

# 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.

### 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. Moses' Journey
2. Courage Stick
3. Verse in Motion
4. 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

### Moses

Exodus 3-6:12, 7-12:42; 13:17-14:31

#### Bottom Line

**God can give you courage when you don't feel ready.**

#### Memory Verse

**"When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you."  
Psalm 56:3**



#### 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

- ☐ "Brave Actions" Activity Page
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Opaque Bag

## ① What You Do

**Pray for your group before they arrive** → Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall a time when God gave you the courage to do something you didn't think you were ready for. Thank God for being with you through the Holy Spirit and sending the Holy Spirit to help you take the next step! Ask God to help the kids trust Him when they feel nervous or unsure. Whether it's a big change or something small, pray that kids would know God is with them even when they don't feel ready.

1. Gather the kids in a circle.

### Talk Together

1. Explain and demonstrate how to play:
  - "Inside the bag are action cards! One at a time, each of you will come up, pull a card, and act it out. The challenge is that there's NO talking allowed! You can move and make sound effects—but no words! The rest of us will try to guess what brave travel action you're doing."

### Play Together

1. Invite the kids to take turns performing brave travel actions without speaking while the group guesses what it is.
2. Continue playing until all cards have been guessed.

### Talk Together

1. If time allows, ask:
  - "Where's your favorite place to go?"
  - "How do you feel when you go somewhere new?"

## ② What You Say

"Whoa! You acted out those scenarios like pros! Sometimes, something new can feel both exciting and kinda scary. That's totally normal! But the incredible part is that we're never alone! God is always with us, and we'll see that in today's true story from the Bible! **[TRANSITION]** We'll meet a leader who had to guide God's people on a long journey with many twists, turns, and challenges. But that leader chose to trust that God was with him, and with God's help, he did some seriously epic things. Let's go find out more!"

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

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Offer for kids to act it out with a buddy.

## GROUPS 1/4

# Moses' Journey



## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ "Location Signs" Activity Pages
- ☐ "Review" Activity Page
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Device for Playing Music
- ☐ Painter's Tape



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Before you begin, provide a visual introduction to all of the "Location Signs" to help kids who might benefit from structure and transition awareness.

Offer sedentary movement options like clapping or swaying arms side to side

## ① What You Do

1. Before you begin, tape the 'Burning Bush' sign from the "Location Signs" Activity Pages in your group area. (This will be your finish line.)
2. Use the painter's tape to mark a start line for the kids to stand behind on the other end of your group space.
3. Inform the kids that they will be traveling to three different places to follow Moses' journey.

### Move Together:

#### 1. The Burning Bush

- Instruct the kids to line up on the other end of your group space, facing the 'Burning Bush' sign.
- Say, "When I shine the flashlight ON the sign, slow hop forward. When I turn the flashlight OFF, freeze in place!"
- Hit "freeze" three times (turn the flashlight off) to ask questions from the "Review" Activity Page.
- End by keeping the flashlight on so that every kid reaches the 'Burning Bush' sign by slow hopping.

#### 1. The Plagues

- Direct the kids to travel back to the start line.
- Replace the bush and 'Burning Bush' sign with 'The Plagues' sign.
- Say, "When you hear the music, frog hop towards me! When the music stops, freeze in place!"
- Stop the music three times to ask questions from the "Review" Activity Page.
- End by keeping the music on so that every kid reaches 'The Plagues' Sign by frog hopping.

#### 1. The Red Sea

- Replace the 'The Plagues' sign with the 'The Red Sea' sign.
- Divide the kids into two teams: 'God's People' and 'The Egyptians.'
- Say, "If you're one of God's people, walk quickly to 'The Red Sea' sign! When I say 'Freeze!' freeze in place."
- Let "God's people" travel a bit, and then shout, "Freeze!"
- Say, "Now, if you're an Egyptian, chase behind God's people by hopping on one foot! When I say 'Freeze!' you must freeze in place."
- Say "Freeze!" three times to ask questions from the "Review" Activity Page.
- End the game by declaring God's people safe!

Continued on the next page. →

## GROUPS 1/4

# Moses' Journey



## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

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Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ "Location Signs" Activity Pages
- ☐ "Review" Activity Page
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Device for Playing Music
- ☐ Painter's Tape

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Before you begin, provide a visual introduction to all of the "Location Signs" to help kids who might benefit from structure and transition awareness.

Offer sedentary movement options like clapping or swaying arms side to side

## ② What You Say

"Wow! What an incredible story! Moses didn't think he was ready to lead God's people, but God showed him over and over how He would help. And Moses trusted God and went to talk to Pharaoh, even though he was scared. Have you ever felt like you weren't ready for something? Maybe starting a new grade, speaking in front of your class, or doing something for the first time? **(PAUSE FOR ANSWERS.)** Moses felt that way too.

"But God didn't just give Moses a task. God gave Moses everything he needed to be brave—including telling Moses that He Himself would be with him! God showed His power through the plagues, protected His people during Passover, and made a miracle happen when He parted the Red Sea! And the entire time, when doing all of those powerful things, God Himself went with Moses.

"And there's something else that's awesome in this story! God has been planning His rescue for a long, long time, and He gave His people, and us, a picture in this story. Passover was a big picture pointing to Jesus! **Jesus** is the Lamb of God who gave His life to save us. It's His blood that saves us forever so we can be closer than close to God again!

"And one of the ways we are closer than close to God is that when we choose to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us. God Himself is with us all of the time. He is with us and He helps us—just like He went with Moses and helped him. So, whenever you feel scared or not ready, remember: **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage when you don't feel ready."

## GROUPS 2/4

# Courage Stick



## Application Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Prepared Walking Sticks
- ☐ "Courage Trail Markers" Activity Pages
- ☐ "Verse Stickers" Activity Page
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Coloring Supplies

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

## ① What You Do

1. Before you begin, hang the three "Courage Trail Markers" Activity Pages in various areas of your group space.  
→ NOTE: If you can't hang the pages, place them on the floor in various areas of your group space.
2. Gather the kids in a circle.
3. Give each kid a walking stick.
4. Set the coloring supplies and rows of stickers from the "Verse Stickers" Activity Page in the middle of the circle.

### Talk Together:

1. "Today, we're making Courage Sticks! These sticks remind us that just like God was with Moses, God is with each of us no matter what! God goes with us every step of the way!"

### Create Together:

1. Invite the kids to decorate their walking stick with the coloring supplies.
2. Instruct the kids to choose a set of "Verse Stickers" from the middle of the circle.
3. Direct them to color the three stickers from the "Verse Stickers" Activity Page before adhering them to their stick.
4. Encourage kids to write a few short encouraging statements on their sticks, like:
  - God is always with me.
  - God will give me whatever I need!
  - God helps me be brave.

### Play Together:

1. Lead the kids on a "Courage Walk" to each of the three 'Trail Markers.'
2. As you approach each sign:
  - Read the verse aloud.
  - Invite the kids to point out the verse on their stick.
  - Ask: "What do you think this verse is saying?"

Continued on the next page. →

## GROUPS 2/4

# Courage Stick



## Application Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Prepared Walking Sticks
- ☐ "Courage Trail Markers" Activity Pages
- ☐ "Verse Stickers" Activity Page
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Coloring Supplies

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

## ② What You Say

"Look at these awesome courage sticks! These sticks were fun to make. And even better? They remind us of a BIG truth: we are never walking alone!"

"Have you ever had to do something that felt big and scary? **(INVITE RESPONSES.)** Yep, me too. That's totally normal. Even Moses felt that way. Whether we're preparing for a school project, moving to a new city, or preparing to apologize to a friend, God promises us He will be with us. ALWAYS!"

"Let's think about the walking stick you just made. What do they do? **(PAUSE FOR ANSWERS LIKE 'HELP YOU WALK,' 'HELP YOU BALANCE,')** That's right! A walking stick might help you with balance or help you feel steady on a rocky path. Now let's think about God. The same God who created the world and everything in it knows that life isn't always easy. He knew that the curse of sin would make the world feel hard sometimes. So God shared this promise with us: He will always be with us.

"When we choose to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live in us. To help us. To give us courage when we don't feel ready. To go with us every step of the way! That's why we made these Courage Sticks: to remind us that God's Spirit goes with us all of the time, every step of our lives.

"This week, pick one of the verses from today and look it up again at home. Write it down. Stick it somewhere you'll see it! Ask God to help you remember that He is with you, and because He is, you can take one brave step this week, whatever that looks like for you. **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"

**Make It Personal** → Think about an age-appropriate time when you didn't feel ready, and when you were reminded God was with you, that gave you the courage to do something that felt uncomfortable. Maybe you had to give a speech. Or maybe you visited an unfamiliar place by yourself. How did you feel before doing it, and how did you feel after you were done?

GROUPS 3/4

# Verse in Motion

## Memory Verse Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

☐ Bibles


### Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Cut and tape words on buttons so kids can push each button to recite the verse.

## ① What You Do

1. Give every kid a Bible.
2. Invite the kids to look up Psalm 56:3 using the Bible Navigation tips below.
3. Repeat the verse together several times.

### Move Together:

1. Demonstrate the verse motions.
  - The NIV is:
    - When I'm afraid, (Make a frightened face.)
    - I put my trust (Cup hands together.)
    - in you. (Point both fingers to the sky.)
    - Psalm 56:3 (Hold hands like an open Bible.)
  - The NIV is:
    - When I am afraid, (Make a frightened face.)
    - I put my trust (Cup hands together.)
    - in you. (Point both fingers to the sky.)
    - Psalm 56:3 (Hold hands like an open Bible.)
2. Try it slowly at first, then faster, then in a whisper voice to keep the kids engaged.
3. Gather to discuss.

Continued on the next page. →

### \*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 3/4

# Verse in Motion



## Memory Verse Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

☐ Bibles

## ② What You Say

"Amazing job, friends! I love reading the Bible with each of you. This verse comes from a time when King David was in REAL danger. He was afraid and didn't know what was going to happen next. But instead of giving up, he chose to trust God! You and I might not face the same things David did, but we do feel scared sometimes. And when we do, we can do what David did. We can remember that God is with us and trust Him!

"When you choose to follow Jesus, God gives you the Holy Spirit to live inside you. That means you're never facing hard things alone. And He can give you courage to face whatever is coming your way. **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage when you don't feel ready."

**Note** → Look for opportunities to have conversations about what it means to make a decision to follow Jesus! **(IF YOU NEED HELP WITH WHAT TO SAY, ASK YOUR MINISTRY LEADER.)**

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Cut and tape words on buttons so kids can push each button to recite the verse.



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

☐ *Optional: Index Cards and Pencils*



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

If any kids prefer to whisper to you instead of share aloud, allow them to do so. Let them hold a beanbag silently as a reminder that God hears their prayers!

Offer adaptive seating or fidget tools to all kids.

## ① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle..

### Talk Together:

1. Say: "Close your eyes and think quietly about something you feel unready for—something hard or scary you might face at school, home, or in a friendship."
2. Give the kids a few moments to think.
3. Say: "Now, take a moment to ask God to remind you He is with you. And then, ask Him to give you the courage you need to face that situation. Remember, you don't have to do it alone. This is your moment to invite God in. God wants to give you courage when you don't feel ready!"  
→ *Optional: Provide index cards and pencils for kids who'd prefer to write or doodle their prayer.*
4. Close in prayer.

## ② What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus and giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for promising to always be with us. When we feel nervous, unready, or scared, please remind us that You're right there! Please fill us with courage. And remind us that we can face anything with You. We pray these things in Jesus' name, Amen."

**Transition** → As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them their walking sticks and share how just like a walking stick goes with us every step of the way, God does too

# 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

- ☐ Print the "Brave Actions" Activity Page and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- ☐ Opaque bag, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time:
  - Put the cards from the "Brave Actions" Activity Page in the opaque bag.

## Groups

### Moses' Journey

- ☐ Print the "Location Signs" Activity Pages on cardstock, one set for each Small Group
- ☐ Print the "Review" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Flashlight, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Device for playing upbeat music, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Painter's tape, one roll for each Small Group

### \*Courage Stick

- ☐ Butcher paper, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Print the "Courage Trail Markers" Activity Pages, one set for every Small Group
- ☐ Print the "Verse Stickers" Activity Page on Avery 8160 labels or similar, one set for each kid
- ☐ Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group to share
- ☐ Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time:
  - Cut the "Verse Stickers" into individual rows of three, so each kid gets two different stickers.
  - Cut a sheet of butcher paper about one-foot long for each kid.
  - Starting at one corner, tightly roll the paper diagonally to create a sturdy walking stick, then tape the end to keep it from unrolling.

### Verse in Motion

- ☐ Bibles, one for every kid

### Pray and Dismiss

- *Optional: Index cards and pencils*

\*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**