

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. Who's Hiding?
2. Feeling Hearts
3. Someone Is Hiding

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- "Super Duper Kid" and "Be Brave"
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. What Do You See?
2. Where's Gideon?
3. Superhero Poses
4. Gideon on a Stick

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Going Home
- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)



Today's Bible Story

I can be brave even when I'm afraid.

Gideon

Judges 6 and 7

Key Question

Who can help you be brave?

Bottom Line

God can help me be brave.

Memory Verse

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God goes with you."

Deuteronomy 31:6 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 1/3

Who's Hiding?

What You Need

- ☐ "Who's Hiding?" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Plastic cups
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Clear tape



Inclusive Pro Tips



For children who need extra support, point to or describe the cups as they explore, saying, "Let's try this one! Do you think Gideon is inside?" to encourage participation.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Who's Hiding?" on cardstock and cut one cutout per Small Group.
2. Tape one picture to the inside of a plastic cup.
3. Place cups upside down all over the floor.

During the Activity

1. Explain to the children that they are going to find Gideon, who is hiding in a hole (the cup).
2. Encourage children to flip the cups over one by one until they find Gideon.
3. Reset, placing the Gideon cup in a new spot each time.
4. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Come stand with me over here. Today I have a fun game for us to play. We need to find Gideon! He's hiding in a hole. Let's pretend these cups are holes. When I say go, you'll run and flip over one cup at a time until we find Gideon!"

During the Activity

"Ready, set, GO! (PAUSE.) Flip all the cups over, one cup at a time. (PAUSE.) Great job looking for Gideon! Keep going! Who found Gideon? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Yay! [CHILD'S NAME] found Gideon! (PICK UP THE GIDEON CUP AND PLACE IT UPSIDE DOWN IN ANOTHER AREA.) Let's reset the cups and play again! (REPEAT AS DESIRED.) That was fun looking for Gideon together!"

After the Activity

"Today we're going to hear a true story from the Bible about a man named Gideon. He hid in a hole because he was afraid. But we'll hear how God helped him be brave! Let's go hear more about Gideon!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by pretending to look high and low for Gideon as you walk to your designated area.

SOCIAL 2/3

Feeling Hearts

USES MINIMAL
SUPPLIES

MADE TO
Play

What You Need

- ☐ "Feeling Hearts" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ 1"-2" foam hearts

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Large pom-poms in place of foam hearts



Inclusive Pro Tips

Pair children up, allowing them to help one another and making the activity more accessible for kids who may need extra guidance.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Feeling Hearts" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
2. Spread the pictures out across the table.

During the Activity

1. Give each child a foam heart.
2. Point to the different emoji faces and ask the children how they feel today.
3. Encourage children to place their heart on the emoji that matches how they're feeling.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit at the table with me! Today, we are going to play a game with these faces! Let's look at them together. There are lots of different pictures of feelings. This one is happy, this one is sad, this one is afraid, and this one is excited!"

During the Activity

"Hold out your hands, I have a heart for each of you. **(PASS OUT THE HEARTS.)** Hearts make us think of love. We'll use them for our activity. Everyone, point to the happy face. **(PAUSE.)** Great! Now point to the sad face. **(PAUSE.)** Great job! Now, let's think about how we feel today. If you feel happy, put your heart on the happy face! **(PAUSE.)** If you feel afraid, put your heart on the afraid face. **(PAUSE.)** Okay, who still has a heart? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** If you feel sad, put your heart on the sad face. **(PAUSE.)** And if you are excited, put your heart on the excited face. **(PAUSE.)** Did you know it's okay to feel all these feelings? It is! Sometimes we feel happy, or sad, afraid, or excited. Sometimes we can even feel silly, or even brave!"

After the Activity

"Today we're going to hear a true story from the Bible about a man named Gideon who was afraid, but God helped him be brave! I can't wait to hear all about Gideon's story!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by making different faces as you walk to your designated area.

SOCIAL 3/3

Someone is Hiding

What You Need

- ☐ Handled gift bag
- ☐ Little People® male figure
- ☐ Items from your room: toy fruit, block, pom-poms, cars, etc.



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Fill the bag with all the items.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to take turns reaching into the bag to feel around to find the person.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello, hello! Come over and sit with me!"

During the Activity

"I have this bag full of different things from our room. We're going to take turns reaching inside to pull an item out. [CHILD'S NAME], reach in and pull one thing out of the bag. (PAUSE.) What did you find? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Wow! You found a [ITEM]! [CHILD'S NAME], your turn! (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.) Who found the person? Hold it up high in the air. (PAUSE.) Great job! You found the person hiding in the bag. (RESET AND REPEAT AS DESIRED.) I can't believe all the things we found in the bag and that there was a person hiding in there too!"

After the Activity

"In our Bible Story today, we're going to hear about a man who hid in a hole because he was afraid, and the rest of his friends did too! Let's go hear how God helped him be brave and come out of the hole! I can't wait to hear our Bible Story. Are you ready? Let's go!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by asking the children to line up if they found a certain object in the bag. "Line up if you found the toy fruit! Who found the block? You can line up! Line up if you found the person!" (CONTINUE UNTIL ALL THE CHILDREN ARE LINED UP.)

GROUPS 1/4

What Do You See?



Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Empty oatmeal canister
- ☐ Small mirror
- ☐ Duct tape

Optional Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Hand-held mirror



Inclusive Pro Tips

Some children may feel hesitant to look into the canister. Offer the option to use a handheld mirror instead.

① What You Do

Note → You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

Before the Activity

1. Tape the mirror on the inside of the canister at the bottom.
2. Invite all the children to sit in a circle.
3. Say the Memory Verse as you do the motions.

During the Activity

1. Say the verse as you pass the canister.
2. Encourage children to look into the canister to see who's hiding inside.
3. Continue saying the verse and passing the canister around the circle until everyone has a turn to look inside.

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 1/4

What Do You See?

Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

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- ☐ Small mirror
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Optional Inclusive Supplies

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Inclusive Pro Tips

Some children may feel hesitant to look into the canister. Offer the option to use a handheld mirror instead.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends! Come sit with me in a circle. Let's say our Memory Verse together and do the motions. Ready? Here we go! 'Be strong and courageous. (MUSCLE ARMS.) Do not be afraid... (CROSS AND UNCROSS HANDS) for the Lord your God (FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN) goes with you,' (MARCH IN PLACE) Deuteronomy 31:6. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.) Nice job, everyone!"

During the Activity

"Let's say just the words of our verse together as we pass this canister. 'Be strong and courageous.' (PASS THE CANISTER TO THE CHILD NEXT TO YOU.) [CHILD'S NAME], look inside. (PAUSE.) What do you see? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.) That's right! It's you! Let's say the next part of our verse. 'Do not be afraid...' [CHILD'S NAME], pass the canister to the friend next to you. (PAUSE.) [CHILD'S NAME], look inside and tell me what you see. (PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.) That's right! It's you! Next part says, 'for the Lord your God.' [CHILD'S NAME], pass the canister to the friend next to you. (PAUSE.) [CHILD'S NAME], look inside and tell me what you see. (PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.) That's right! It's you! Next part 'goes with you.' [CHILD'S NAME], pass the canister to the friend next to you. (PAUSE.) [CHILD'S NAME], look inside and tell me what you see. (PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.) That's right! It's you! Okay, last part. Deuteronomy 31:6. [CHILD'S NAME] pass the canister to the friend next to you. (PAUSE.) [CHILD'S NAME], look inside and tell me what you see. (PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.) That's right! It's you! (CONTINUE UNTIL EACH CHILD HAS HAD A TURN.) Wow! You found someone really brave when you looked inside!"

After the Activity

"When Gideon was afraid, God helped him be brave. And guess what? God will help YOU be brave too! God is always with you and will help you be strong and courageous! Who can help you be brave? [BOTTOM LINE] God can help me be brave."

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

October — Week 3

GROUPS 2/4

Where's Gideon?

USES MINIMAL
SUPPLIES

MADE TO
Play

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Little People® male figure
- ☐ Empty oatmeal canister

Inclusive Pro Tips



For a version with less movement, seat children on the floor a shorter distance from Goliath and let them roll or throw the ball at Goliath.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Place the Little People figure in the oatmeal canister.

During the Activity

1. Review the Bible Story as you look for Gideon.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit in a circle on the floor with me."

During the Activity

(PLACE THE OATMEAL CANISTER NEXT TO YOU.) "Today we heard a true story from the Bible about a man named Gideon. Gideon was afraid of the Midianite army. Does anyone see Gideon? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Me either! Wait, there's a hole right here, in our story, Gideon hid in a hole! Let me look and see if he's in the hole. **(LOOK INTO THE CANISTER.)** There he is! **(TAKE THE FIGURE OUT AND PLACE HIM IN FRONT OF YOU.)** Hi Gideon! One day, God sent an angel to tell Gideon, 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!' Friends, God wanted Gideon from the hole **(POINT TO THE CANISTER)** to lead God's army to defeat the Midianites.

"Do you think Gideon was **(DANCE THE FIGURE AROUND)** excited, or do you think Gideon was **(HIDE GIDEON IN THE OATMEAL CANISTER)** afraid? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** That's right! Gideon was afraid! But do you know what? **(BRING GIDEON OUT OF THE CANISTER.)** The angel told Gideon, 'God will be with you.' So, Gideon did what God said. He gave the army trumpets, jars, and torches and told them to follow him quietly **(PUT ONE FINGER UP TO YOUR MOUTH AND SAY SHH!)** to where the Midianites were. When they got there, Gideon told them to blow their trumpets and smash their jars! **(PRETEND TO THROW DOWN A JAR AND MAKE TRUMPET SOUND.)** Then they shouted: 'For the Lord and for Gideon!' Let's all shout that together. **(WITH CHILDREN.)** 'For the Lord and for Gideon!' The Midianites were afraid and ran away! Gideon did it! God helped Gideon be brave and defeat the Midianite army!"

After the Activity

"When Gideon was afraid, God was with him and helped him be brave. Friends, God is always with you and can help you be brave, too! Who can help you be brave? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help me be brave. One more time. Who can help you be brave? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help me be brave."

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

October — Week 3

GROUPS 3/4

Superhero Poses



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Gather together in an open area of the room.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to do different Super Kid poses that you call out.
2. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello, super friends! Join me over here and spread out. Today, we learned about Gideon. (PUT YOUR HANDS OVER YOUR EYES.) Gideon was afraid, but God helped him be brave (MAKE FISTS AND PUT THEM ON YOUR HIPS) and lead an army to fight the Midianites. Let's move our bodies and make super kid poses."

During the Activity

"Our first pose is to put one hand on your head and the other hand on your knee. (PAUSE.) Good job! The next pose is two hands and one foot on the ground, like this. (DEMONSTRATE.) Nice! Okay, the next pose is one arm in the air, the other out to your side, and one leg lifted behind you like this. (DEMONSTRATE.) Wow! You are great at striking the super kid pose! (CONTINUE WITH DIFFERENT POSES.) Great job, friends!"

After the Activity

"Wow, the plush friend went with you through the tunnel. But the plush "Our true story from the Bible begins with a man named Gideon. Gideon, along with the other Israelites, was hiding in a hole because he was afraid of the Midianite army. They were big, and strong, and mean. They took everything Gideon and God's people had. One day, God sent an angel to tell Gideon that God wanted him to lead an army to defeat the Midianites. But Gideon was still afraid. The angel said, "God will be with you." So Gideon did what God said and led God's army. Gideon gave the army trumpets, jars, and torches and told them to follow him and do what he did. They quietly walked to where the Midianites were, and when Gideon told them to, they made a really loud noise by blowing their trumpets and smashing their jars! And shouted: "For the Lord and for Gideon!" And just like that, the Midianites were so afraid, they ran away. When Gideon was afraid, God helped him be brave. And God can help you be brave, too! Who can help you be brave? [BOTTOM LINE] God can help me be brave."

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

October — Week 3

GROUPS 4/4

Gideon on a Stick



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Gideon on a Stick" Activity Page
- ☐ "Gideon Story Sticker" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent
- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Plastic disposable cups
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Gideon on a Stick" on cardstock and cut one cutout per child and leader.
2. Copy "Gideon Story Sticker" on label paper, one per child and leader.
3. Write each child's name on their cup. Prepare an example

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to color their Gideon cutout.
2. Give every child a craft stick and ask them to glue it to one end of the back of their picture, assist as needed.
3. Next, give each child a plastic cup and a story sticker to put on the outside of their cup.
4. Once everyone has their Gideon and cup ready, lead the children in reviewing the Bible Story.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 4/4

Gideon on a Stick



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Gideon on a Stick" Activity Page
- ☐ "Gideon Story Sticker" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent
- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Plastic disposable cups
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, I'm so happy to see you! Come sit with me. We're going to make some story art!"

During the Activity

"In our Bible Story, we learned about a man named Gideon. **(HOLD UP GIDEON ON A STICK.)** I have a Gideon for you to color. **(PAUSE.)** Wow! Fantastic! Now glue Gideon to the top of your craft stick, like mine. **(ASSIST AS NEEDED.)**

"Gideon hid in a hole because he was afraid. Let's pretend this cup is the hole Gideon was hiding in. **(GIVE EACH CHILD A CUP AND A STICKER.)** Can you add the story sticker to the side of your cup? The words on your label say **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help me be brave. It also tells you where you can look in the Bible to find today's story. Now hold your Gideon, like this. **(HOLD UP GIDEON IN ONE HAND.)** Hold your cup in your other hand, like this. **(HOLD UP THE CUP IN THE OTHER HAND.)** Let's tell the story together!

"Gideon hid in a hole because he was afraid. **(PUT GIDEON IN THE CUP.)** God loved Gideon and sent an angel to tell him, 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!' **(TAKE GIDEON OUT OF THE CUP.)** The angel told Gideon that God wanted him to lead an army to defeat the Midianites. But Gideon was still afraid. The angel told Gideon, 'God will be with you.' Gideon did what God said and went to lead God's army. They took trumpets, jars, and torches and quietly walked to where the Midianites were. When Gideon told them to, they made a really loud noise by blowing their trumpets and smashing their jars! Then they shouted: 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' Let's all shout that. **(WITH CHILDREN.)** 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' The Midianites were so afraid, they ran away! God helped Gideon be brave and lead the army to defeat the Midianites."

After the Activity

"God loved Gideon and was with him when he was afraid. God helped Gideon be brave. God can help you be brave, too. Who can help you be brave? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help me be brave."

Getting Ready

Social

Offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two Small Group Leaders lead activities in different areas of the room while another leader greets parents and children at the door.

Groups

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and allow half the children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

Pinterest

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.

bit.ly/FL_SuperKids

Social

Who's Hiding?

- ☐ "Who's Hiding?" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ 12-16-ounce plastic cups, two per child
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Scissors

1. Copy "Who's Hiding?" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per Small Group.
2. Tape one picture to the inside of a plastic cup.
3. Place cups upside down all over the floor.

Feeling Hearts

- ☐ "Feeling Hearts" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ 1"-2" foam hearts, one per child

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Gray or brown pom-poms

1. Copy "Feeling Hearts" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
2. Spread the pictures out across the table.

Someone Is Hiding

- ☐ Handled gift bag
- ☐ Little People® male figure
- ☐ Items from your room: toy banana, block, pom-poms, cars, etc.

1. Fill the bag with all the items.

Groups

What Do You See?

- ☐ Empty oatmeal canister
- ☐ Small mirror
- ☐ Duct tape

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Hand-held mirror

1. Tape the mirror on the inside of the canister at the bottom.

Continued on the next page →

Getting Ready

Social

Offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two Small Group Leaders lead activities in different areas of the room while another leader greets parents and children at the door.

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Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.

bit.ly/FL_SuperKids

Groups (cont.)

Where's Gideon?

- ☐ Little People® male figure
- ☐ Empty oatmeal canister

1. Place the Little People figure in the oatmeal canister.

Superhero Poses

→ No Supplies Needed

Gideon on a Stick

- ☐ "Gideon on a Stick" Activity Page
- ☐ "Gideon Story Sticker" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
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1. Copy "Gideon on a Stick" on cardstock and cut one cutout per child and leader.
2. Copy "Gideon Story Sticker" on label paper, one per child and leader.
3. Write each child's name on their cup.
4. Prepare an example

Home

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue Card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue App** and **ParentCue.org**.