

# 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
- Bottom Line
- What's Our Part in the Story?
- Prayer

### SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Superhero Headquarters
2. Where Faith Begins
3. Theme Song
4. Pray and Dismiss

#### Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Use this 2nd-3rd grade guide!

THIS MONTH



## Today's Bible Story

### Creation and the Fall Genesis 1–2:3, 3 Romans 5:8

#### Bottom Line

**You can trust God no matter what.**

#### Memory Verse

**Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of we do not see.  
(Hebrews 11:1 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
- ☐ "Guess It!" Activity Page
- ☐ Cones or floor tape

## Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Grabber tool

## \*Sample Categories

(Feel free to add your own!)

- Something alive
  - Something that has green on it
  - Something that flies
  - Something big
  - Something small
  - Something God made!
- (Try to do this category last!)

## Inclusive Pro Tips



To reinforce understanding, explain each category to the kids in simple terms and point to the cards as you explain them so all kids can easily follow along.

For kids with mobility challenges, offer an alternate way to pick up the cards, like using a grabber tool. Let the kids know it's okay to adapt!

Make sure every kid has a chance to participate by adjusting the activity to fit your groups abilities. If necessary, you can pair up kids who need extra help with a buddy.

MADE TO  
↓  
Move

## ① What You Do

**Pray for your group before they arrive** → Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to remind every kid that God is with them, even when they don't feel ready. Pray that the kids would find the courage to try new things. Ask God to help the kids remember that even when it feels big or scary, God's plan is perfect!

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 two teams.
4. Spread the "Guess It!" Activity Page cards on the floor on one end of your group space.
5. Designate a starting line for both teams with cones or floor tape.

## Explain the Game

1. You will call out a category.\*
2. Kids are to quickly travel to find a card that belongs in that category and bring it back to their team.
3. For example, you might say, "Something bright!" The kids might pick up the "sun" card or the "moon and stars" card.

## Play Together

1. When you're ready, call out a category, and signal the first kids in line to begin.
2. When kids bring their cards back to the team, invite them to share why they chose that card for that category.
3. Instruct the kids to return the cards to the other end of the group space after each round.
4. Continue until every kid gets a turn to retrieve a card.

## ② What You Say

"You all were so fast to pick up the cards! Do you know what all of these cards have in common? (Invite responses.) They're all things God made! Every single card you could have picked up is something God made! And there's more that He created!

**[TRANSITION]** "Today, we're going to hear a true story from the Bible about how God created everything in the beginning. We're also going to learn about some other things that happened at the beginning! Let's go!"

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

## GROUPS 1/4

# Superhero Headquarters

## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ "Superhero HQ" Activity Page

### Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Additional "Superhero HQ" Activity Page

MADE TO  
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Move

## ① What You Do

1. Before you begin, hide a set of the "Superhero HQ" Activity Pages in your group space.
2. Tell the kids that "Superhero Headquarters" has received top-secret information: Bible Story clues are hidden throughout your group space!
3. Explain that the goal is for the kids to find the seven hidden Bible Story clues and place them in the order of the story.
4. At your signal, invite kids to search for the hidden clues.
5. Encourage kids to work with other kids to find clues together.
6. Once all seven clues are found, direct the kids to bring them to the front of your group space.
7. Work together to review the story and put the pieces in the correct order.
8. Use the numbers in the corner of each page to check your group's work.

### Open discussion about the Bible Story by asking:

1. "What was the one rule God gave Adam and Eve to follow?" (God told them not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)
2. "What happened when Adam and Eve didn't follow God's rule?" (They ushered in the curse of sin, which pulled their hearts away from God, and affected the hearts of everyone who would live after them.)
3. "How do we know that God still loved Adam and Eve even after they disobeyed?" (God started His plan to rescue them through Jesus—God wanted to be Adam and Eve's close friend, and He couldn't because of the curse of sin.)
4. "Who can become a part of God's incredible plan? (Anyone, anywhere who chooses to follow Jesus can be part of God's incredible plan!)"

## ② What You Say

Continued on the next page →

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Before the kids go searching for the "Superhero HQ" Activity Page cards, use another set to review the pictures with your group. Invite a kid to read the descriptions. Help if needed.

## GROUPS 1/4

# Superhero Headquarters

## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ "Superhero HQ" Activity Page

### Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Additional "Superhero HQ" Activity Page

MADE TO  
↓  
Imagine

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Before the kids go searching for the "Superhero HQ" Activity Page cards, use another set to review the pictures with your group. Invite a kid to read the descriptions. Help if needed.

## ② What You Say

"Mission accomplished! You found all the pieces of our Bible Story! But at first, they were scattered all around, kind of like a puzzle when you dump it out of the box. And you know what? Life can feel like that sometimes too, like when we've made a big mess of things.

"Maybe you said something unkind to a friend, and now things feel weird between you. Maybe you didn't listen when a grown-up gave you instructions, and now you're in trouble. Maybe you knocked down your brother's block tower, and he's mad at you. When we've made a bad choice, we might wonder if everything is going to be okay.

"BUT the good news is that God is always working on a good plan. Even though Adam and Eve sinned and it made things really messy, God had a plan to make things right again. And that plan was Jesus! God sent Jesus to break that awful curse so we can be close friends with Him again!

"God's goodness was even bigger than Adam and Eve's sin. And when you make a bad choice, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God no matter what! God's goodness is always going to be bigger than your bad choices.

**[MAKE IT PERSONAL]** Vaguely, talk about an age-appropriate time when you made a bad choice and it made life messy. Be sure to keep it kid-friendly! Share how God loves you anyway. Make sure the majority of your words and the focus is on God's love for you!

"We are going to make bad choices in life, but because God is always good, we can trust that God loves us. We can believe that God is with us through any situation. No matter what, this will always be true—**[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God no matter what!"

## GROUPS 2/4

# Where Faith Begins

## Application Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ "Comic Book" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Prepared comic book sample

### Inclusive Pro-Tips



If any kids need extra time, allow them to work at their own pace.

Some kids may need help brainstorming what to draw. Suggest simple illustrations like hearts, stars, a cross, etc.

If any kids don't feel comfortable sharing, offer them the option to share with a friend or invite them to simply show the group their drawings instead of vocalizing them aloud.

## ① What You Do

1. Give each kid a "Comic Book" Activity Page.
2. Set out the coloring supplies.
3. Direct the kids to write their name on the page.
4. Say: "Today's Bottom Line is this: [Bottom Line] You can trust God no matter what! Let's say that together." (Invite kids to repeat it with you.)
5. Show your sample comic book, and tell the kids they will create their very own today!
6. Guide the kids to fold the page in half along the dotted line to create a book.

### Look at the scene on page 1 together and ask:

- "What do you think is happening here?" (A kid is trying to play with a friend on the playground who takes their soccer ball.)
- "What are some ways you can remember God's love when you're feeling hurt or rejected?" (You can look at the wonderful things that God made and think about the wonderful things He has done, because He is wonderful! You can remind yourself that God loves you so much that Jesus gave His life so you can be in a relationship with God!)
- "How do you think God could bring something good out of this situation?" (Maybe you realize that kid wasn't being nice, so you go play with other kids and make new friends.)

### Create Together

1. Challenge the kids to fill in the missing scenes of the comic by adding words, and drawings to finish the story.
2. Give the kids time to use the coloring supplies to complete the page.

### Repeat the same steps for page 2 and ask:

- "Have you ever felt like you did something so bad that you really messed up a relationship? How do you think God sees you, even when you've made a bad choice?" (God doesn't love us any less when we make a bad choice. We can trust God no matter what we face!)
- "What do you think God wants you to remember when you've made a bad choice?" (Remember that God loves you, and He wants you to do what you can to fix the situation and love the person like He would.)
- "How can you show love to this person since Jesus always shows love?" (You can say you are really sorry. You can help your sibling rebuild their block tower.)

### Share Together

1. Let the kids decorate the cover of their comic book.
2. Invite the kids to share their comic stories once they're finished.

## ② What You Say

Continued on the next page →

## GROUPS 2/4

# Where Faith Begins

## Application Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ "Comic Book" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Prepared comic book sample



### Inclusive Pro-Tips



If any kids need extra time, allow them to work at their own pace.

Some kids may need help brainstorming what to draw. Suggest simple illustrations like hearts, stars, a cross, etc.

If any kids don't feel comfortable sharing, offer them the option to share with a friend or invite them to simply show the group their drawings instead of vocalizing them aloud.

## ② What You Say

"I loved seeing all your comic books! It's cool how they all started the same way, but you each made them your own. In life sometimes people hurt us or we hurt other people, like in our comics. But that doesn't mean God doesn't still love us. He always, always loves us."

"God has never given up on us, He has never stopped loving us, and we can trust that nothing will ever change God's love for us. The point is this: **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God no matter what. Because even when you make a bad choice, you can always trust God!"

## GROUPS 3/4

# Theme Song

## Memory Verse Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Bibles

### Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Whiteboard and dry-erase marker  
(or posterboard and marker)

### Inclusive Pro-Tips



Use a visual aid, like a whiteboard or a posterboard, to write the verse so kids can follow along.

Consider offering movement alternatives. Instead of full-body movements, if a kid needs to sit while doing the verse motions, allow them to do so. Or let the kids tap their knees, snap, or pat the floor in rhythm to the verse instead of moving around.

## ① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of two.
2. Give each group a Bible and guide them to find Hebrews 11:1.
3. Recite the verse together several times, using a "repeat after me" method.
4. Divide the kids into two teams and assign each team part of the Memory Verse.
5. For the NIV
  - Team 1: Faith is being sure of what we hope for.
  - Team 2: It is being sure of what we do not see.
6. For the NIV
  - Team 1: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for
  - Team 2: and assurance about what we do not see.
7. Challenge the teams to create a chant, rap or song (with motions) for that portion of the verse.
8. Invite teams to teach each other their part and then practice together, ending together with: "Hebrews 11:1!"

## ② What You Say

"WOW! This was a great way to learn this month's Memory Verse! I loved seeing what everyone came up with. The Bible is God's Word. God gave it to us so we can know Him better! He also wants us to know what is true. So it's a great idea for us to memorize verses from the Bible so we can take the truth with us everywhere!"

"We can't see God with our own eyes, but we can see the AMAZING, awe-inspiring world that God created! It is wonderful because God is wonderful! We can also remember all the things God has done—including sending Jesus to rescue us! We have 'seen' so many of God's great works, and we can have faith and believe in Him because of all of these things. Anyone, anywhere who chooses to follow Jesus can be part of God's incredible plan. It's true, friends! No matter who you are, no matter what you've done, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God no matter what."

### \*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

No supplies needed



## ① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of two or three.
2. Invite the groups to take turns praying for each other.
3. Share with kids that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!
4. Consider suggesting the following prompt if kids are stuck. *"Dear God, thank You for [kid's name]. Help them to trust You no matter what! We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen."*
5. If kids are uncomfortable or shy, invite them to pray silently.
6. Close in prayer.

## ② What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for loving all of us! You made a way for us to live with You forever through Your Son, Jesus. When we've made bad choices, help us remember we can trust You no matter what! Help us be reminded of Your goodness when we see the things You've made—including us! Help us remember that You love us so very much. We want to live in Your love for us. We love You, God. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**Transition →** As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to share their comic books with them and talk through what's happening. Challenge the kids to share today's Bottom Line, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God no matter what!



# 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
- ☐ Cones or floor tape, enough to create two starting lines
- ☐ Print "Guess It!" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, two sets for each Small Group

### Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Grabber tool, (like this: [bit.ly/4iskBsy](http://bit.ly/4iskBsy)), one for each Small Group

## Groups

### Superhero Headquarters

- ☐ Print "Superhero HQ" Activity Page on paper, one set for each Small Group

### Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Print another set of "Superhero HQ" Activity Pages on paper

### \*Where Faith Begins

- ☐ Print "Comic Book" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one for every kid and Small Group Leader
- ☐ Coloring Supplies, enough for the Small Group to share
- ☐ Before group time:
- ☐ Use the supplies to create a sample comic book to show the kids. Fold the page along the center dotted line and decorate the "cover."

### Theme Song

- ☐ Bibles, one for every two kids

### Inclusive Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Whiteboard or poster, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Dry-erase marker or marker, one for each Small Group

### Pray and Dismiss

- No supplies needed

\*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**