

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

The Kings

1 & 2 Kings

Conversation Starter

Why do your choices matter?

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 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
- ☐ "Get to Know You" Activity Page
- ☐ Die



Inclusive Pro Tips

If it works better for your group, offer to read the questions aloud instead of having the kids read the questions in their groups.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Thank God for the opportunity to speak into the lives of future leaders! Ask God to help your preteens recognize the power of their choices—not just big ones, but in how they speak, treat others, and lead themselves. Ask God to help you create a group environment where it's okay to be honest, ask hard questions, and even mess up sometimes. Ask God to help you lead with grace and clarity, and to help your preteens realize that wisdom starts with trusting Him and His Word!

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 kids into groups of 2-3.
4. Give each group a "Get to Know You" Activity Page and a die.

Connect:

1. Explain that the number on the die matches a question from the "Get to Know You" Activity Page.
2. Instruct the kids to take turns rolling the die, reading the matching question aloud, and answering it.
3. After several rounds, gather the kids together.

② What You Say

"I love watching you share your answers with each other! All of those things ...

who you hang out with,
what you watch,
what you love to do.

"They're part of the choices you make every day. And guess what? Your choices really matter.

"In fact, today's true story from the Bible is all about a time when the kings who led God's people had to make big choices about who to follow and how to live. Some kings chose wisdom, and some ... didn't. Let's go see how their wisdom (OR LACK OF IT) changed everything!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Preteen

Small Group

October — 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

- ☐ "Fast Pass" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring Supplies



① What You Do

1. Give each kid a Fast Pass card from the "Fast Pass" Activity Page.
2. Set out the coloring supplies.

Create Together

1. On the back of the card, invite the kids to write their names and draw a picture of an action step they can take this week that connects with the question on the card.
 - Example: If the card talks about being gentle with words, they might draw themselves speaking kindly to a friend or sibling.
2. Give the kids time to think and draw.
3. After several minutes, invite them to share their drawings with the entire group.

Make It Personal → Share an age-appropriate time when you were faced with two choices to make—one wise, and one unwise. What did you do? Talk to God? How did your choice affect you or others?

4. Explain that wisdom is more than just knowing what God wants you to do. It's about choosing to live it out!
5. Share with kids that they can choose to talk to God before reacting, choose to say kind words, choose to walk away from trouble, etc.
 - *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

- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Blocks

Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Foam Blocks



① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of 2-3.
2. Give each group enough blocks to build a base.
3. Instruct all of the teams to build a base with their blocks.
4. Place the remaining blocks in a pile in your group area, an equal distance away from all teams' bases.
5. Say, "Each of you is part of a team of builders. Your goal is to build the tallest, strongest tower. But there's a twist. On your turn, you can either: run and take a block from the center pile, OR steal one block from another team's tower."
6. Explain that during each round, kids are to take turns one at a time, and on their turn they can:
 - Take a block from the center to build.
 - Or, take one block from another team.
7. Set the timer (**FOR TWO MINUTES**) and start the game.
8. When the time is up, signal the kids to freeze and examine the towers.
9. Use the Bible Story Talk below to recap in between each round.
10. Play several rounds of the game.
11. After all of the rounds are completed, pause and discuss.
 - How did it feel when someone stole your team's block?
 - What were you focused on: winning or building wisely?

Bible Story Talk

1. Invite several kids to recap the Bible Story in three words.
 - Example: Kings, selfish, unwise, wise
2. 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."
3. Ask: "Our lives are built on choices. When we choose to think only about ourselves or too much about others (like when you went to take blocks from the other team), what are the consequences?"

Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of running to get blocks, place a center pile within reach of everyone at a table or on the floor.

To adapt to the sensory needs of your group, consider using foam blocks.

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. Why do your choices matter?
2. If you could ask God for anything today, what would it be?
3. How do you think asking the Holy Spirit for help changes the way we make choices?
4. What could you ask the Holy Spirit before you have to make a choice?
5. What are some wise choices that you think Jesus lived out?
6. What do you think it means to "build" your life on godly wisdom?

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
- ☐ Toy crown or fun hat
- ☐ Device for playing worship music

Inclusive Pro Tips



Go first to model that it's okay to forget part of the verse or need help!

Allow the kid with the crown to pick a friend to say the verse with them.

① What You Do

1. Give every kid a Bible.
2. Invite them to look up Proverbs 16:16 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
3. Repeat the verse together several times.

Play Together:

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Play upbeat worship music and instruct the kids to pass the crown around the circle.
3. When the music stops, whoever's holding the crown must stand up, put it on, and recite Proverbs 16:16.
→ Keep the game fun by prompting the kids to pass the crown faster each round.
4. If they get stuck, encourage the other kids to help.
5. Keep playing as interest allows, or until every kid gets a turn to stand up, wear the crown, and recite the verse.
6. After finishing the verse, challenge the kids to finish this sentence:
→ One place I want to make wiser choices is ... (Kids might say: with friends, at school, online, at home, etc.)

*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

- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pencils

① What You Do

1. Give every kid a pencil and an index card.
2. Ask: "Why do wise friendships matter?"
3. Encourage the kids to think about their friends and ask: "Are they helping you grow closer to God?"
4. Invite kids to write or draw a prayer asking God for help choosing friends who are wise and kind.
5. Close in prayer.

God, thank You so much for bringing people into our lives. Thank You for friends, leaders, and others who remind us and challenge us to live more like Your Son, Jesus. When we say yes to Jesus, You welcome us into Your family, and that means we're all connected! Help us to find friends who follow You and love You, friends who show their faith in You by how they live and treat others. Help us to ultimately be that friend for others too. You know best, so help us to seek You for wisdom about our lives. We love You so much, God. 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

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Print "Get to Know You" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one card for every two kids
- ☐ Die, one for every two kids

Groups

Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Print "Fast Pass" Activity Page on cardstock double-sided and cut apart, one card for every kid
- ☐ Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group to share

Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Timer, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Blocks or LEGOs®, one large set for each Small Group

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Foam blocks

Discussion Questions

→ No Supplies Needed

Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bibles, one for every kid
- ☐ Toy crown or fun hat, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Device for playing worship music, one for each Small Group

Pray and Dismiss

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