Divide your group into two teams.
2. Give one kid from each team a clipboard with 10 pages of paper and three fine-tip markers.
3. Explain and demonstrate how to play "Knuckle Draw":
 - The kid with the clipboard is to go first.
 - You will show both kids the same card from the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page without letting others see it.
 - The kid will hold all three markers between the fingers of one hand. (Demonstrate using the picture on the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page as an example.)
 - The goal is for the kids to write the bolded word from the cards while holding the markers in this way.
 - The rest of their team will try to guess the word.
 - The first team to guess correctly wins the round.
 - After each round, read the sentence on the card and let kids share what they remember about that part of the Bible Story. (Refer to Genesis 28:10-22; 25:19-34; 27 if needed.)
4. Switch kids and use a new card for the next round.
5. Continue until everyone has had a turn writing and all 10 cards from the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page have been used.
6. Ask:
 - How does Jacob's story show us that we can trust God no matter what?
 - How did God remind Jacob that He was with him?
 - How does God let us know He's with us today?
 - When you feel alone or are facing something tough, what helps you remember God is with you?
7. Share with kids that Jacob wasn't perfect. He made mistakes, but God never left him!
8. Explain that all of God's promises to Jacob came true. Eventually, Jesus was born into Jacob's family!
9. Encourage the kids that no matter what happens or what we do, God is always with us. We can trust God because of who God is and what He has done! He is good and He has always been good.

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 4

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed

MADE TO
↓
Connect



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Be sensitive to kids needing extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

① What You Do

Ask

- What helps you remember that God is with you?
- Would Jacob be someone you would trust all the time?
Why or why not?
And yet Jacob is part of God's plan. How does that encourage you to trust God, knowing that even when you mess up, God still loves you and is working toward His good plan?
- Abraham and Jacob were part of God's Big Story. What about us?
How do we fit into God's plan today? (God invites us into a relationship with Him through Jesus! When we choose to follow Jesus and share His love with others, we are a part of God's Story!)
- What does Jacob's story tell us about God's character and His love for us?

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Dye
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Paper

What You Need

- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-Erase Marker



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of your group. Allow extra time for processing if any kids need it.

If a kid is nervous about reciting the verse words out loud, tell them it's okay to skip that step and write the verse words on their team's paper.

Use a whiteboard and a dry-erase marker to write Hebrews 11:1 for any visual learners.

① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into 2-3 teams.
2. Give each team a Bible.
3. Direct them to look up Hebrews 11:1, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
4. Ask the following questions one by one and direct the groups to discuss.
 - According to Hebrews 11:1, what does it mean to have faith?
 - Why can we trust that God is always with us? He promises it in the Bible (Isaiah 41:10, Deuteronomy 31:6, Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5); when we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside of us and lead and guide us every day.
 - When have you had to trust God, even when you couldn't see the outcome?
5. Give each team a die, a piece of paper, and markers.
6. Explain the game:
 - Each kid will take turns rolling the die.
 - The number they roll is the number of words they must recite and write down from Hebrews 11:1.
 - Each team will take turns in this way until they recite and correctly write the entire verse.
 - The first team to complete the verse wins.
7. Check the team's papers before announcing a winner.
8. Repeat at least two rounds.

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

GROUPS 5/5

Make It Personal with Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Index Cards
- ☐ Pens or Pencils



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Let the kids draw their words instead of writing them if they feel more comfortable doing so.

Ensure there isn't any pressure to pray out loud! Allow kids to pray quietly and read their prayer card to themselves.

① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to join you in a seated circle.
2. Give each kid an index card and a pen (or pencil).
3. Encourage the kids to write the first letter of their first name on one side and the first letter of their last name on the back.
4. Using one of their initials, invite the kids to write a word that describes God.
 - For example, if their first initial is "T," they might say "trustworthy!" Or, if their first initial is "S," they might say "strong!"
5. Use the other initial to write a place they might go this week.
 - For example, if their last name begins with a "D," they might say the doctor's.

NOTE: If kids can't come up with words using their first and last names, suggest they use their middle name. Offer assistance as needed.
6. Challenge the kids to write a sentence that includes the two words that they wrote.
 - For example, "God is _____, and He is with me at _____."
7. Encourage the kids that wherever they go this week, God is with them.
8. Encourage the kids to use what they wrote to create a prayer praising God for who He is and thanking Him for always being with them!
9. Invite those who are willing to pray out loud.
10. Close in prayer.

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

Social

Opening Activity

For every two kids

- ☐ Pillow, one for every two kids
- ☐ Medium size rock (3-4-inches), one for every two kids
- ☐ Plastic bowl, one for every two kids
- ☐ Wooden spoon, one for every two kids
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group

Groups

Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Clipboard, one for every kid
- ☐ Marker, one for every kid
- ☐ Paper, one for every kid
- ☐ Attach the sheets of paper to the clipboards. Each clipboard will need sheets of paper equal to the number of kids in the group. If you have 8 kids, you will need 8 clipboards with 8 sheets of paper attached to each clipboard.

Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Bible, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Clipboards, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Paper, 20 sheets for each Small Group
- ☐ Fine-tip markers, six for each Small Group
- ☐ Print "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group

Discussion Questions

→ No supplies needed

Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bibles, three for each Small Group
- ☐ Dice, three for each Small Group
- ☐ Markers, enough for the Small Group to share
- ☐ Paper, three sheets for each Small Group

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-Erase Marker

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

- ☐ Pens or pencils, one for every kid
- ☐ Index card, one for every kid

Home

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app** and **ParentCue.org**

WEEK

FIVE

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Conversation Starter
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Joseph Genesis 37; 39-45

Conversation Starter

When has something bad turned into something good?

Bottom Line

You can trust God when things get tough.

Memory Verse

**Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of we do not see.
(Hebrews 11:1 NIV)**



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Empty Water Bottle
- ☐ Hydrogen Peroxide
- ☐ Yeast
- ☐ Warm Water
- ☐ Food Coloring
- ☐ Liquid Dish Soap
- ☐ Small Bowl
- ☐ Cookie Sheet
- ☐ Funnel
- ☐ Plastic Tablecloth

MADE TO
↓
Explore

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the true story of Joseph, a reminder that even when life feels tough or confusing, God is still at work! Reflect on a time you went through something tough and couldn't see how God was using it until later. Thank God for being faithful. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you communicate to kids they can trust God no matter what! Pray that your group would trust God with their big and small struggles. Pray that they would learn to look for how He is working even when life doesn't go as planned.

1. Cover the workspace with the plastic tablecloth.
2. Place all the supplies on the tablecloth.
3. Gather the kids around so that everyone can see.
4. Ask: "What do you think will happen if we mix these ingredients together?"
NOTE: Some kids may guess an explosion. Point out that none of these ingredients seem very powerful on their own.
5. Place the bottle on the cookie sheet. In a small bowl, mix the warm water and the yeast.
6. Use the funnel to pour hydrogen peroxide, dish soap, and 5-6 drops of food coloring into the bottle. Swirl it around to mix.
NOTE: Consider letting the kids help you with the steps.
7. Pour the yeast mixture into the bottle (using the funnel), then step back! Watch as foam overflows from the bottle.

② What You Say

"If you've never done that experiment before, you might have been a bit surprised at the way all of those ingredients reacted to each other. **[TRANSITION]** This reminds me of how life surprises us too. In today's Bible Story, we'll meet someone who faced a lot of tough surprises. But the biggest surprise was the way God used all of it for good! Let's go find out more."

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Some kids may prefer to pour, stir, or observe. Give them choices like: "Do you want to help pour or watch the reaction?"

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Crayons


① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Select one kid to go first.
3. Instruct them to place a crayon between each of the fingers of their right hand, with the crayons pointing up.
4. Explain how to play:
 - The kid going first turns to the kid next to them and says, "My name is _____, and I can trust God when . . ."
 - The kids are to shake hands in a way that transfers the crayons from the fingers of the first kid to the fingers of the second kid.
 - Continue sharing about trusting God and passing the crayons around the circle. If a crayon falls, the kid is to pick it up and keep going.
 - The goal is for the crayon to make it around the circle.
5. To make it a race, split the kids into two teams and see which team can pass the crayons around their circle first.
6. Join the groups together (if needed), and expand the conversation by asking:
 - Why should those who know Jesus view tough times differently than those who don't?
 - When has God used something tough in your life to accomplish something good?

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Share an age-appropriate story about a time when God surprisingly used something hard in your life to accomplish something good.



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group. If holding multiple crayons is difficult, adjust the number of crayons they pass.

If kids in your group have sensory sensitivities, consider passing a small ball instead. Some kids might not like the feeling of crayon rubbing between their fingers.

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

MADE TO
↓
Imagine

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Pens
- ☐ "Story Sound Effects" Activity Page
- ☐ "Joseph's Story" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro-Tips

If a kid prefers not to read aloud, allow them to hold up the sound effect signs for their team as the story is told.

Give the kids time to process and think as you ask the discussion questions.

Some kids focus better when they move! Consider letting the teams act out their part of the story while they read it!

① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into four teams.
2. Give each team one card from the "Joseph's Story" Activity Page and a set of six cards from the "Story Sound Effects" Activity Page.
3. Instruct each team to read through their "Joseph's Story" Activity Page card.
4. Direct the teams to use the "Story Sound Effects" Activity Page cards to write down six different sounds or short phrases to place in their part of the story wherever they like.
5. For example:
 - "Joseph's brothers were angry and jealous of him." (GRR!)
 - "Joseph went to jail for something he did not do." (SLAM!)
 - "Joseph forgave his brothers." (SAY WHAT??)
6. Once everyone is finished, invite the team with the first card to read their part of the story using the sound effects as they read.
7. Continue until all four parts have been read.
8. Ask:
 - What do you think was the toughest thing Joseph went through? Why?
 - Tell us about a tough time God used to accomplish something good.
 - How do difficult situations build our faith? How might they make us doubt?
 - What would you tell someone who's going through a tough time but really wants to trust God?
9. Remind kids that even when life is messy and hard, God is still with us! He never leaves us, even when things get tough. God wants us to come to Him when we are going through hard things.

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 5

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed



① What You Do

Ask

- When has God used something bad in your life to accomplish something good?
- Jesus trusted God's plan (Garden of Gethsemane) even when things were really hard. What can you do to remember you can trust God?
- What does it tell others about who God is when we trust God no matter what?



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Be sensitive to kids needing extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Foil Balls
- ☐ Floor Tape



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Some kids might need extra time to think before answering the questions. Be patient and allow them to process!

For any kids who would prefer not to play the game, let them be the scorekeeper.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a Bible.
2. Direct them to look up Romans 8:28, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
3. Say the verse together several times.
4. Point out any unfamiliar words and explain them.
5. Use the floor tape to create a line down the middle of your space.
6. Divide the group into two teams.
7. Direct each team to stand on opposite sides of the tape line.
8. Toss an equal amount of foil balls on both sides of the tape line.
9. Explain the game:

- At your signal, teams are to roll foil balls across the line into the other team's space.
- The goal is to have the fewest foil balls on your team's side when the game stops.
- You will stop the game at a random point. (You can turn around so it's obvious you can't see which side has more foil balls on it when you end the round.)
- The team with the most foil balls is to recite Romans 8:28. Assist the kids as needed if they don't remember all the words.

10. Repeat several rounds.

11. Read Romans 8:28 twice before allowing kids to respond to the following questions.

- What do you think God is telling us in Romans 8:28?
- When might it be hard to believe the promise of Romans 8:28?
- Does this verse mean that everything eventually works out the way we want it to? Explain

12. Help kids understand that God doesn't promise that life will be easy, but God does promise that He will always be with us. Even when things are messy or hard, God is at work, and one day God will make everything right through Jesus. We may not always understand when hard things happen, but we can trust that God is using it for good.

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

GROUPS 5/5

Make It Personal with Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-Erase Marker

Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Index Cards
- ☐ Pens



Inclusive Pro-Tips

If kids prefer not to speak aloud, encourage them to use index cards and a pen to write down their statement or draw a picture that represents it.

Write prayer examples on a dry-erase board that kids can reference or copy onto their paper.

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. Review the Bottom Lines from this month. See if any kids can recite them.
 - You can trust God no matter what.
 - You can trust God even when you don't understand.
 - You can trust that God has a plan.
 - You can trust that God is with you.
 - You can trust God when things get tough.
3. Write the following prompt on the whiteboard with a dry-erase marker:
 - "I can trust God because _____."
4. Invite each kid to repeat the sentence and fill in the blank. Encourage them to think about what they discovered this month and what they know about who God is.
5. Demonstrate by going first.
 - I can trust God because He is good.
 - I can trust God because God has a plan.
 - I can trust God because God does what He says He will.
 - I can trust God because God knows everything.
6. As you close, ask if any kids would like to pray for the group.
7. Close in prayer.

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

Social

Opening Activity

- ☐ Empty 16 oz water bottle, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Hydrogen peroxide, ½ cup for each Small Group
- ☐ A packet of dried yeast, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Warm water, 3 tbsp for each Small Group
- ☐ Food coloring, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Liquid dish soap, 1 tbsp for each Small Group
- ☐ Small bowl, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Large deep-sided cookie sheet, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Small funnel, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Plastic tablecloth, one for each Small Group
- ☐ *Before group time, watch a demonstration of the activity here:*
bit.ly/41MvfDP

Groups

Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Crayons, 3-6 for each Small Group

Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Pen, one for every kid
- ☐ Print "Story Sound Effects" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, four sets for each Small Group
- ☐ Print "Joseph's Story" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group

Discussion Questions

→ No supplies needed.

Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bibles, one for every kid
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Aluminum foil, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time: Create at least 30 foil balls by scrunching up pieces of aluminum foil.

Make it Personal with Prayer

- ☐ Dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Whiteboard, one for each Small Group

Inclusive supplies

- ☐ Index cards, one for every kid
- ☐ Pens, one for every kid

Home

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app** and **ParentCue.org**

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 5

Getting Ready

Home

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