

# 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. Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

### 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. Bible Story Review: The One and Only God
2. Application Activity: Built to Stand
3. Memory Verse Activity: Move and Remember
4. Prayer Activity: 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

## Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:16-45

### Bottom Line

**God can do the impossible.**

### Memory Verse

**Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.**

Isaiah 40:31 NIV



### Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro tips.

## SOCIAL

# Opening Activity



## What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ "Possibility Cards" Activity Page
- ☐ Inflated balloon or beach ball
- ☐ Blocks
- ☐ Plastic spoons



## Inclusive Pro Tips

Offer roles besides doing the challenge for kids who may be shy or have physical limitations. Let them read the cards, hand out blocks, or gather supplies!

If you need to adjust the movement to your group's needs, feel free to perform only the challenges that everyone can do. Simply discuss the others as a group!

## 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 that you have built your confidence on Him and not on yourself or others. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time when you trusted God even when things looked impossible. Thank God for always showing up! Ask God to help every kid learn how to live knowing He is with them, so they enter every situation with confidence in Him. Pray that even if a kid feels like the only one following God (**LIKE ELIJAH**), they would know they're not alone, because the Holy Spirit is with them.

1. Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Gather the kids in a circle.
4. Set the stack of "Possibility Cards" in the center.

## Play Together

1. Say: "Our group will take turns pulling a card from the stack. You will read your card aloud to the group, and we'll decide together:
  - Is this impossible for you?
  - Could you or someone else do it?
  - Could God do it?
2. If it's hard but possible, invite the kids to try it out using the supplies.
  - For example, if a kid pulls a card that says, "Stack seven blocks, only using your elbows!" Let them use the blocks to give it a try.
3. Play until all the scenario cards have been read.

## ② What You Say

"Whoa, some of those cards were really silly. Some of them felt absolutely impossible. Did anyone try one that felt hard, but you tried it anyway?"

**"In today's true story from the Bible, we'll hear about a man named Elijah. He faced a challenge way bigger than stacking blocks or holding a balloon between your knees. But he trusted God to do something completely impossible. Let's discover what happened when Elijah showed big confidence in our BIG God!"**

**Transition** → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## GROUPS 1/4

# The One and Only God

## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Prepared blocks with "Firm Foundation" Activity Page cards on them



## ① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into three teams.
2. Give every team a set of six "Firm Foundation" Activity Page blocks.

### Imagine Together:

1. Say, "Each block shows a big part in today's Bible Story about Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Your team's mission is to build what happened in order, block by block!"
2. Encourage the kids to work together to build a structure that places the images in story order.
3. Instruct them to talk through what's happening in each scene as they build.
4. Once all three teams finish, gather the entire group and walk through the story together.
5. The story block order is:
  - The Challenge
  - No Fire. No Answer. No Baal.
  - God's Altar
  - Soaked with Water
  - God Sends Fire
  - Rain After the Fire

### Talk Together:

1. Ask:
  - What did God show us about who He is when the fire came down?
  - How can we live like we believe the truth that God is with us too?

Continued on the next page. →

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Repeat or rephrase questions as many times as needed.

Offer a brief story recap before having the kids begin.

GROUPS 1/4

# The One and Only God

## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Prepared blocks with "Firm Foundation" Activity Page cards on them



## ② What You Say

"Elijah and the prophets of Baal were having a god showdown. King Ahab and his wife Jezebel had led God's people to worship false gods like Baal, and Elijah wanted to turn the people's hearts back to worshiping the one, true God. The prophets of Baal tried hard to get their god to listen, but after hours and hours, he didn't respond. Then, it was God's turn. Elijah rebuilt God's altar and put the offering on it. Then God's altar was soaked. When Elijah prayed to God, God answered right away! God sent fire from heaven, burned up the water-soaked offering and the stones too! Then, a little while later, God sent the rain because He is in charge of all things!

"God showed up! He showed everyone there that He was the one and only true God. This is what Elijah prayed:

*"LORD, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel. ... Let them know I've done all these things because you commanded me. Answer me. LORD, answer me. Then these people will know that you are the one and only God. They'll know that you are turning their hearts back to you again."*  
—1 Kings 18:36-37 (NirV)

"When the people in Elijah's day were giving their hearts to other gods, that would not do! There is one, true God, and He loves us so much! God wanted to show His presence and His power, and He answered right away when Elijah prayed. God wanted all of the people to turn their hearts back to Him. He wants that or us too! God wants us to love and follow Him!

"And that altar was soaked, soaked, soaked. There was no way fire could light it! But it didn't matter to God. He burned up the soaked altar and all of the stones too! God wanted the people to see Him, and to see that He can do the impossible. They could trust Him because He is the one, true God. And we can have the same trust. Even when things 'look' impossible, God is ALWAYS able—because God can do the impossible!"

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Repeat or rephrase questions as many times as needed.

Offer a brief story recap before having the kids begin.

## GROUPS 2/4

# Built to Stand

## Application Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ "Trust Test" Activity Page
- ☐ Soft item (pillow or folded blanket)
- ☐ Firm item (cardboard or a sturdy book)
- ☐ Blocks



## ① What You Do

1. Set the two "foundations" down—the soft item and the firm item.
2. Instruct the kids to form a circle around your two "foundations."
3. Keep the blocks nearby.

### Explore Together:

1. Point to the soft item and ask: "What do you think will happen if we try to build a tall tower on this?"  
→ Most will say it will fall. Agree!
2. Point to the firm item and ask: "What do you think will happen if we try to build a tall tower on this?"  
→ Most will say it'll stand strong. Agree!
3. Let the kids help you build two towers simultaneously, one on the soft foundation and one on the firm foundation, as you read the "Trust Test" Activity Page challenges.
4. Say, "Each of the Trust Test Challenges describes a tough situation, something that might shake our confidence. As we build a tower on each base, we'll see how trusting in ourselves can feel shaky, but when we trust in God, we're built to stand!"
5. Let the tower built on the soft foundation fall and wobble. Celebrate the tower with the firm foundation holding steady!
6. Keep adding blocks until you've read all the challenges.

### Talk Together:

1. Is it easy or hard to have confidence in God in these circumstances?
2. What would happen if we only trusted ourselves?
3. How does trusting God make a difference, even when it's hard?

**Make It Personal** → Share an age-appropriate example of a time you felt like something was impossible, but you chose to put your confidence in God. Did it change how you responded to the situation? Did God give you the courage to try something new?

Continued on the next page. →

### Inclusive Pro Tips



If the sound of blocks falling or stacking is too much, set the blocks aside and review the "Trust Test" challenges verbally instead.

## GROUPS 2/4

# Built to Stand

## Application Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

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Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ "Trust Test" Activity Page
- ☐ Soft item (pillow or folded blanket)
- ☐ Firm item (cardboard or a sturdy book)
- ☐ Blocks

### Inclusive Pro Tips



If the sound of blocks falling or stacking is too much, set the blocks aside and review the "Trust Test" challenges verbally instead.

## ② What You Say

"Elijah stood on the mountain in front of everyone, prayed to God, and said:

*"LORD, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel. ... Let them know I've done all these things because you commanded me. Answer me. LORD, answer me. Then these people will know that you are the one and only God. They'll know that you are turning their hearts back to you again."* —1 Kings 18:36–37 (NIRV)

"Elijah trusted God, even when he was the only one! He didn't put his confidence in himself, or in being popular, or in being the loudest. He put His confidence in God—he knew God is strong, and God is powerful—and he faced all of those other prophets, trusting that God was going to do something amazing.

"We can have the same confidence in every situation we face. God is the strongest. There is nothing more powerful than Him. And when we choose to follow Jesus, He comes to live inside of us. We go through everything in our lives with the strongest!

"That tower we tried to make with the soft foundation is kind of like putting our confidence in things that aren't steady. They fall, and they let us down. But trusting God? That is building your life on the firmest foundation, EVER!

"When you chose to follow Jesus, God sent the Holy Spirit to live in you, and you can ask Him to give you confidence to stand strong—even when something feels scary or impossible—because God is strong. In the moment, you can pray, 'God, help me remember that You are strong, and You are with me. Help me be confident in You right now.' God faces everything with you! So you can put your confidence in God because God can do the impossible."

GROUPS 3/4

# Move and Remember

## Memory Verse Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Verse Motions" Activity Page

### Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Extra "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Print a few extra "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along with their own copies of the motions.

## ① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together.
2. Give every kid a Bible.
3. Invite them to look up this month's Memory Verse, Isaiah 40:31, using the Bible Navigation Tips.

### Move Together:

1. Use the "Verse Motions" Activity Page to teach the Memory Verse motions.
2. Walk through the motions slowly, until the kids have learned them.
3. Challenge the group to perform them:
  - Fast
  - Slow
  - Without words

### 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.

## ② What You Say

"You learned those motions so quickly!"

"Our Memory Verse this month, Isaiah 41:30, comes from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet **(WHICH MEANS HE WAS A MESSENGER FROM GOD)**. He shared God's words. This is a message Isaiah shared with God's people when the people were feeling a little weak and tired—maybe even a little hopeless! God's people had been through a lot, and Isaiah reminded them that they didn't have to try to be strong on their own.

"When we trust in God, God gives us strength! Not just the kind of strength to run and walk, but the confidence to keep going even when life gets hard. You can trust that the same God who helped His people back then is still helping us today! When you trust in Him, He will give you new strength! Keep practicing these motions at home and remember God can do the impossible!"

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

☐ Blocks

### Inclusive Supplies

☐ Index cards

☐ Pencils


## ① What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. Set the pile of blocks in the middle of the circle.
3. Invite every kid to take one block and think about something in their life that feels hard, scary, or impossible.
  - Maybe your family is going through a big change.
  - Maybe you really want to pray out loud, but you feel nervous.
  - Maybe you want to tell a friend about Jesus, but you're not sure how.
4. Remind them that Elijah had confidence because he trusted in God, not in himself. God is the strongest, and He goes with you in everything!
5. Say: "As we pray, hold your block and imagine giving that thing you're worried about to Jesus. Once we're done, you can stack your block in the center of the circle as a reminder to build your life on Him."
6. Close in prayer.

## ② Prayer

"God, thank You so much for all of my friends here today! Thank You for showing us that You can do the impossible through the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Teach us how to live knowing and believing You are with us, and You are the strongest!"

"God, if there are any friends here who are curious to know more about putting their faith in Your Son, Jesus, help them know how much You love them! Thank You for sending Jesus to save us and make a way for us to be close friends with You! Help us all take a step closer to You today, whether we're just starting or we've known You for a long time. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**Transition** → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off the Memory Verse motions to Isaiah 40:31. Challenge them to teach the verse and motions to their family or a friend this week!

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Give options for the kids to say, draw, or think quietly about their impossible situation.



# 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.**

## 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**

## Social

### Opening Activity

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Print "Possibility Cards" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- ☐ Inflated balloon or beach ball, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Blocks, at least seven for each Small Group
- ☐ Plastic spoons, one for every kid

## Groups

### 1. The Only and Only God

- ☐ Print "Firm Foundation" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, three sets for each Small Group
- ☐ Blocks, 18 for each Small Group
- ☐ Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time:
  - Tape each "Firm Foundation" card onto the side of a block.
  - Keep each set of 6 blocks separate for easy distribution during group time.

### 2. Built to Stand

- ☐ Print "Trust Test" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group Leader
- ☐ Soft item (pillow or folded blanket), one for each Small Group
- ☐ Firm item (cardboard or a sturdy book), one for each Small Group
- ☐ Blocks, at least 20 for each Small Group

### 3. Move and Remember\*

- ☐ Bibles, one for every kid
- ☐ Print "Verse Motions" Activity Page on paper, two for each Small Group

#### *Inclusive Supplies:*

- ☐ Extra "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

### 4. Pray and Dismiss

- ☐ Blocks, one for every kid

#### *Inclusive Supplies:*

- ☐ 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.