

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 2

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

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Conversation Starter
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

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? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Noah Genesis 6-9

Conversation Starter

When is it hard to trust God?

Bottom Line

You can trust God even when you don't understand

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

- ☐ Laundry Baskets or Large Containers
- ☐ Stuffed Animals
- ☐ Cones or Floor Tape

MADE TO
↓
Play



Inclusive Pro Tips

If any kids aren't comfortable over their shoulders, they can toss underhanded while facing forward.

Celebrate every kid's attempt to toss the stuffed animals, so all kid feel included and engaged.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on a time when God gave you courage when you faced a fear. Ask God to strengthen the kids in your group with courage when they face their own fears. Pray they will remember that God is bigger than anything that makes them afraid! Ask God to give them faith like Joshua and Caleb, even when others around them doubt.

1. Divide the kids into two teams.
2. Give each team a basket and four stuffed animals.
3. Designate starting lines for both teams with cones or floor tape.
4. Direct a kid from each team to stand a few feet away from their team's starting line with the basket.
5. Instruct the teams to line up behind their starting line.
6. Direct the first kid in line to stand with their back facing the kid with the basket.
7. Give the first kid in line the four stuffed animals. Instruct them to hold one of the stuffed animals and place the other three at their feet.
8. Explain the Toss Challenge:
 - Challenge the kid at the start line to toss the stuffed animals over their shoulder, one at a time, aiming for the basket.
 - The basket holder should try to catch them.
 - If the team doesn't successfully get their stuffed animals in the basket, their team can quickly retrieve the stuffed animals and keep going.
 - Retrieve the four stuffed animals and give the next kid in line a turn.
9. The team that successfully catches all of their stuffed animals first wins!
10. Play until every kid gets a chance to throw the stuffed animals.

② What You Say

[TRANSITION] "If you think it was a challenge to toss stuffed animals into a basket behind your back, wait until you hear about a man in our true story from the Bible today, who had to trust God to do something really EPIC! Let's go!"

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

- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Pens or Pencils



Inclusive Pro Tips

If a kid doesn't want to share, allow them to listen and reflect instead.

Consider pairing the kids up to fold the paper - one can hold it while the other presses it down. Instead of folding the paper, kids who are struggling can also count every time another kid folds theirs.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil.
2. Ask the kids to write or draw a situation when it would be hard for them to trust God.
3. To get the kids started, share an example:
 - "A friend stops talking to you and starts hanging out with another group of kids. You don't know why, and it hurts. It could feel hard to trust that God has a good plan when you feel left out and alone."
4. Encourage kids to share (if comfortable) why the situation they chose would be challenging.

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Share an age-appropriate story from your own life when trusting God was difficult. Was there a truth about who God is, or a story from the Bible that encouraged you?

5. Explain the Folding Challenge:

- Ask kids to estimate how many times they can fold their paper in half before they can no longer fold it.
- Instruct the kids to write their guesses on the back of the piece of paper.
- Each kid is to fold their paper one fold at a time, counting each one. (Most will reach a max of seven folds.)

6. Celebrate the closest guessers and every kid's participation!

7. Discuss

- How might tough times shake our trust in God?
- What can we do when we don't understand why something is happening?
- How does trusting God help us grow stronger like the folded paper?

8. Encourage the kids:

- To take the folded paper home as a reminder that even when things don't make sense, God is with you!
- Just like the paper got tougher, your faith grows stronger when you trust God!
- Remember, God is good and He is still at work! When things are confusing, trust God one step at a time.
- Pray—share your feelings with God and ask God to help you have faith!
- Read the Bible and remember who God is and what God has done!

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

MADE TO
↓
Connect

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Styrofoam Plates
- ☐ Toothpicks
- ☐ Permanent Markers



Inclusive Pro-Tips

If a kid struggles with fine motor skills, allow them to use the marker instead of the toothpick to create their design.

Reassure kids that everyone sees things differently. It's okay if a kid's guess doesn't match the original drawing.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a toothpick and a Styrofoam plate.
2. Instruct the kids to gently use the toothpicks to poke holes in the plate to outline something from today's Bible Story (but not an ark or rainbow).
3. Encourage the kids to keep what they're outlining a secret!
4. Once they've finished, invite the kids to exchange plates.
5. Give each kid a permanent marker.
6. Challenge the kids to "connect the dots" to guess the picture.

NOTE: In some cases, the kids may not guess closely what the original kid was creating, and that's okay!

7. Direct each kid to reveal their original intention for their drawing.
8. Discuss how Noah trusted and obeyed God without seeing the full picture! Because Noah trusted God without seeing the full picture, he had to trust God each step of the way. He obeyed God and built an ark, even though he'd never built one. Noah got ready for it to rain for days and days because he trusted God when God said it would.
9. Ask:

→ Why do you think it could've been hard for Noah to understand what God was doing?

10. Encourage kids to share situations they might face this week, situations that they don't understand or are confusing.

11. Encourage the kids:

→ God is good and He is working for good in that situation. He loves you so much!
 → Even when you don't understand, God is with you, and He will go through whatever you're facing with you.
 → The same God who was with Noah, the God who is King over all things, is with you too!

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GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed



① What You Do

Ask

- When is it hard to trust God?
- How can Noah's story remind you of God's rescue plan for us through Jesus?
- What helps you trust God when things feel confusing?
- How do you know God takes care of you? How does that help you trust that God will provide for you again tomorrow?

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



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Prepared Origami Boat Example
- ☐ "Origami Boat" Activity Page
- ☐ "Origami Instructions" Activity Page
- ☐ Scotch tape
- ☐ Pens or Pencils



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Some kids might prefer writing or drawing instead of folding. Allow them to design a boat on the paper triangle instead!

① What You Do

1. Give every kid a Bible.
2. Direct them to look up Hebrews 11:1 using the Bible Navigation tips below.
3. Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
4. Discuss Hebrews 11:1.
 - What does this verse tell us about faith?
 - When have you had to trust God without knowing how things would turn out?
 - How does this verse help you trust God more?
5. Give each kid a pen (or pencil) and a triangle from the "Origami Boat" Activity Page.
6. Show the kids your origami boat example.
7. Give each kid the "Origami Instructions" Activity Page, and walk them through the folding process.
 - If a kid is struggling, encourage them to work with another kid.
 - Explain each step one at a time, waiting for each kid to finish before explaining the next step.
 - Give each kid a small piece of scotch tape when you arrive at Step 4.
8. Once everyone's finished, encourage them to write "Hebrews 11:1" on the origami boat.
9. Encourage the kids to use their boat as a Bible bookmark for Hebrews 11:1.
10. Share with the kids:
 - Noah had faith and obeyed God even before he saw the flood.
 - Faith is trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.
 - God is good, He is always working for good, so we can trust God no matter what!

*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

Make It Personal with Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible Marked at Psalm 145:3



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Some kids might prefer writing or drawing instead of folding. Allow them to design a boat on the paper triangle instead!

① What You Do

1. Encourage the kids to sit with you in a circle.
2. Give a kid in the circle the marked Bible, and invite them to read Psalm 145:3.
3. Ask:
 - "Think back on today's Bible Story about Noah. What did you see about God's power?"
 - "What did you see about God's patience, love, or God's attitude toward sin?"
4. Let several kids share their thoughts.
5. Invite kids to participate in a call-and-response prayer.
6. Begin praying, filling in the blanks with what kids share.
 - (Leader) "Dear God, thank You for being . . . (fill in with one of the qualities kids named)."
 - (Kids) "I can trust You even when I don't understand."
 - (Leader) "We can have faith because we know You are . . . (fill in the blank with something about God's character)."
 - (Kids) "I can trust You even when I don't understand."
 - (Leader) "When it's hard to trust You this week, remind us that . . ."
 - (Kids) We can trust You even when we don't understand."
7. Close the prayer by thanking God for being so good and for loving us so much. Ask God to help the kids grow to trust Him more every 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.

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
- ☐ Laundry baskets or large storage container, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Stuffed animals, eight for each Small Group
- ☐ Cones or floor tape, enough to mark two starting lines

Groups

1. Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Paper, one sheet for every kid
- ☐ Pen or pencil, one for every kid

2. Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Bible, one for every kid
- ☐ Styrofoam plate, one for every kid
- ☐ Toothpicks, one for every kid
- ☐ Permanent markers, one for every kid

3. Discussion Questions

→ No supplies needed.

4. Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bibles, one for every kid
- ☐ Pens or pencils, one for every kid
- ☐ Print "Origami Boat" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one triangle for every kid.
- ☐ Print "Origami Instructions" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid.
- ☐ *Before group time: Use the supplies and instructions to create an origami boat example to show the kids.*

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

- ☐ Bible marked at Psalm 145:3

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**