

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

Jacob's Dream Genesis 28:10-22

Supporting: Genesis 25:19-34; 27

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

- ☐ Pillows
- ☐ Rocks
- ☐ Plastic Bowls
- ☐ Wooden Spoons
- ☐ Floor Tape

MADE TO
↓
Play



Inclusive Pro Tips

Be mindful of pairing kids with someone they feel comfortable with or allow them to choose their partner.

For any kids with limited mobility, allow groups to stay in one spot and work as a team to balance all of the items on their heads.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Recall a time in your life when you experienced uncertainty, but you knew that God was with you. Ask God to give each child courage when they face uncertainty. Pray they will trust God even when they don't know what's next. Ask God to help the kids see that God is always working in their lives!

1. Mark a starting line and a finish line using floor tape.
2. Divide the kids in groups of two.
 - It's okay if you have a group of three.
 - Partner boys together, and partner girls together.
3. Give each group a plastic bowl.
4. Explain and demonstrate the challenge:
 - Each pair is to stand back-to-back with one teammate facing the finish line.
 - Each pair must hold a plastic bowl between their backs.
 - If the bowl drops, they must stop, pick it up, and restart from where they are.
 - The first group to cross the finish line with the bowl between their backs wins.
5. For each new round, add a new object for groups to try to keep between their backs.
 - rocks
 - wooden spoons
 - a pillow
6. By the last round, the groups should be attempting to balance all the items at once.
7. Gather the kids to discuss.

② What You Say

"All of these objects give us clues about today's Bible Story! **[TRANSITION]** We'll hear about someone who made unwise choices. BUT God was with him and proved it by showing up in a very unexpected way. Let's go find out more!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Preteen

Small Group

August — 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

- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Paper

MADE TO
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Imagine

① What You Do

1. Instruct the kids to sit in a circle, putting some space between them and the kid next to them.
2. Give each kid a clipboard, a marker, and a stack of paper that is equivalent to the number of kids in the group.
 - For example, if you have eight kids, each clipboard should have eight sheets of paper.
3. On the first page, instruct kids to write about a situation in which it would be important to remember that God is with them.
 - If kids are stumped, share these examples: taking a big test, or moving to a new school
4. After a minute or so, direct the kids to pass their clipboards to their left.
5. On the second page, instruct the kids to draw a simple picture representing the words on the first page.
6. Once they're finished, encourage the kids to move the first paper with the words on it to the back of the stack.
7. Instruct the kids to pass the clipboards to the left again.
8. Direct the kids with the clipboards to use the picture to write a short description of what they think the picture represents on the next page, then move the paper with the picture to the back of the stack.
9. Keep passing, alternating between drawing and writing until each person has their original stack of paper back.
10. Encourage the kids to read and share what they originally wrote and how their message changed.
11. Discuss with your group:
 - Why is it a situation where you'd want to know God is with you?
 - How can you remind yourselves of God's presence in hard times?
 - Is it a sign of weakness or strength to rely on God?

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Share an age-appropriate time when you knew God was with you. How did God show up and remind you that He was there?



Inclusive Pro Tips

Be patient with the kids and give them extra time to write or draw for each round if needed.

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

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Create

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Fine-Tip Markers
- ☐ "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Think about the needs of your group. Let the kids verbally describe the word instead of writing it if they don't feel comfortable.

Be mindful of any kids with sensory sensitivity by offering a quiet guessing option where kids raise their hands to guess a word.

① What You Do

1. Divide your group into two teams.
2. Give one kid from each team a clipboard with 10 pages of paper and three fine-tip markers.
3. Explain and demonstrate how to play "Knuckle Draw":
 - The kid with the clipboard is to go first.
 - You will show both kids the same card from the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page without letting others see it.
 - The kid will hold all three markers between the fingers of one hand. (Demonstrate using the picture on the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page as an example.)
 - The goal is for the kids to write the bolded word from the cards while holding the markers in this way.
 - The rest of their team will try to guess the word.
 - The first team to guess correctly wins the round.
 - After each round, read the sentence on the card and let kids share what they remember about that part of the Bible Story. (Refer to Genesis 28:10-22; 25:19-34; 27 if needed.)
4. Switch kids and use a new card for the next round.
5. Continue until everyone has had a turn writing and all 10 cards from the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page have been used.
6. Ask:
 - How does Jacob's story show us that we can trust God no matter what?
 - How did God remind Jacob that He was with him?
 - How does God let us know He's with us today?
 - When you feel alone or are facing something tough, what helps you remember God is with you?
7. Share with kids that Jacob wasn't perfect. He made mistakes, but God never left him!
8. Explain that all of God's promises to Jacob came true. Eventually, Jesus was born into Jacob's family!
9. Encourage the kids that no matter what happens or what we do, God is always with us. We can trust God because of who God is and what He has done! He is good and He has always been good.

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 4

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



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Be sensitive to kids needing 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

- What helps you remember that God is with you?
- Would Jacob be someone you would trust all the time?
Why or why not?
And yet Jacob is part of God's plan. How does that encourage you to trust God, knowing that even when you mess up, God still loves you and is working toward His good plan?
- Abraham and Jacob were part of God's Big Story. What about us?
How do we fit into God's plan today? (God invites us into a relationship with Him through Jesus! When we choose to follow Jesus and share His love with others, we are a part of God's Story!)
- What does Jacob's story tell us about God's character and His love for us?

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
- ☐ Dye
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Paper

What You Need

- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-Erase Marker



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of your group. Allow extra time for processing if any kids need it.

If a kid is nervous about reciting the verse words out loud, tell them it's okay to skip that step and write the verse words on their team's paper.

Use a whiteboard and a dry-erase marker to write Hebrews 11:1 for any visual learners.

① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into 2-3 teams.
2. Give each team a Bible.
3. Direct them to look up Hebrews 11:1, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
4. Ask the following questions one by one and direct the groups to discuss.
 - According to Hebrews 11:1, what does it mean to have faith?
 - Why can we trust that God is always with us? He promises it in the Bible (Isaiah 41:10, Deuteronomy 31:6, Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5); when we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside of us and lead and guide us every day.
 - When have you had to trust God, even when you couldn't see the outcome?
5. Give each team a die, a piece of paper, and markers.
6. Explain the game:
 - Each kid will take turns rolling the die.
 - The number they roll is the number of words they must recite and write down from Hebrews 11:1.
 - Each team will take turns in this way until they recite and correctly write the entire verse.
 - The first team to complete the verse wins.
7. Check the team's papers before announcing a winner.
8. Repeat at least two rounds.

*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

- ☐ Index Cards
- ☐ Pens or Pencils



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Let the kids draw their words instead of writing them if they feel more comfortable doing so.

Ensure there isn't any pressure to pray out loud! Allow kids to pray quietly and read their prayer card to themselves.

① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to join you in a seated circle.
2. Give each kid an index card and a pen (or pencil).
3. Encourage the kids to write the first letter of their first name on one side and the first letter of their last name on the back.
4. Using one of their initials, invite the kids to write a word that describes God.
 - For example, if their first initial is "T," they might say "trustworthy!" Or, if their first initial is "S," they might say "strong!"
5. Use the other initial to write a place they might go this week.
 - For example, if their last name begins with a "D," they might say the doctor's.

NOTE: If kids can't come up with words using their first and last names, suggest they use their middle name. Offer assistance as needed.
6. Challenge the kids to write a sentence that includes the two words that they wrote.
 - For example, "God is _____, and He is with me at _____."
7. Encourage the kids that wherever they go this week, God is with them.
8. Encourage the kids to use what they wrote to create a prayer praising God for who He is and thanking Him for always being with them!
9. Invite those who are willing to pray out loud.
10. Close in prayer.

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

For every two kids

- ☐ Pillow, one for every two kids
- ☐ Medium size rock (3-4-inches), one for every two kids
- ☐ Plastic bowl, one for every two kids
- ☐ Wooden spoon, one for every two kids
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group

Groups

Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Clipboard, one for every kid
- ☐ Marker, one for every kid
- ☐ Paper, one for every kid
- ☐ Attach the sheets of paper to the clipboards. Each clipboard will need sheets of paper equal to the number of kids in the group. If you have 8 kids, you will need 8 clipboards with 8 sheets of paper attached to each clipboard.

Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Bible, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Clipboards, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Paper, 20 sheets for each Small Group
- ☐ Fine-tip markers, six for each Small Group
- ☐ Print "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group

Discussion Questions

→ No supplies needed

Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bibles, three for each Small Group
- ☐ Dice, three for each Small Group
- ☐ Markers, enough for the Small Group to share
- ☐ Paper, three sheets for each Small Group

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-Erase Marker

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

- ☐ Pens or pencils, one for every kid
- ☐ Index card, 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**