

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
- Bottom Line
- What's Our Part in the Story?
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: Superhero Review
2. Application Activity: Rainbow Art
3. Memory Verse Activity: God's Promise!
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Noah Genesis 6-9

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

- ☐ Offering Container
- ☐ Hula Hoops
- ☐ Floor Tape
- ☐ Timer

MADE TO
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Play

Inclusive Pro Tips



Consider the needs of your group. Adapt the movement by allowing kids to walk or crawl through each Hula Hoop instead of hopping or jumping.

If a kid prefers not to race, let them cheer their team on!

① What You Do

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. Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
 2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 3. Spread out hula hoops in a straight or zig-zag pattern.
- NOTE: Kids should be able to jump from one hoop to the next.
4. Designate a start line on one side of the hoops and a finish line on the other with floor tape.
 5. Divide the kids into two teams.
 6. Explain that they will race through the hops using their "super speed."
 7. How to play:
 - The team selected to go first will line up behind the start line.
 - The first kid on the team will hop, jump, or run through the hoops to the other side.
 - Once they reach the last hoop, they will return and tag the next kid in line.
 - The team that gets all of their kids back to the start line the fastest wins!
 8. Set a timer for each team during their turn. Compare the times to claim a winner.
 9. If time allows, play another round.
 10. Celebrate the teams' efforts!

② What You Say

"Whoa! You all did an incredible job using your super speed to get through the Hula Hoops. Some of the hoops were easy to pass on, and some hoops took a little extra time to get to! We had to take the Hula Hoops one step at a time in order to make it across. **[TRANSITION]** In fact, we're going to hear a true story from the Bible about how important it is to take our lives one step at a time with God, even when we don't understand what's happening next. Let's go find out more!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/4

Superhero Review

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Floor Tape
- ☐ "Superhero Review" Activity Page

MADE TO
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Move



Inclusive Pro Tips

Let kids move in a way that works for them. Suggest that kids walk or point based on the needs of your group.

If a kid isn't comfortable moving in this way, ask them to help you read the questions or cheer others on!

Some kids might need extra time to process and think as you read the questions. Be patient and repeat the questions if necessary.

① What You Do

1. Place a line of floor tape in the center of your group space.
2. Instruct the kids to stand on the tape line.
3. Share the rules:
 - You will read a question from the "Superhero Review" Activity Page out loud.
 - Each question will have two answer choices. Kids are to choose an answer by moving to the side of the tape line they think is correct.
 - You will challenge the kids to do different superhero movements as they move to the side of the tape line they have chosen.
4. One at a time, read a question from the "Superhero Review" Activity Page out loud.
5. Point to each side of the room as you call out the possible answers.
6. After you've read a question and its two possible answers, challenge the kids to move like a superhero as they answer each question. Some examples of superhero movements are:
 - Leaping (like over buildings)
 - Super-speed (quick feet, but moving safely!)
 - Invisibly (walk low and stealthy)
 - Strong (strut with your biceps curled)
7. Once kids have moved, tell them the correct answer.
8. Before you ask another question, instruct the kids to return to the tape line.

② What You Say

Continued on the next page →

GROUPS 1/4

Superhero Review

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Floor Tape
- ☐ "Superhero Review" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

Let kids move in a way that works for them. Suggest that kids walk or point based on the needs of your group.

If a kid isn't comfortable moving in this way, ask them to help you read the questions or cheer others on!

Some kids might need extra time to process and think as you read the questions. Be patient and repeat the questions if necessary.

② What You Say

"Great job answering today's Bible Story review questions—and doing it in such a fun way! Today's true story from the Bible was about Noah. What did God ask Noah to build? **(INVITE RESPONSES.)** That's right, an ark! That took a long time, and finally, once it was done, God brought two of every animal to climb aboard, along with Noah and his family.

"After more than a year in the ark, it was probably such a huge relief for Noah and his family to get out into the fresh air—and on the dry ground again! Can you imagine the kind of faith Noah must have had to trust God and build the ark, even when he didn't understand? He had a lot of trust in God, and a lot of faith. Faith is trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see. See, Noah had no other reason to think that it was going to rain for so long, and that rain would cover everything on the Earth . . . except for the fact that God told him. And Noah trusted and believed God.

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Talk about an age-appropriate time when you weren't sure what would happen next, and you had to trust God. Be sure to keep it kid-friendly! Maybe it was when you were going through a scary thunderstorm, or moving to a new place.

"We all are going to do things that we don't know the outcome of or that we've never experienced before. All Noah could lean on was God's promises. He knew that God had been good and would see him through what he was facing."

"We can know the same thing. God has always been good and will see us through whatever we are facing. Remember: **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God even when you don't understand."

GROUPS 2/4

Rainbow Art

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bubble Wrap
- ☐ Washable Markers
- ☐ White Paper
- ☐ Prepared Spray Bottle with Water



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Some kids with sensory sensitivities may not want to press down on the bubble wrap. Let them use the markers to decorate their page.

If a kid prefers not to create the bubble wrap rainbow, let them spray the papers for the others.

MADE TO
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Create

① What You Do

1. Lay a piece of bubble wrap flat on a table or floor.
2. Demonstrate for the kids first:
 - Use the washable markers to color directly onto the bubble wrap in rainbow order.
 - Once the bubble wrap is fully colored, press a white piece of paper on top.
 - If the marker has dried, lightly mist the white paper with water before pressing.
 - Peel off the paper and admire the colorful rainbow print!
3. Give each kid a piece of white paper and let them press it onto the bubble wrap.
4. Let the kids use a marker to write their names on the back of the paper.
5. Reapply marker to the bubble wrap and water to the paper as needed.
6. Encourage kids to take their artwork home as a reminder of God's promises.

② What You Say

"Today's Bible Story was a story about faith, trust, and promises. God even made a physical sign for the promise He made after the flood! God promised never again to flood the entire Earth. And the sign He gave for His promise? A rainbow!"

"Now, whenever you see a rainbow, let it remind you that God is faithful to keep ALL of His promises—not just the one He made that day! God's promises are good, and He has never broken a single one. Take this rainbow art home with you today and let it remind you of all of God's promises!"

"Noah had seen enough of God's work to know God would always, always keep His words. But we have even more to go on than Noah ever did! We have all the true stories in the Bible, God's Word, to show us God has been faithful to keep His promises—every single one! We also have stories from our families, our friends, and in our own lives of things God has done. God kept His promise to Noah then, and God still keeps His promises now! Just like Noah, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God even when you don't understand!"

GROUPS 3/4

God's Promise

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Story Verse" Activity Page
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Timer

MADE TO
↓
Move



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Some kids might need extra time to place the verse in order. It's okay if they don't finish in 90 seconds. Celebrate both groups for their effort!

① What You Do

1. Give every two kids a Bible.
2. Guide the kids to look up Hebrews 11:1.
3. Repeat the verse together several times.
4. Discuss any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
5. Divide the kids into two groups.
6. Give each group a set of cards from the "Story Verse" Activity Page.
7. Explain how to play:

→ Say, "I'm going to give you 90 seconds to work together with your group to place the words of Hebrews 11:1 in order! When your team is done, shout 'FAITH!' together."

→ At your signal, start the timer and prompt the kids to get started.

→ If time allows, play another round, but this time challenge the kids to silently place the verse in order.

② What You Say

"I love our Memory Verse this month! The truth is we can trust God with EVERY part of our lives! God is so powerful that He goes with all of us wherever we go. That's our God! Just like God gave Noah (and us) a rainbow as a reminder of His promise, God gave us Jesus to save the whole world, even when it was epic and difficult.

"God promised to rescue us, and then God sent Jesus to die on the cross for everything we could ever do wrong. Jesus took the punishment for sin so that so that when we choose to follow Jesus and turn from the things we do wrong, we can be friends with God again forever! Remember this verse and know that **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God even when you don't understand."

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 with this discussion or decisions as well.

*Finding verses with 2nd-3rd graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.)
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list.
- ③ When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter.
- ⑤ Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Prepared construction paper



① What You Do

1. Invite kids to sit in a circle.
2. Place the four pieces of colored paper around your group area.
3. Explain to the kids what each color means.

NOTE: If you choose different colors, adjust how you share.

- Red = family and friends
- Blue = school
- Green = worries
- Yellow = dreams

4. Say, "These colors help us think about different parts of our life we can talk to God about. You get to choose one color to pray about today!"
5. Invite the kids to pick one color and stand or sit near that color.
6. Give kids a few minutes to silently talk to God about the area they chose.
7. Encourage the kids: **[BOTTOM LINE]** You can trust God even when they don't understand!
8. Close in prayer.

What You Say

"God, thank You for always keeping Your promises! Thank You for loving us, guiding us and caring for us, no matter what we're going through. We want to trust You with every part of our lives—our family, friends, school, sports teams, worries, and dreams. Help us to remember that You are always faithful, even when we are going through something scary and we don't know what's ahead. Give us unshakeable faith to always know that we can trust You, even when we don't understand. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to share the Memory Verse, Hebrews 11:1!

Inclusive Pro-Tips



Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Consider any kids who may focus better with a fidget option (like holding a soft object, using quiet hand motions, or drawing while praying).

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
- ☐ Hula hoops, 6-10 for each Small Group
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Timer, one for each Small Group

Groups

Superhero Review

- ☐ Print "Superhero Review" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group Leader
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group

Rainbow Art

- ☐ Bubble wrap, one 8 1/2" x 11" piece for each Small Group
- ☐ Washable markers in rainbow colors, one set for each Small Group
- ☐ White paper, one piece for every kid and Small Group Leader
- ☐ Spray bottle, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Water, 6oz for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time:
- ☐ Fill the spray bottle with water.

*God's Promise!

- ☐ Bibles, one for every two kids
- ☐ Timer, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Print "Story Verse" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, two sets for each Small Group

Pray and Dismiss

- ☐ Construction paper in red, yellow, blue, and green; four pieces for each Small Group

→ Note: Adjust the colors of the construction paper with what you have on hand

- ☐ Before group time, write the following statements on separate pieces of construction paper:

- Red = family and friends
- Blue = school
- Green = worries
- Yellow = dreams

*If you don't have time to do all, be sure to do the starred activity.

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**