

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

David and the Psalms

Psalms 1:1-4

Conversation Starter

How do you know what's wise?

Bottom Line

If you want to be wise, focus on God.

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
- ☐ Backpacks
- ☐ Various "life supplies" (bat, ball, jacket, Bible, books, toy, etc.)
- ☐ Floor tape



Inclusive Pro Tips

To adjust the movement in this activity, instead of running across the room, place all the items on a table. Have the teams race to pack their backpacks as each kid takes turns grabbing one item at a time.

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. Divide the group into two teams.
4. Mark a tape line on one side of your group space and scatter the "life supplies" behind it.
5. Mark a tape line on the opposite end of your group space and direct the teams to stand behind it.

Move Together:

1. Say, "Here's how to play! Each kid on your team will take turns running across to pick up one item and return it to your team."
2. At your signal, begin the game!
3. Halfway through, introduce a backpack to each team. Let them know that they can pack the backpack to gather items faster and bring it back to their team.
4. The team with the most items wins.

① What You Say

"That backpack was a GAME CHANGER! There are so many things that we face in life and carry, and trying to do it all on our own can get messy. I love that God's wisdom is like this backpack. It helps us carry all the things that come our way with wisdom. We travel through life better with God's wisdom. And God wants us to go through life well! He wants to give us what we need to go through life well.

"That reminds me of today's true story from the Bible. God is good and His ways are good! And there was someone who loved God so much for His goodness and wisdom that this man spent his whole life focusing on his relationship with God. As we'll see, when you focus on God, when you keep coming back to Him, no matter what—God gives you the wisdom you need for each moment, for each thing you face.

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

- ☐ "Fast Pass" Activity Page
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Prepared cardstock signs



Inclusive Pro Tips

Offer a longer time to reread or personally reflect on the verse before discussing it with the group. Some kids need more time to process their thoughts before sharing aloud.

① What You Do

1. Before you begin, tape the prepared cardstock signs around your group space.
→ NOTE: If you can't tape them, place them on the floor.
2. Give each kid one Fast Pass card from the "Fast Pass" Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
3. Encourage the kids to write their names on their Fast Pass.
4. Collect the pens or pencils.
5. Invite the kids to read the verse on their Fast Pass.
6. Direct them to go find the matching verse sign.
→ NOTE: If you have a small group, combine verse signs and allow those kids to discuss their verses together.
7. At each sign, instruct the kids to:
→ Read the passage together.
→ Discuss what they think the Scripture is saying.
8. After several minutes, gather the group together. Read through each Bible reference, and invite the kid(s) who have that Scripture reference on their "Fast Pass" to share something they talked about.

Talk Together:

1. Explain:
→ "The world might throw different messages at us like what we should say, or how we should act. But God's Word always leads us to wisdom! God wants us to be wise, and He wants us to go through life well. So one of the reasons He gave us the Bible is so we can find wisdom!"
→ "Throughout your life, you can pause, ask God to show you His wisdom, and listen to the Holy Spirit to show you what the wise thing is to do. God wants to lead you through life well!"
→ NOTE: Each week, kids will receive a "Fast Pass." Encourage them to collect them and take them home!

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

- ☐ "Psalm Excerpts" Activity Page
- ☐ Labeled poster board
("Wisdomland" = "Honestland")
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Sticky notes
- ☐ Pencils or pens



① What You Do

1. Encourage the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Set the prepared posterboard in the middle of the circle.
3. Place the cards from the "Psalm Excerpts" Activity Page face-up around the poster board.
4. Make the tape accessible.
5. One at a time, encourage a kid to pick a card from "Psalm Excerpts" Activity Page, read the portion of the verse out loud, and tape it onto the poster board.
6. Continue in the same manner until all of the cards from the "Psalm Excerpts" Activity Page are taped to the poster board. (Encourage a different kid to read and tape each card to the poster board.)

Imagine Together:

1. Say, "Look how honest David was with God! These are excerpts from some of the psalms he wrote and sang. In them, he shared his best moments—and his hardest. But through it all, David kept coming back to God for help."
2. Once you've read all the verses from the psalms David wrote and attached them to the poster board, give each kid a sticky note and a pen/pencil.
3. Invite the kids to write their own one-line "psalm" to God on a sticky note (**A QUESTION, PRAISE, OR PRAYER**).
4. Then, invite the kids to post their sticky note on the poster board. (**ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO MORE THAN ONE STICKY NOTE IF TIME ALLOWS.**)

Psalm Excerpts:

1. God, create a pure heart in me. (Psalm 51:10 Nlrv)
2. My groaning has worn me out. All night long my tears flood my bed. (Psalm 6:6 Nlrv)
3. The LORD is my rock and my place of safety. (Psalm 18:2 Nlrv)
4. My enemies chase me. ... Deep down inside me, I'm afraid. (Psalm 143:4 Nlrv)
5. Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. (Psalm 119:105 Nlrv)
6. LORD, why are you so far away? (Psalm 10:1 Nlrv)
7. I can't forget my sin. ... [But] wash me, then I will be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:3, 7 Nlrv)
8. When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you. (Psalm 56:3 Nlrv)

Talk Together:

- Ask:
 - What did you notice about David's words?
 - Do you think David always felt wise or confident?
 - What can we learn from how David turned to God no matter how he was feeling?
- Explain that one way they can be wise is by being honest with God and trusting Him to guide them.
- Encourage the kids that they can go to God with everything they're feeling, because He is a good God who cares and wants to help!

Preteen

Small Group

October — Week 2

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



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?"

① What You Do

Ask the following:

1. God said that David was "dear to his heart" (1 Samuel 13:14 NIV). Why do you think David was so dear to God?
2. Since God valued His relationship with David, what kind of relationship do you think God wants to have with you?
3. What is something you can be honest with God about?
4. Why do you think going to God no matter what is wise?
5. What do you think it looks like in your life to go to God with everything?

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
- ☐ "Verse Scenarios" Activity Page
- ☐ Timer

Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-erase marker



Inclusive Pro Tips

Write Proverbs 16:16 in large letters on a whiteboard and place it where all the kids can see. This can be helpful for visual learners!

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. Place a stack of "Verse Scenarios" Activity Page cards face down in the middle of each group.
2. Explain how to play.
3. You will set a three-minute timer.
4. Before reading each scenario card, a kid from their team must recite Proverbs 16:16 from memory or with the Bible open.
5. Then, the team can pick up a scenario card and discuss as a group: → Is this wise or unwise choice?
6. Once they finish, they can move to the next card—but only after reciting the verse again!
7. When the time is up, the team that gets through the most scenario cards wins.

Talk Together:

1. Explain to kids that God's wisdom is worth more than gold! Proverbs 16:16 reminds us that wisdom is more valuable than anything this world can offer.
2. God wants to give you His precious, precious wisdom, so you can go through life well. He wants you to make a wise choice in every scenario you face because He knows following His ways is the best way to live.
3. When we focus on God, we become wiser day by 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.

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

- ☐ *Optional: Fast Passes from "Take a Snapshot" Activity (Application Activity)*
- ☐ *Optional: Index cards and pencils*



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. *Optional: Give each kid their Fast Pass from earlier, and give the kids some time to think about the Scripture on the card. Encourage them to pray to God silently.*
3. Invite the kids to share any prayer requests they might have.
4. *Optional: Provide index cards and pencils for kids who would rather write down their prayer requests than share them aloud.*
5. Encourage a kid to pray for the group!
6. Close in prayer.

"God, thank You that You are wise and You want us to go through life wisely and well. Help us to pause, focus on You, and remember what we've learned in Your Word. Help us to follow Your voice above all. Help us to be honest with You in all things. We want to go through life with You! We love You so much, 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
- ☐ Backpacks, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Various "life supplies" (items you use in life, like: pens, bat, ball, jacket, Bible, books, toy, etc.); at least 30 items for each Small Group
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group

Groups

Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Print "Fast Pass" Activity Page double-sided on cardstock and cut apart, one card for every kid
- ☐ Cardstock, six pieces for each Small Group
- ☐ Pens or pencils, one for every kid
- ☐ Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time:
 - Write each verse reference below on a piece of cardstock:
 - Psalm 1:1-2
 - Psalm 19:7
 - Psalm 32:8
 - Psalm 111:10
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Psalm 25:4-5

Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Print "Psalm Excerpts" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- ☐ Poster board, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Clear tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Sticky notes, 2-3 for every kid
- ☐ Pencils or pens, one for each kid
- ☐ Before group time:
 - Write at the top of the poster board:
 - Wisdomland = Honestland

Discussion Questions

- No Supplies Needed

Continued on the next page. →

Getting Ready

Social

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Groups

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Groups

Verses to Take with You

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

Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-erase marker

Pray and Dismiss

- ☐ *Optional: Fast Passes from "Take a Snapshot" Activity (Application Activity)*
- ☐ *Optional: Index cards*
- ☐ *Optional: Pencils or pens*

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**