

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 (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Verses to Take with You
4. Make It Personal with Prayer

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.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Rahab / The Promised Land

Joshua 2

(Supporting: Joshua 6:22-25)

Conversation Starter

How can you show someone you care?

Bottom Line

God can give you courage to help someone in need.

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

- ☐ Offering Container
- ☐ Device for Playing Upbeat Music



Inclusive Pro Tips

This activity can be done sitting down or standing up. Have the kids participate in whatever way works best for the group.

Some kids might not enjoy the physical aspect of a handshake. Kids can create no-contact handshakes using fun movements like waves, snaps, or facial expressions.

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 people in their lives who have helped them. Recall a time when someone showed up for you when you needed it most. Thank God for placing people in your life to help you. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom to know when and how to step in for others. Ask God to help the preteens understand that they don't have to be afraid to help others because He is always with them. Pray that they would understand that helping isn't about getting recognition but it's about showing God's love. Pray that the Holy Spirit would help them become more aware when someone is in need and have the courage to step up and take action!

1. Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Divide the kids into groups of two—it's okay if there's a group of three.
4. Encourage them to create a "secret handshake."
5. Suggest some of the following movements to include:
 - High five
 - Fist bump
 - Elbow tap
 - Spin
 - Finger wiggle
 - Clap behind the back
6. Play some upbeat music in the background to keep the energy high!
7. Gather the group together to discuss.

② What You Say

"It was so fun watching you all come up with 'secret handshakes!' Speaking of secrets, **[TRANSITION]** in today's true story from the Bible, we'll discover a woman named Rahab who took a huge risk to hide some spies from God's family and keep them a secret. God helped her make a brave choice to help others! Let's go find out what happened!"

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

- ☐ Index Cards
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Timer



Inclusive Pro Tips

Offer verbal examples for kids to imagine what to draw.

Allow kids to participate verbally.

Draw visual examples and allow kids to copy or point to the example they choose.

① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of three. It's okay if there's a group of two.
2. Give each group six index cards and one pencil.
3. Explain how to play:
 - "We're going to look for real ways to live for God by being brave and helping others."
 - "I'm going to read a scenario where someone needs help. You'll have 60 seconds to come up with a way to help, and one of you will draw it with your eyes closed!"
4. After reading each scenario (from the "Help Scenarios" listed below), start the timer for 60 seconds. The groups must quickly discuss it and choose one person to draw their response with their eyes closed.
5. Before reading the next scenario, invite groups to share their solutions and drawings!
 - *NOTE: This game is fun, fast, and not a drawing contest. Have fun with it and make sure there isn't any pressure on how kids draw!*
6. Continue until all the scenarios have been drawn.
7. **[MAKE IT PERSONAL]** Share an age-appropriate example of a time God gave you the courage to help someone. Maybe it was a time you spoke up for someone who was hurting. Or maybe you included someone new.
8. Explain to the kids that they don't have to be brave alone. God is always with them. And when someone chooses to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to help them! The Holy Spirit will nudge them throughout the day, sharing ways to be kind like He is, and then He'll give them the strength and courage to do it!
9. Encourage kids to pray to God and ask Him to help them be brave and show love to someone who needs help.

Help Scenarios:

- A kid in your class is getting picked on at recess by another group of kids.
- You hear a rumor being shared about someone, and you know it's not true.
- A new kid at church or school doesn't know anyone and sits by themselves.
- You notice your teacher seems overwhelmed.
- Someone in your friend group gets left out of a game.
- Your sibling (or cousin) is really scared about something.

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bowl
- ☐ "Five Words" Activity Page

① What You Do

1. Before you begin, place the ten cards from the "Five Words" Activity Page in the bowl.
2. Gather the kids together.
3. Explain how to play:
 - Each kid will draw a card with a word from today's Bible Story (such as a person, place, or object).
 - On their turn, they'll tell the group five things about that word (words that describe a person, or what color something is, what it does, what it's near, what it's made of, or who used it).
 - For example, if the word is "Rahab," someone might say, "Brave, woman, Jericho . . ."
 - Give the kids a chance to try and come up with their own five words before offering help.
 - Encourage the rest of the kids to guess what the word from the Bible Story is from the kid's five things.
 - Once a card is guessed correctly, ask: "How does this word relate to today's Bible Story?"
4. Continue until all the cards have been guessed.
5. Tell the kids that Rahab took a huge risk helping the spies. Even though she wasn't a member of God's family like the two spies, she chose to trust God, and God gave her courage!
6. Explain that when they choose to be brave and help someone else (maybe a kid getting picked on or someone who sits alone at lunch), others can see God's love and kindness at work!

Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow kids to play as "guessers" for the entire game.

The small group leader can quietly offer examples to each kid on their turn.

Preteen

Small Group

September — Week 3

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow additional time for kids to process and respond.

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 the following:

1. When has someone helped you?
2. If you were in Rahab's shoes, what would you have done?
3. Why do you think Rahab was willing to help the spies, even though it was dangerous?
4. What are some truths about God you can remember that can help you when you're scared to help?
5. What does this moment show us about who God is and what He can do through unlikely people?

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
- ☐ "Verse Letters" Activity Page
- ☐ Straws
- ☐ Bowls
- ☐ Floor Tape

Inclusive Pro Tips



Have some kids to be the "verse builders" at the start line while other kids retrieve letters.

① What You Do

1. Before you begin, fill each bowl with one set of cards from the "Verse Letters" Activity Page.
2. Divide the kids into three teams.
3. Give each team a Bible.
4. Lead each team to find Psalm 56:3 using the Bible Navigation tips.
5. Repeat the verse together several times.
6. Give every kid one straw.
7. Tape off a start line for each team.
8. Instruct each team to line up behind their team's start line.
9. Place the bowls several feet away from the starting line, one bowl across from each team.
10. Explain and demonstrate how to play:
 - "Are you ready for a challenge? One at a time, you'll race down to your team's bowl and use your straw to suck up one letter, bring it back to your team, and then the next person goes. Once all the letters are collected, your team is to work together to put them in the order of Psalm 56:3. First team to spell the verse correctly wins!"
 - *NOTE: Encourage kids to use their Bibles to reference the verse.*
11. Continue playing until both teams have successfully placed the verse letters in order.
12. Ask:
 - What words stick out to you in Psalm 56:3?
 - How could remembering this verse help you this week?
13. **Optional: Introduce kids to the following Scripture references.**
 - **Joshua 1:9**—Remind kids that God commands us to be brave and strong, because He is always with us!
 - **Philippians 4:6-7**—Prayer can help them give their fears to God. God can replace their worry with peace and help them be brave!
 - **2 Timothy 1:7**—Share with kids that fear is not from God, courage is!
 - **John 14:27**—Encourage them that Jesus speaks peace directly to our fear. The peace Jesus gives us is different than what the world gives.

*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.

Preteen

Small Group

September — Week 3

GROUPS 5/5

Pray and Dismiss



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Index Cards
- ☐ Pencils

① What You Do

1. Invite kids to form groups of two or three.
2. Explain that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything.
3. Encourage the kids to ask each other:
 - Who can you be brave and help this week?
 - How can I pray for you?
4. Give the kids a few moments to pray for each other.
 - *NOTE: You can let them choose to pray silently or out loud.*
5. Close your group in prayer.

Inclusive Pro Tips



If kids prefer not to pray out loud, invite them to whisper or pray silently.

Offer index cards and pencils to write or draw who they want to help before sharing.

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
- ☐ Device for playing upbeat music, one for each Small Group

Groups

Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Index cards, six for every two kids
- ☐ Pencils, one for every kid
- ☐ Timer, one for each Small Group

Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Bowl, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Print "Five Words" 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
- ☐ Print "Verse Letters" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, three sets for each Small Group
- ☐ Straws, one for every kid
- ☐ Bowls, three for each Small Group
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group

Pray and Dismiss

- ☐ No Supplies Need

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Index Cards
- ☐ Pencils

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**