

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

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

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

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.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Samuel Anoints David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Conversation Starter

What does it mean to be wise?

Bottom Line

God can help you make the wise choice.

Memory Verse

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

Proverbs 16:16 NIRV



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



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow kids to work in pairs.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Ask God to prepare the hearts of preteens who are walking through your door. Some are full of questions, some are ready to lead, some are just figuring things out. Thank God for the reminder that He saw something special in David, even when others didn't. He saw David's heart, full of love for Him. Thank God for seeing the same potential in every kid in your group! Pray that they would feel seen, known, and loved by God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help them lean into God's wisdom, even when they don't feel strong, important, or ready.

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. Gather the kids together.
4. Ask: "What's your favorite amusement park?"

Move Together:

1. Explain and demonstrate how to play:
 - Say, "We're going to pretend we're headed to an amusement park, but there's a mystery rule about what can come with us! Your goal is to listen, guess the pattern, and see if your item makes the cut!"
 - The leader will start by saying, "I'm going to an amusement park, and I'm bringing (name of item). What are you bringing?"
 - The goal is for the kids to identify the rule and answer the question with the rule in mind.
 - If their item matches the mystery rule, respond warmly with: "Yes! That totally fits. Welcome to the park!"
 - If it doesn't fit, say kindly: "That item can't come into the park. Would you like to bring something else?"
 - Let them try again and reassure them it's all about discovering the rule!
 - Continue until everyone's had a turn or the group figures out the rule.
2. If time allows, play several rounds using the questions below.

Questions:

1. "What are you bringing?"
2. "What kind of snacks do you want to get?"
3. "What kind of rides do you want to get on?"
4. "What characters do you want to see?"

Rule Suggestions:

1. Starts with the letter "B"
2. An animal
3. Something red
4. Starts with the letter "T"
5. Something yellow

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Preteen

Small Group

October — Week 1

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container



② What You Say

"That was hilarious! And kind of tricky, right? You had to think before you spoke. Some of your choices got you in, while others didn't. This reminds me of when God chose David to be king. David didn't look like the obvious choice, at all! But God knew that something deeper was more important.

"Today, we're discovering that godly wisdom helps us look deeper too—at our choices, our friendships, and even how we treat others. Let's go find out more!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow kids to work in pairs.

Preteen

Small Group

October — Week 1

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

- ☐ Pencils or pens
- ☐ "Fast Pass" Activity Page



① What You Do

1. Give each kid one Fast Pass card from the "Fast Pass" Activity Page and a pencil or pen.
2. Encourage them to write their names on their "Fast Pass."
3. Invite them to form groups of 2-3.
4. Direct the kids to read the verse on their cards aloud to their group and answer the reflection questions on the back together.
5. After reflection time, gather the entire group together.
6. Invite kids to share their verses and their insights with the group if comfortable.

Make It Personal → Share an age-appropriate time when God helped you make a wise choice. Briefly explain the situation, how you felt, and how God showed up!

7. Explain:
 - A "Fast Pass" gets you to the front of the line at an amusement park.
 - Wisdom is like a fast pass that leads you through life well. And God wants to give you wisdom! When we read the Bible, pause to reflect, and ask the Holy Spirit for help, God can speak directly to you and show you how to live wisely! God wants to give you wisdom!
 - God wants to give you wisdom right now, not just when you're older. You might not be picking a college or deciding on a job yet, but you are choosing how to treat your friends, how to respond when someone's unkind, or what to do when you feel left out. God cares about every single one of those moments, He goes through every single one of those moments with you through His Spirit, and as you seek Him, He will help you navigate them all!
 - NOTE: Each week, kids will receive a "Fast Pass." Encourage them to collect them and take them home!

Inclusive Pro Tips



If this activity works best when the kids work and reflect independently, allow them to do so.

Preteen

Small Group

October — Week 1

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

☐ "Story Script" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

If kids struggle with reading, have the SGL read and the kids act.

① What You Do

1. Assign kids character roles or let them choose.
 - Samuel
 - Saul
 - Jesse
 - David
 - David's Brothers (**AT LEAST 3, UP TO 7**)
 - Goliath
2. Give each of them a "Story Script" Activity Page.
3. Prompt them to identify their characters' lines and actions by color on the script.
4. Invite the remaining kids to be the audience.
5. Read the Narrator lines from the "Story Script" Activity Page as the kids act out the story.
 - NOTE: Pick another kid to read the Narrator lines.
6. Celebrate the kids for playing along once the script is finished!

Talk Together:

1. Ask:
 - Why do you think God picked David and not one of the older brothers?
 - What do you think it looks like to have a heart that loves God?
 - What do you think courage has to do with wisdom?

Preteen

Small Group

October — Week 1

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 the following:

1. What does it mean to be wise?
2. Why do you think God wants us to grow in wisdom?
3. What makes it hard to make the wise choice when others around you choose not to?
4. What helps you listen to God when making a decision?
5. What can you pray to help you turn to God and ask Him for wisdom as you go through life with Him?

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
- ☐ Prepared index cards with Proverbs 16:16
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Blindfold

① What You Do

1. Divide the group into two teams.
2. Give each team a Bible and direct them to look up this month's Memory Verse, Proverbs 16:16.
3. Use the Bible Navigation tips below to help kids find the verse.
4. Repeat the verse together several times.

Play Together:

1. Give both teams a set of Proverbs 16:16 index cards and a blindfold.
2. At your signal, the teams will race to arrange the verse in correct order.
3. Play several rounds, inviting the kids to place the verse in order using these directives:
 - Silently: The kids will place the verse in order together without speaking.
 - Blindfolded: Teams will blindfold a kid and direct the kid to place the verse in order.
4. Celebrate the teams as they finish the verse.
5. Remind the kids that when they memorize Scripture, they hide truth in their hearts. That means when they face tough decisions, they already have God's Word ready to guide them.

Talk Together:

1. Instruct the teams to look up these words of Jesus in their Bibles.
2. John 14:26: "The Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you." (NIRV).
 - What do you think it means that the Holy Spirit is our Friend who helps us and reminds us what Jesus said?
3. Why do you think Jesus wanted us to have the Holy Spirit after He left earth?
4. John 16:13: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth" (NIRV).
 - What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth?
 - How do you think the Holy Spirit guides us today? **(THROUGH THE BIBLE? THROUGH A FEELING? THROUGH SOMEONE WISE?)**
 - What are some ways people might hear lies instead of the truth in their daily lives?

*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

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Pens or Pencils
- ☐ Index Cards

→ *Optional: Soft Worship Music*



① What You Do

1. Invite every kid to find a quiet space in your group area.
2. Give each kid an index card and a pencil.
3. Direct them to write a short prayer asking God to help them be wise this week.
4. Once everyone is finished, prompt them to do one of the following with their cards:
 - Give it to a leader if they want someone to pray for them this week.
 - Keep it and take it home.

God, thank You for each of my friends here today. I'm so glad that we don't have to have the perfect words to come to You—You just want our hearts! You are all-knowing. You are in control. You're never confused or caught off guard. That means we can be real with You about a tough decision, a friendship, or something we're confused about. Help us to remember You want to help us make wise choices each day! Remind us to pause and ask You: 'What should I do?' We love You, God. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow the kids to draw or doodle to God on the index card if that works best for the kids in your 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.

Social

Opening Activity

- ☐ Offering container

Groups

Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Print "Fast Pass" Activity Page double-sided on cardstock and cut apart, one card for every kid
- ☐ Pens or pencils, one for every kid

Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Print "Story Script" Activity Page on paper, seven for each Small Group

Discussion Questions

→ No Supplies Needed

Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bibles, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Timer, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Index cards, 22 for each Small Group
- ☐ Blindfold, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time,
 - Split the words from Proverbs 16:16 up into 11 index cards.
 - Create two sets.

Pray and Dismiss

- ☐ Index cards, one for every kid
- ☐ Pencils or pens, one for every kid
- ☐ Optional: Device for playing worship music

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**