

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 3

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 (Communicator Script)
- Key Question
- 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

God Chooses Abram Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6

Conversation Starter

What does it look like to trust God?

Bottom Line

You can trust that God has a plan.

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

- ☐ Water Bottle

MADE TO
↓
Move



Inclusive Pro Tips

Start the game off slowly and gradually speed things up. This can help the kids process words before reacting.

You can modify the “grab” action by letting both the kids point at the bottle instead.

Consider providing alternative motions, like stepping side to side if turning in circles is difficult for the kids.

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. Express gratitude for God's Son, Jesus, who showed us what it looks like to look out for others, no matter what people may think. Ask God to give the kids in your group hearts that notice and care for others in need. Pray they will have the courage to be kind and stand up for what is right, even when it's hard.

1. Instruct two kids to stand and face each other a few feet apart.
2. Place the water bottle on the floor between them.
3. Explain that when you say a command, they are to make the action you say.
4. Demonstrate each action.
 - “STARS!” —raise your hands above your head.
 - “BYE!” —wave your hand.
 - “OFF WE GO!” —turn around in a circle.
 - “BOTTLE” —reach down and grab the water bottle.
5. Say, “I will say the words in random order. When I say ‘BOTTLE!’ be the first to grab the water bottle to win the round.”
6. The winner stays for the next round, and a new kid steps in.
7. Play until each kid has had at least one turn.

② What You Say

“Whew, that game was fast, but FUN! The actions in our game may have seemed random, but a lot of them actually show up in today's true story from the Bible. **[TRANSITION]** Can you guess what the story is? **(INVITE RESPONSES.)** Let's go find out how God did something EPIC for all of us through a guy named Abraham!”

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed



Inclusive Pro Tips

If a kid is non-verbal or prefers not to speak, let them draw a picture or use a gesture to communicate their response.

① What You Do

1. Invite kids to share thoughts about today's Bible Story in a game called "Read My Mind."
2. Explain how to play "Read My Mind."
 - Two kids will be given a sentence starter related to the Bible Story.
 - Instead of finishing the sentence separately, they will try to say the same thing at the same time as if they were speaking in one voice.
3. Choose two kids to go first.
4. Read a sentence starter aloud (see below for suggestions).
5. Encourage the kids to watch each other's mouths and speak slowly to match words.
6. After they finish, discuss what they said and allow others to share their own thoughts.
7. Rotate the kids so every kid has at least one turn.

Suggested Starters

- Something that stood out to me in today's Bible Story was . . .
- I think the story of Abram is important because . . .
- God's plans for us . . .
- I wonder if Sarai . . .
- Abram had faith when . . .
- I think it would have been hard for Abram to . . .
- I think trusting God means . . .

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

MADE TO
↓
Imagine

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

□ "Unlikely Heroes" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of kids in your Small Group. Some kids might need more time to process or read the statements.

If any kids struggle to speak or read aloud, allow them to have another kid help them read the story statement.

① What You Do

1. Mix together the cards from the "Unlikely Heroes" Activity Page and hand them out in no particular order.

If you have fewer than 10 kids, it's okay if some kids have more than one card.

2. Tell kids to look at their card but not to let other kids see what it says.
3. Explain the activity:

- Each kid is to take a turn reading the story statement at the top of their card, which describes something that happened in today's Bible Story.
- When each kid reads the card out loud to the group, they are to read the statement using the "secret superpower" described at the bottom of their card.
- The rest of the kids will try to guess their unusual "superpower."

4. After all the cards have been read, recap by reminding kids that from the very beginning, when people turned away from God and ushered in that evil curse, God had a plan to restore us because He loves us and wants to be our close friends. Throughout God's Big Story—which is recorded in the Bible and which we are going through this year—we see how God has been working out that plan. He worked on His great rescue plan for a long, long time.

5. Ask:

- Why would it have been a challenge for Abram and Sarai to trust God's plan and promise?
- What does it teach you about who God is that He stayed faithful to His promises even when Abram and Sarai made bad choices?
- What is something you learned about God's character from the Bible Story?
- What does it look like for a kid your age to trust God in a situation that might require you to wait a long time?
- What can we take from Abraham and Sarah's story to encourage us to trust God?

6. Encourage kids to share their own stories or the stories of someone they know who trusted God in a situation that took a long time to work out. Discuss why these stories help us have faith too.

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Share an age-appropriate example of a time you had to trust God for something that took a long time to happen. How did you wait well and show your faith in God's plan and timing?

7. Encourage kids with that even when things take a long time, we can trust that God still has a plan.
8. Share that nothing can stop God's plan to work things for good!

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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

MADE TO
↓
Connect

① What You Do

Ask

- What does it look like to trust God in your everyday life?
- Think about a person you really trust. What makes them trustworthy?
- Now, think about God. What do you believe about God that makes Him even more trustworthy than the most reliable person you know?
(Examples: God always keeps His promises, God knows everything, God loves me no matter what.)
- Why is it still possible to trust God even when things don't go as expected?
(Point kids to the idea that God has a plan, and God sees things we can't see yet!)
- Faith means trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see. What's something you can see in your life that reminds you to trust God?

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] by sharing an age-appropriate time God helped you through something hard, God answered a prayer, or how God has provided for you in another way!

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



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ "Psalm 3:5" Activity Page
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-Erase Marker



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Think about your group's needs. If any kids need more time to process, consider changing the time or playing without a timer. If running isn't an option, let kids answer the questions and pass the clipboard to a teammate to run. If kids in your group process best visually, consider writing the fill-in-the-blank questions on the whiteboard and keeping score on the side portion of the whiteboard. High-energy games can be overwhelming for some kids. Offer an alternative role, like keeping score or writing questions on the whiteboard.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a Bible.
2. Instruct kids to look up Proverbs 3:5 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
3. Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
4. Invite kids to share their thoughts about the meaning of Proverbs 3:5. Ask:

- What does this verse say about trusting God?
- The word "heart," in this verse means more than feelings. What do you think it means to "trust in the Lord with all your heart"?

5. Divide kids into teams of 2-3.
6. Direct the teams to spread out.
7. Give each team a clipboard with 10 sheets of paper, and markers.
8. Explain the game:

- You will ask a question about the verse from the "Proverbs 3:5" Activity Page.
- One kid from each team will write the answer on the paper on the clipboard, then run it to you—all within 10-20 seconds.
- The kids are not to run until they finish writing.
- You will check each team's answer.
- Teams that answer correctly within the time get 10 points.
- The team with the most points at the end wins!

9. Set the timer for each round.
10. Use the whiteboard and dry-erase marker to keep score.
11. Before each question, instruct the teams to move their top paper to the back so the next kid has a fresh piece of paper for each round.
12. Share with kids that spelling isn't the focus; just do your best to choose an answer quickly!
13. Celebrate the kids' effort and calculate the scores!

*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

- ☐ Notecards
- ☐ Pens or Pencils



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Give extra time to write the prayers for kids who need it. Let them know it's okay if they need a few extra minutes.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a notecard and pen (or pencil).
 - Invite kids to write a 1-2 sentence prayer to God.
 - Encourage kids to ask God for help to trust Him and strengthen their faith this week.
2. Once the kids are finished, encourage them to take turns reading their prayers aloud.
 - It's okay if kids don't feel comfortable sharing their prayers aloud.
3. Close in prayer, asking God to help the kids continue to trust in Him and in His good plan because He is good! Ask God to help the kids learn to trust in Him because of who He is and what He's done!

*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
- ☐ Water bottle, one for each Small Group

Groups

Take a Snapshot

→ No supplies needed

Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Print "Unlikely Heroes" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group

Discussion Questions

→ No supplies needed

Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bibles, one for every kid
- ☐ Print "Proverbs 3:5" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Clipboards, one for every two kids
- ☐ Sheets of paper, 10 for every two kids
- ☐ Markers, one for every kid
- ☐ Timer, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Whiteboard and dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group

Make It Personal with Prayer

- ☐ Notecard, one for every kid
- ☐ Pens or 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**