

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



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 (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Seeds of Wisdom
2. Cause and Effect
3. Verse Tower Challenge
4. Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

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

Today's Bible Story

The Kings

1 & 2 Kings

Bottom Line

Be wise because your choices matter.

Memory Verse

"It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver."

Proverbs 16:16 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
- ☐ "Ticket Toss" Activity Page
- ☐ Prepared containers or buckets
- ☐ Floor tape

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for reminding you that even kids make choices that matter. Ask God to help your group see how their words, actions, and even their attitudes can lead them closer to You. Pray that your small group environment is a space where kids feel safe to learn, make mistakes, and grow in wisdom. Ask God to give you gentle words and creative ways to help them understand that being wise starts right now!

1. Welcome kids to group with a high five or fist bump!
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Before you begin, place the "A" and "B" buckets at the front of your group area.
4. Mark a line with tape on the opposite end of your group area.
5. Give each kid six tickets from the "Ticket Toss" Activity Pages.

Play Together

1. Direct the kids to gather behind the tape line.
→ They don't have to stand in a line!
2. Explain that you will read a "Would You Rather" question, and each kid will travel to place their ticket into the "A" or "B" bucket to cast their vote.
3. After each vote, give kids a moment to travel back to the other side of your group area.
4. Ask a few kids to share why they made their choice.
5. Repeat the process until all questions have been answered.

Continued on the next page. →

Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow various movement variations like walking or hopping instead of running.

If kids need more time to think before voting, give them time to do so.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity



What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ "Ticket Toss" Activity Page
- ☐ Prepared containers or buckets
- ☐ Floor tape

① What You Do (cont.)

Would You Rather Questions

1. Would you rather:
 - A) always win at rock-paper-scissors or,
 - B) always win at hide-and-seek?
2. Would you rather:
 - A) ride the world's fastest roller coaster or,
 - B) go down the world's biggest water slide?
3. Would you rather:
 - A) only have pizza forever or,
 - B) only have ice cream forever?
4. Would you rather:
 - A) be famous on YouTube or,
 - B) be a world-famous athlete?
5. Would you rather:
 - A) have unlimited slime or,
 - B) Have unlimited fidget toys?
6. Would you rather:
 - A) never have to brush your teeth again or,
 - B) never have to take a bath again?

② What You Say

"That was so fun! Those were some silly choices. But you know what? They reminded me of the choices we have to make every day. Sometimes our choices can feel small or big. And sometimes, our choices make a big impact on our lives and on others!"

"Today, we'll hear a true story from the Bible about different people who had to make important decisions, and what they chose shows us that choosing wisely matters. Let's go!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow various movement variations like walking or hopping instead of running.

If kids need more time to think before voting, give them time to do so.

GROUPS 1/4

Seeds of Wisdom

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Zip-top bags
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Lima beans
- ☐ Small bottle of water
- ☐ Permanent marker



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together on the floor or around a table.
2. Give every kid one zip-top bag, one paper towel, and 2-3 lima beans.

Explore Together:

1. Say, "Today we're going to plant something—follow me step-by-step!"
 - Step 1: Dampen the paper towel using the small water bottle. (Not too much! Assist the kids with this step as needed.)
 - Step 2: Place the damp paper towel in the zip-top bag.
 - Step 3: Add 2-3 lima beans on top of the towel, inside the bag.
 - Step 4: Seal the bag tightly, leaving a bit of air inside.
2. Set out the permanent markers and instruct the kids to write their names, and "Be wise because your choices matter" on the bag.
3. Say, "Over time, the lima beans will sprout and grow into little plants! Tape your bag to a window at home, where it can get some sunlight."
 - *Note: Let the kids know they will need to check on the beans each day, keeping the paper towel wet (but not too wet)!*

Talk Together:

1. Ask: "What happened when the kings made wise choices. What happened when they didn't?" (When kings made wise choices—like King Solomon during the season of his life when he asked God for wisdom and followed it—things went well for the people, and God was with them. When kings disobeyed God or made selfish choices, things got very hard. People stopped trusting God. Some kings even led the people to worship false gods, and that caused BIG trouble.)
2. Ask, "What do you think made a king wise in God's eyes?"
3. Ask, "Do you think it was always easy for the kings to choose what's right?"

Continued on the next page. →

Inclusive Pro Tips



Be sure to demonstrate each step slowly!

GROUPS 1/4

Seeds of Wisdom

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Zip-top bags
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Lima beans
- ☐ Small bottle of water
- ☐ Permanent marker



② What You Say

"Today's Bible Story showed us ups and downs of kings who had choices to make. Some chose to follow God and God's ways, and the people they reigned over were blessed! Other kings didn't, and it caused a lot of trouble. God's way is always the best way to live.

"I want you to think of your beans like the choices we make. When we ask God for wisdom, and make the wise choice over and over again, it grows good fruit just like the seed turning into a strong plant. Does God give us grace when we don't make wise choices all of the time? Absolutely! That's why He sent Jesus—God knew we wouldn't get it all right all the time. But He wants to help us choose wisely and live well. That's part of the reason why He came to live inside of us Himself through the Holy Spirit, He wants to guide us through life well, so we live strong and beautifully!

"Sometimes, choosing God's way is not easy. But when we choose God's way over and over again, we grow into people who love well, live with purpose, and show others who Jesus is. Be wise because your choices matter."

Make It Personal → Share an age-appropriate time you had to make a big decision, and you decided to apply God's wisdom. Was it a verse you remember, or a conversation with a friend who followed Jesus that helped you? Share how seeking God first changed your situation.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Be sure to demonstrate each step slowly!

GROUPS 2/4

Cause and Effect

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Cause and Effect" Activity Page
- ☐ Pencils



Inclusive Pro Tips

If it works better for your group, allow them to act out the cause/effect scenes instead of matching them on the paper.

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a seated circle or at a table in your group area.
2. Give every kid a "Cause and Effect" Activity Page and a pencil.

Imagine Together:

1. Invite the kids to form groups of 2-3.
2. Say, "We're going to do an activity together to help us think about how our choices lead to different outcomes! On one side of your page, you'll see causes, things someone might do (point to them). On the other side, you'll see effects, what might happen next (point to them)."
3. Instruct the kids to work together to draw lines from each cause to its possible effect.
4. Refer to your copy of the "Cause and Effect" Activity Page, and, one by one, talk through each of their choices as a group!

Talk Together:

1. Ask, "Can you think of a time you made a wise choice and it led to something good?"
2. Ask, "What are some ways we can practice listening to the Holy Spirit in everyday life? Like at school, with our friends, or at home?" (Pausing before reacting, asking God for help in the moment, and reading the Bible to learn God's voice.)

② What You Say

"Great thinking, friends! Our choices matter. They matter because they shape our lives and the lives of others. The choices we make can lead to all kinds of outcomes—some good, some not-so-great. That's why today's bottom line is SO important: Be wise because your choices matter!

"Wisdom can mean stopping to ask: 'Hmm. God, what might happen if I do this?' He wants to help you make the wise choice! When we choose to follow Jesus, God's Son, we aren't on our own to figure things out—we have the Holy Spirit to guide us! The Holy Spirit helps us stop, think, and make decisions that honor God.

"What are some of these wise, godly choices we can make? Well, we can look at the life of Jesus to know what's wise! He is God and He showed us how God would live. Jesus didn't just tell people what was right. He lived it! He was kind. He was honest. He was fair. He was forgiving. He listened. He helped people who needed help.

"As we try to live wisely, we won't be perfect, but we'll grow in God's wisdom as we keep asking for it and practicing, even when it's hard. This week before you react, pause and remind yourself to be wise because your choices matter!"

GROUPS 3/4

God's Word and Wisdom

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Floor tape
- ☐ "Cup Stack" Activity Page
- ☐ Plastic cups
- ☐ Permanent markers

Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Prepared cups with Proverbs 16:16

Inclusive Pro Tips

If it suits your group better, prepare two sets of cups with the words from Proverbs 16:16 on them.



① What You Do

1. Before you begin, use floor tape to mark two starting lines on one end of your group space.
2. Divide the kids into two teams and have them stand behind each line.
3. Place a stack of 19 cups a few feet away (for the NlrV, 15 for the NIV) from each starting line.
4. Give each team one permanent marker, and one Bible.
5. Direct the teams to look up Proverbs 16:16.
6. Repeat the verse together several times.
7. Review any words in the verse that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

Move Together:

1. Show the kids the "Cup Stack" Activity Page and say, "Are you ready for a verse relay? One at a time, you will each race to:
 - Grab one cup from the stack.
 - Bring it back to your group.
 - And use the marker to write one word from Proverbs 16:16 on it!
 - Once the word is written, the next kid can go!"
2. Say: "After your team has written all the words, you'll work together to make a cup pyramid with the verse in order. When your team is done, shout, 'PROVERBS 16:16!'"
3. At your signal, begin the game!
4. Once a team has collected all of their cups and written on them, give them a "Cup Stack" Activity Page to follow to build their pyramid.
5. Play until both teams have stacked the verse words in correct order.

Continued on the next page. →

*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 3/4

God's Word and Wisdom



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Floor tape
- ☐ "Cup Stack" Activity Page
- ☐ Plastic cups
- ☐ Permanent markers

Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Prepared cups with Proverbs 16:16



Inclusive Pro Tips

If it suits your group better, prepare two sets of cups with the words from Proverbs 16:16 on them.

② What You Say

"That was so fun! It took some focus to place those cups in just the right order. It also takes focus to build our lives on God's wisdom too.

"I love that we can trust the Bible because it's God's true Word. The King of all gave it to us. Every word helps us know who God is, how much He loves us, and how we can live in a way that honors Him!

"The truth is that wisdom starts in our hearts. When we want what God wants, that's when we realize we don't have all the answers. And that's when wisdom begins to grow in us. God's wisdom is so very precious! So let's all keep asking God for wisdom and letting His truth shape how we live. Remember, be wise because your choices matter!"

*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

Option 1

- ☐ "Prayer" Activity Pages
- ☐ Lima bean bags from "Seeds of Wisdom" Activity (Bible Story Review Activity)
- ☐ Clear tape

Option 2

- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pencils



Inclusive Pro Tips

If your group works better in pairs, invite them to partner up and pray for one another. You can give them a prompt like, "Pray for your friend to be wise at school this week."

① What You Do

Option 1

1. Give every kid a "Prayer" Activity Page.
2. Assist them to tape it onto their lima bean bag.
3. Encourage the kids to care for their beans at home by following the instructions on the page.
4. While they hold their lima bean bags, invite them to pray silently to God, asking for His wisdom to flood their minds as they make choices this week so they can grow strong and beautiful lives!

Option 2

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. Give every kid an index card and a pencil.
3. Invite the kids to think about a time they might need wisdom this week.
 - While playing on the playground with friends.
 - During a sports game.
 - Responding to a parent.
 - Making the right choices during class.
 - Looking out for others in need.
4. Direct them to write or draw about it on their index card.
5. Invite them to pray silently to God, asking for His wisdom to flood their minds as they make choices this week so they can grow strong and beautiful lives!
6. Close the group in prayer.

② What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for showing us how important our choices are. Thank You for Jesus, who not only showed us how to live wisely, but also gave us a way to be close to You! We want to live like Him! Please fill our hearts with Your wisdom. Remind us to read Your Word, and surround ourselves with others who follow Your Son, Jesus. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As grown-ups arrive to pick up, invite the kids to show off their lima bean bags. Encourage them to tell their grown-ups what they learned from the true story of the kings: be wise because your choices matter!

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
- ☐ Print "Ticket Toss" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for every kid
- ☐ Containers or buckets, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time:
 - Using a bold marker (so the letters are readable from a distance), write "A" on an index card, and "B" on another index card.
 - Firmly tape the index cards to the containers or buckets, to label them "A" or "B."

Groups

Seeds of Wisdom

1. Zip-top bags, one for every kid and Small Group Leader
2. Paper towels, one for every kid and Small Group Leader
3. Lima beans, 2-3 for every kid and Small Group Leader
4. Small bottle of water, one for each Small Group
5. Permanent marker, enough for each Small Group to share
6. Before group time:
 - Use the supplies to make a finished example to show the kids.

Cause and Effect

- ☐ Print "Cause and Effect" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid and Small Group Leader
- ☐ Pencils, one for every kid

Verse Tower Challenge*

- ☐ Bibles, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Print "Cup Stack" Activity Page on paper, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Plastic cups; 38 for each Small Group for NIV, 30 for each Small Group for NIV
- ☐ Permanent markers, two for each Small Group

Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Before group time:
 - Use the supplies to write one word from Proverbs 16:16 on each cup; two sets for each Small Group

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.

Groups (cont.)

Pray and Dismiss

Option 1

- ☐ Print "Prayer" Activity Pages on paper and cut apart, one card for every kid
- ☐ Lima bean bags from "Seeds of Wisdom" Activity (Bible Story Review Activity)
- ☐ Clear tape, one roll for each Small Group

Option 2

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

*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**