

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. Spy Mission Escape
2. Courage-In-Action Chain
3. Verse Maze
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

Rahab Helps the Spies

Joshua 2

(Supporting: Joshua 6:22-25)

Bottom Line

God can give you courage when others are afraid.

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

- ☐ Prepared Bag with nine Bingo Cards Inside
- ☐ "Brave Acts Bingo" Activity Page
- ☐ Pencils



Inclusive Pro Tips

- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- Be mindful of any kids who might not have had certain experiences yet. Affirm all responses!
- Allow kids to work in pairs if needed.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the kids in your group and the unique ways He has made them! Recall a time God gave you the courage to help someone in need. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to guide you. Ask God to help you remind the kids that they don't have to be afraid to help others because God is always with them. Pray that the kids would understand that helping others is not about getting attention, but about sharing God's love with others. Ask God to help the kids recognize when He is leading them to take action.

1. Give every kid a "Brave Acts Bingo" Activity Page and a pencil.
2. Say, "We're going to play a game that helps us think about all the different ways people can be brave, even when they feel afraid."

Connect Together

1. Pull one Bingo card from the bag and read it aloud.
2. If a kid has done that act of bravery before, invite them to mark that square on their board.
3. Keep drawing cards until someone gets three in a row (across, up and down, or diagonally).
4. Pause and ask:
 - "What does it take to be brave in these situations?"
 - "How do you think God helps you be brave when you're helping someone else?"

② What You Say

"Wow! You've already done so many brave things, big and small. Some of you might not feel brave all the time, and that's totally okay. Even the bravest people get scared sometimes. **[TRANSITION]** Let's go to Large Group to hear a story about someone God helped to be brave even when it was risky!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/4

Spy Mission Escape



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Review Questions" Activity Page
- ☐ "Course Challenges" Activity Page
- ☐ Painter's Tape
- ☐ Various Obstacle Course Items

Inclusive Pro Tips



- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- Repeat the question multiple times and give all kids time to process and think about the answer.

① What You Do

1. Before you begin, using the "Course Challenges" Activity Page, create a challenge course to represent the spies' journey. Feel free to add your own ideas.
2. Use the painter's tape to create a start line and a finish line for the challenge course.
3. Inform the group that they will move through each challenge in a single line.
4. When a kid goes through a challenge first, instruct them to wait for the entire group to pass through that challenge.
5. After each challenge, ask one kid a review question:
 - If the kid answers correctly, instruct the group to move forward to the next challenge.
 - If the kid answers incorrectly, instruct the group to freeze for a few seconds before moving to the next challenge.
6. Once all the challenges are completed and questions are answered correctly, instruct the kids to stand on the finish line. Declare that the team has reached the "safe zone" (finish line), just like the spies escaping Jericho.

② What You Say

"Rahab showed amazing courage, didn't she? She hid the spies, even though it was risky. Why do you think she did that? **(PAUSE FOR ANSWERS. SHE HAD HEARD STORIES OF THE ONE TRUE GOD AND WANTED TO BE A PART OF HIS TEAM, HIS FAMILY.)** Rahab trusted God to help her, and God was good—He kept her and her family safe.

"Rahab's courage didn't just save her family—it also brought her into God's family! Did you know that Rahab became part of Jesus' family line? **(PAUSE FOR REACTIONS.)** It made God so happy that Rahab trusted Him and was brave! When you face a tough situation or need to help someone, remember: **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage to help someone in need."

GROUPS 2/4

Courage-In-Action Chain

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Long Strips of Cardstock
- ☐ Tape or Stapler
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Pencils

Inclusive Pro Tips



- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- Allow kids to draw instead of write.



① What You Do

1. Give each kid a strip of cardstock and a pencil.
2. Instruct the kids to write a situation where they might need courage to help someone.
 - Some suggestions might include: seeing a new kid sitting alone at lunch, including someone who is being left out, standing up for someone being teased, assisting a friend who spills their lunch.
3. Set out the markers.
4. On the back of the strip of cardstock, instruct the kids to use the markers to write or draw how God can help them have courage in that situation.
5. When done, encourage kids to share what they wrote and/or drew.
6. End by linking the strips together with tape or a stapler to create a "Courage Chain" as a reminder that God gives us strength to help others.
7. Hold on to the chain to use during Prayer and Dismissal.

② What You Say

"Thank you for sharing situations where you feel you need courage to help someone in need. It took a lot of courage, and it probably felt a little risky to share what you wrote and drew. But helping someone in need is exactly what Jesus would do.

"Rahab showed incredible courage when she helped the spies. Even though she wasn't a member of God's family, she trusted the one true God and chose to take a huge risk to help them. She showed that she wanted to be on God's team!

"We can show people that we are on God's team too by loving them the way Jesus did! Jesus always helped people who needed help. Like if you're with a group of kids who are making fun of someone, you can be brave and say something kind to defend them. Jesus would be kind too! Or maybe, if you see someone who's alone, you can invite them to play and make them feel welcome. Jesus would make them feel welcome too!

"And you aren't on your own when you're kind like Jesus! When you decided to follow Jesus, God moved inside of you through His Holy Spirit. He is closer than close! And as you go throughout your day, you'll feel a nudge from Him to help and do something. And He will give you the strength and courage to do it! So just do what you feel Him nudging you to do. Jesus' very Spirit will lead you to be kind like He is!" **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage when others are afraid."

Make It Personal → Share about a time when you were brave and you did something to help someone. What did you do? Maybe it was holding the door for them, assisting with groceries, shoveling snow, or mowing a neighbor's lawn. How did they respond when you helped? How do you think the person you helped felt? We show people God's love when we're kind like He is!

GROUPS 3/4

Verse Maze



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Maze Template" Activity Page
- ☐ Paper Plates
- ☐ Glue Sticks
- ☐ Scotch Tape
- ☐ Marbles

Inclusive Pro Tips



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

① What You Do

1. Give each kid the pieces from the "Maze Template" Activity Page and paper plates.
2. Review the verse together on the circle of the "Maze Template" Activity Page by saying it out loud several times.
3. As you demonstrate the craft, instruct the kids to follow what you are doing.
4. Glue the Bible verse circle into the middle of the paper plate.
5. Place the paper strips into the shape of an asterisk around the Bible verse in the middle of the paper plate.
6. Tape down the outer edges of each paper strip.
7. Make an arch with each strip, and tape the other end of each paper strip down.
8. Glue the Start/Finish line to the paper plate.
9. Instruct the kids to place a marble at the start line, try to get it through each arch, and back to the finish line.

② What You Say

"Great job creating your paper maze! Just like you had to figure out how to guide your marble through the maze to the finish line, we also need to learn how Jesus can transform our fears into courage by trusting in Him. When we're afraid, it can feel like being stuck in a maze—lost, unsure of which way to go, and maybe even feeling alone. But here's the good news—just like there's always a way out of a maze, God provides a way through our fears. It is trusting that He is with us! Our verse reminds us that whenever we feel scared or uncertain, we can trust that God is right there with us! He will give us the courage we need!"

"When we feel afraid to step up and help someone in need. God doesn't want us to stay stuck in fear—He wants to transform those feelings into courage. He is with you and He is bigger and stronger than anything! So next time you feel nervous about helping someone, remember to ask God for courage to be kind like He is, because **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you the courage to help someone in need."

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

- ☐ Chain from "Courage-in-Action" Chain Activity



Inclusive Pro Tips

- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- Be mindful of kids who may not want to pray out loud. Assure them that God hears every prayer, even the ones that aren't spoken aloud!
- Provide adaptive seating and offer fidget tools to all kids.

① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Place the paper chain in the center.
3. Encourage the kids to think of what they drew or wrote on their strip of paper.
4. Give them a few seconds to silently ask God to give them the courage to help those in need based on what they drew or wrote.
5. Close in group prayer.

② What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for always being with us through Your Holy Spirit. Give us the courage to be kind like You are. Help us in the situations we've shared in this chain. Teach us to listen to Your Spirit so we can be courageous and kind as we go throughout our day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them the Courage-In-Action Chain and share today's **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage to help someone in need.

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 "Brave Acts Bingo" Activity Page on cardstock, one for every kid and Small Group Leader
- ☐ Pencils, one for every kid
- ☐ Bag, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time:
 - Cut one "Brave Acts Bingo" Activity Page into nine individual cards and place the nine cards in a bag. (So you are making the Bingo cards to pull from.)

Groups

*Spy Mission Challenge

- ☐ Print the "Review Questions" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Print the "Course Challenges" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Painter's tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Items to create an obstacle course (refer to the "Course Challenges" Activity Page for ideas)

Courage-In-Action Chain

- ☐ Strips of cardstock, one for every kid
- ☐ Tape or stapler, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Markers, enough for each Small Group to share
- ☐ Pencils, one for each kid

Verse Maze

- ☐ Print the "Maze Template" Activity page on cardstock and cut out, one set for every kid and Small Group Leader
- ☐ 7-inch or bigger paper plates, one for every kid
- ☐ Glue sticks, one for each kid
- ☐ Scotch tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Marbles, one for every kid
- ☐ Before group time:
 - Familiarize yourself with the craft so you can lead the kids in how to do it.

Pray and Dismiss

→ Paper Chain from "Courage-In-Action Chain" Activity

*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**