

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. In the Cards
2. Crown Catch
3. Super Kids to the Rescue

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. Memory Verse with Motions
2. Story Crown
3. Sparkly Crown
4. King May I
5. Bravery Badge
6. Journal and Prayer

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 pray and be brave.

Esther

Esther 2:2-8:17

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.

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

October — Week 1

SOCIAL 1/3

In the Cards

What You Need

- ☐ Deck of Cards



Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version with less movement, seat children in a circle. Call out simple movements that your children can do while seated.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Remove the Ace, Joker, and instruction cards and set aside.
2. Shuffle the remaining cards.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to draw a card. If child pulls a King or Queen card say "King/Queen, you're invited!"
2. Ask them to stand with you.
3. If child pulls a number card, say the number out loud and ask all the children to do a motion (jump, clap, wiggle, stomp, etc.) that number of times.
4. Call one child at a time.
5. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello, hello friends! It's great to see you today! I have a card game for us to play today!"

During the Activity

"When I call your name, I want you to come draw one card and then you'll either stand with me or we'll all do a motion together. Let's play! [CHILD'S NAME] come draw a card. (PAUSE.) You drew the [NUMBER] card. Everyone jump [NUMBER] times while I count. (PAUSE.) Great job! [CHILD'S NAME] come draw a card. (PAUSE.) You drew the king/queen card! King/Queen [CHILD'S NAME], you're invited! Come stand with me and draw another card. (PAUSE.) You drew the [NUMBER] card. Everyone clap [NUMBER] times while I count. (PAUSE.) Great job! Go back and stand in your spot. (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.) That was fun playing the card game with you today!"

After the Activity

"Today we are going to hear a Bible Story about a queen named Esther. She prayed and God helped her be brave! Let's go hear all about Queen Esther!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by calling out different numbers and movements. "Let's hop two times. (PAUSE.) Now let's wiggle four times." Continue with different numbered movements all the way to your designated area.

SOCIAL 2/3

Crown Catch



What You Need

- ☐ Paper Crowns
- ☐ Ball Pit Balls
- ☐ Container



Inclusive Pro Tips

Seat children on the floor in a straight line and sit about three to five feet in front of them. Call each child's name and roll the ball to them. Children can either try and catch the ball with their crown, or wear the crown and try to catch the ball with their hands and/or legs.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Place the ball pit balls in the container and set at the table.
2. Give each child a paper crown.

During the Activity

1. Sit or stand at one end of the table with the container of ball pit balls.
2. Give each child a paper crown and instruct the children to try and catch the ball with their crown as you roll it.
3. If needed, call two or more children to try to catch the ball pit balls at a time.
4. Continue until each child has a turn to catch the ball with their crown.
5. Children not "catching" on this turn, can wear their crown and help pick up any ball pit balls that have rolled from the table.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"I am so happy to see all my friends here today! Come find a seat at the table, I have super fun game for us to play today!"

During the Activity

"What do you see on the table? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Yes! Crowns! You are going to try to catch the ball pit balls I roll down the table with these crowns. Hold the crown up over the table and when I roll the ball, try to catch it by putting the crown down over it like this. (PLACE ONE BALL PIT BALL ON THE TABLE, HOLD THE CROWN UP OVER IT, THEN LOWER TO CATCH IT.) We'll take turns, so listen for your name. Only try and catch the ball pit ball if your name was called. Ready to give it a try? (PAUSE.) Great! Here we go! [CHILD'S NAME] here it comes. (PAUSE.) Hooray! You caught it! [CHILD'S NAME] your turn! (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD. ONCE EVERYONE HAS A TURN, THEN TRY CALLING SEVERAL CHILDREN'S NAMES AND ROLLING THAT MANY BALL PIT BALLS AT ONE TIME.) That was such a fun game! Let's put our crowns and any other ball pit balls that got away back in the container."

After the Activity

"Do you know who wears a crown? (PLACE A PAPER CROWN ON YOUR HEAD.) That's right! Kings and queens wear crowns. There is a whole book in the Bible about the queen we are going to learn about today! Her name is Esther, and she is brave! Let's go learn all about Queen Esther."

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by pretending to be a royal court parading toward your designated area.

SOCIAL 3/3

Super Kids to the Rescue



What You Need

- ☐ Little People®
- ☐ Painter's tape
 - *Option 1: People-shaped craft sticks in place of Little People.*
 - *Option 2: Craft sticks and smiley face stickers in place of Little People.*

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Fabric strips in place of painter's tape



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.

For children with sensory sensitivities, place the Little People under loose strips of fabric in place of tape so they can still participate.

Not all children may want to remove the tape. Give them other "Super Kid" jobs, like cheering on their friends or counting how many people have been rescued.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Lay the Little People around on the table and place a strip or two of tape over each one.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to be super kids and rescue the people by carefully removing the tape.
2. Tell children to be brave and work together as they free all the people.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Come to the table Super Friends!"

During the Activity

"Look at all these people stuck on the table. Let's be Super Kids and rescue them! You'll need to be brave and carefully remove the tape to set them free! Are you ready? Let's go Super Kids! **(PAUSE.)** Wow! You're working really hard to rescue the people! Hooray! **[CHILD'S NAME]** you freed a person! Way to go! Let keep working until all the people are rescued! **(CONTINUE ENCOURAGING ALL KIDS UNTIL ALL THE LITTLE PEOPLE ARE RESCUED.)** What amazing Super Kids you are!"

After the Activity

"You were so brave to rescue all these people! Today, we are going to hear true story from the Bible about a brave Queen named Esther and how she was brave and helped keep God's people safe!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by walking with our brave muscle arms up.

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

October — Week 1

GROUPS 1/6

Memory Verse with Motions

USES MINIMAL SUPPLIES

MADE TO Move

Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ VELCRO® dots
- ☐ Scissors



Inclusive Pro Tips

Invite children to say it with you or repeat words after you.

Set out the picture cutouts made from the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF for children to hold up or point to as an alternative to saying or repeating the verse out loud.

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. Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

During the Activity

1. Teach the Memory Verse motions.
2. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. '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.)**

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 1/6

Memory Verse with Motions



Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ VELCRO® dots
- ☐ Scissors



Inclusive Pro Tips

Invite children to say it with you or repeat words after you.

Set out the picture cutouts made from the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF for children to hold up or point to as an alternative to saying or repeating the verse out loud.

② What You Say (cont.)

During the Activity

"Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'Be strong and courageous.' (**MUSCLE ARMS.**) Put both arms up and show me your muscles like this (**BOTH ARMS OUT TO THE SIDE, BENT AT THE ELBOW AND FLEX**) and say, 'Be strong and courageous.' (**REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.**) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'Do not be afraid . . .' (**CROSS AND UNCROSS HANDS.**) Put your arms out in front of you, elbows bent, and one arm over the other. (**PAUSE.**) Now move your arms out to the side like this (**ARMS IN FRONT OF YOU, STACKED ONE OVER THE OTHER THEN SWIFTLY MOVE THEM OUT TO YOUR SIDE**) and say, 'Do not be afraid . . .' (**REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.**) Wonderful! Now let's put that together. 'Be strong and courageous. (**MUSCLE ARMS**) Do not be afraid . . . (**CROSS AND UNCROSS HANDS**) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'for the Lord your God.' (**FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN.**) Put one hand up straight in front of you with your thumb almost touching your forehead like this. (**STRAIGHT, FLAT HAND WITH THUMB AT YOUR FOREHEAD.**) Then you move hand straight down in front of you like this, (**PULL DOWN**) and say, 'for the Lord your God.' (**REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.**) Nice job! Now let's put that together. '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.**)

"The next part of our verse says: 'goes with you.' (**MARCH IN PLACE.**) March in place like this, (**STAND IN ONE SPOT AND ALTERNATE LIFTING ONE KNEE UP AT A TIME**) and say, 'goes with you.' (**REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.**) Nice job! Now let's put that together. '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**)

"Now the last part is: Deuteronomy 31:6. (**OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.**) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book (**OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK**) and say: Deuteronomy 31:6. (**REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.**) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? '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. Let's do it again!" (**REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES.**)

After the Activity

"The Bible teaches us that we don't need to be afraid, that we can be strong and courageous because God is with us! [**BOTTOM LINE**] God can help me be brave. Who can help you be brave? [**BOTTOM LINE**] God can help me be brave."

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

October — Week 1

GROUPS 2/6

Story Crown



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Story Crown" Activity Page
- ☐ "Story Crown Stickers" Activity Page
- ☐ Bright yellow cardstock
- ☐ Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent
- ☐ Heart stickers
- ☐ Dot markers
- ☐ Sentence strips
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Stapler
- ☐ Permanent marker



Inclusive Pro Tips

Create an example for children to follow.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Story Crown" on bright yellow cardstock and cut one per child.
2. Copy "Story Crown Stickers" on label paper, one set per child.
3. Write each child's name on their crown.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to decorate their crown with dot markers.
2. As you review the Bible Story, add the sticker that goes along with that part of the story.
3. Ask children to glue their crown to the middle of their sentence strip.
4. Measure each child's sentence strip around their head and staple the ends together with the staple closures facing outward.
5. Ask children to add a heart sticker over each of the staples.
6. Encourage children to wear their crowns home.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 2/6

Story Crown



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Story Crown" Activity Page
- ☐ "Story Crown Stickers" Activity Page
- ☐ Bright yellow cardstock
- ☐ Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent
- ☐ Heart stickers
- ☐ Dot markers
- ☐ Sentence strips
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Stapler
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Pro Tips



Create an example for children to follow.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Super friends! Come join me at the table, I have a super creative way for us to review today's Bible Story about Queen Esther!"

During the Activity

"I have this crown cutout for you to decorate with dot markers, then we'll add story stickers to each one of these circles for the jewels in our crown. **(POINT.)** Let's get started. Our true story from the Bible begins with a beautiful queen named Esther, who was a part of God's people. That's our very first story sticker, and our first jewel to add to the crown. **(HAND EACH CHILD AN ESTHER STICKER AND POINT TO THE FIRST CIRCLE.)**

"Esther was married to a very powerful king. He was tricked and made a decision that would hurt God's people. But he didn't know that Esther was a part of God's people, oh no! Esther knew she needed to talk to the king, but the king had a rule that you couldn't talk to him unless you were invited. Esther asked God's people to pray and talk to God with her. That's our next story sticker and our second jewel to add to the crown. **(HAND EACH CHILD A PRAYING STICKER AND POINT TO THE MIDDLE CIRCLE.)** They prayed together for three days. Esther trusted that God could help her be brave, so she asked the king to keep God's people safe. The king said yes, and everyone celebrated! That's our very last story sticker, and our last jewel to add to the crown. **(HAND EACH CHILD A QUEEN AND KING CELEBRATING STICKER AND POINT TO THE LAST CIRCLE.)**

"Let's make this crown cutout into a crown for you to wear. Rub some glue on the back of your cutout and add it to your sentence strip. **(PAUSE.)** Now let's measure it to your head and secure the ends. **(MEASURE AND STAPLE THE ENDS WITH THE CLOSURES FACING OUT.)** Here are heart stickers for you to cover those staples. **(PAUSE.)** Put your crowns on your head and we'll finish up."

After the Activity

"Esther prayed, and God helped her be brave. You can pray and God can help you be brave too! Who can help you be brave? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help me be brave."

GROUPS 3/6

Bedazzle the Crown



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Bedazzle the Crown" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Large colorful jewels
- ☐ Sparkly pom-poms
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

→ *Option: Dry erase die and dry erase markers in a variety of colors in place of "Bedazzle the Crown" Activity Page, cardstock, clear tape, and scissors.*



Inclusive Pro Tips

If a child has difficulty rolling the dice, allow them to point to a color, verbally choose one, or have a buddy assist them.

Provide larger, easy-to-grasp jewels and pom-poms for children with fine motor challenges.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Bedazzle the Crown" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group.
2. Assemble the cube and tape the sides together.
3. Cover the table with a piece of butcher paper and tape it to secure.
4. Draw an outline of a large crown on the paper.
5. Place some pom-poms and jewels on either side of the crown.
 - Optional: Copy and assemble a second die and draw two large crown outlines, one on either end of the table.
 - Optional: Scribble one color on each side of the die.

During the Activity

1. Show children the colorful die, turn to one color, and ask children to find a jewel or pom-pom in that color and place it somewhere on the crown.
2. Encourage children to take turns rolling the die.
3. Each time a child rolls, they will add a jewel or sparkly pom-pom to the crown that matches the color they rolled.
4. Encourage them as they work together to make the crown beautiful, just like a real queen's crown.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 3/6

Bedazzle the Crown

MADE TO
↓
Think

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Bedazzle the Crown" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Large colorful jewels
- ☐ Sparkly pom-poms
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker
 - Option: Dry erase die and dry erase markers in a variety of colors in place of "Bedazzle the Crown" Activity Page, cardstock, clear tape, and scissors.



Inclusive Pro Tips

If a child has difficulty rolling the dice, allow them to point to a color, verbally choose one, or have a buddy assist them.

Provide larger, easy-to-grasp jewels and pom-poms for children with fine motor challenges.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Come sit at the table with me. What do you see? (POINT TO THE CROWN.) You're right! It's a crown like Queen Esther would have worn, but it's empty! There are no jewels on it, they're all on the side. (POINT THE JEWELS AND DECORATIONS.) Why don't we play a game to fill it in and make it beautiful!"

During the Activity

"Look at this die, this is a special die, it has a different color on each side! (TURN THE CUBE TO ONE COLOR.) What color is this? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Yes! It's [COLOR]! Look at the table and find a [COLOR] jewel or sparkly pom-pom, then place it somewhere on the crown. (PAUSE.) Now we'll take turns, and each friend can roll and add to the crown. Let's start with [CHILD'S NAME]. Roll the die. (PAUSE.) What color did you land on? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.) Yes! Pick one jewel or sparkly pom-pom and add it to the crown. (PAUSE.) Pass the die to the friend next to you, and they can have a turn. (CONTINUE UNTIL EACH CHILD HAS A TURN TO ROLL THE DIE.) Wow (REPEAT AS DESIRED UNTIL ALL THE DECORATIONS HAVE BEEN ADDED.) Great job, everyone! Look at our beautiful crown!"

After the Activity

"Today, in our true story from the Bible, we learned how God helped Queen Esther be brave! Esther asked God's people to pray and talk to God with her. The people prayed together for three days. Esther trusted that God could help her be brave, so she went and asked the king to keep God's people safe. The king said yes, and everyone celebrated! Esther prayed, and God helped her be brave. And do you know what? You can pray and God can help you be brave, too! Who can help you be brave? (BOTTOM LINE) God can help me be brave."

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

October — Week 1

GROUPS 4/6

King May I

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed



Inclusive Pro Tips

Simplify the movement for child's needs. Or allow children to sit and ask "King, May I" and move to them.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Ask children to line up along the wall on one side of the room and explain how to play the "King, May I" game.

During the Activity

1. Call children one at a time to ask "King, May I" and give them directions on how to move to you.
2. Continue until each child makes it to you. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"I am so excited to play this game with you. Everyone, come line up on this wall. This is where you'll stand when our game starts and I'll stand across the room. We're going to play a game called "King May I," and I am going to be the king. When it is your turn, you will ask me, "King, may I move?" and I will either say yes or no, and then I will give you instructions on how to move to me."

During the Activity

"Let's play! [CHILD'S NAME], you go first! Ask me, King, may I move? (PAUSE AND LET THE CHILD ASK.) Yes, you may take five big steps, then freeze. (PAUSE.) Great job! [CHILD'S NAME], your turn. Say, King, may I move? (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD OFFERING DIFFERENT MOVEMENTS SUCH AS ONE TINY STEP, THREE HOPS, ONE BIG LEAP, ETC. REPEAT AS DESIRED.) That was so much fun!"

After the Activity

"In today's true story from the Bible, we learned that you couldn't talk to the king unless you were invited! That's why Queen Esther had to be brave to talk to the king. She prayed with God's people and trusted that God could help her be brave. Queen Esther asked the king to keep God's people safe, and the king said yes! Hooray! Esther prayed, and God helped her be brave. That means you can pray, and God can help you be brave, too! Who can help you be brave? [BOTTOM LINE] God can help me be brave."

GROUPS 5/6

Bravery Badge



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Bravery Badge" Activity Page,
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Washable markers, dot markers or crayons
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Pro Tips

Create an example.



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Bravery Badge" on cardstock and cut one per child.
2. Write each child's name on their badge and punch a hole at the top.
3. Cut yarn into 36-inch lengths, one per child, and run through the hole of each badge.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to color their badges.
2. Ask them to put them on and wear them as you review the Bible Story. (Assist as needed.)

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come to the table with me. Today, we heard the story of how God helped Queen Esther be brave. I have a bravery badge for you to decorate and wear today."

During the Activity

"Your badge says, 'I am a Super Kid because **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help me be brave.' Use the markers, crayons, and stickers to decorate your badge. (PAUSE.) Wow! Great job, friends. Put your badges on and get ready to help me review today's Bible Story about brave Queen Esther."

After the Activity

"All right, my brave Super Kids! Today, our true story from the Bible begins with a beautiful queen named Esther. Esther knew she needed to be brave and talk to the king. She needed the king to help keep God's people safe! Esther asked God's people to pray and talk to God with her.

They prayed together for three days, and Esther trusted that God could help her be brave. So Esther went and asked the king to keep God's people safe, and the king said yes! Everyone celebrated. Let's celebrate too! "HOORAY!" Esther prayed, and God helped her be brave. You can pray and God can help you be brave, too! Who can help you be brave? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help me be brave. That's right, Super Kids! God can help you be brave."

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

October — Week 1

GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen



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. Encourage children to make a super kid pose as you lead them to your Small Group spot.
2. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity

3. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of things they need to be brave to do.

After the Activity

Pray with children using the list you made in the journal.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen



② What You Say

During the Activity

(OPEN THE BIBLE AND LAY IT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN.) "In our Bible Story today, Queen Esther had to be brave to go talk to the king, so she asked God's people to do something for her. Do you remember what Queen Esther asked them to do? **(PAUSE.)** Queen Esther asked God's people to pray for her. And they did! Then brave Queen Esther went to the king and asked for his help, and God's people were saved! God helped Queen Esther be brave, and God can help you be brave, too. That's why when I ask you, who can help you be brave, everyone will say, **[BOTTOM LINE] God can help me be brave!** Stand up and make a super kid pose and let me hear you say it! Who can help you be brave? **[BOTTOM LINE] God can help me be brave!** That was SUPER! You can sit back down now.

"Another word for brave is courageous. Can you say, 'courageous?'" **(WITH CHILDREN.)** Courageous! Yes! Courageous! God helped Queen Esther be strong and courageous, just like it says in the new Bible verse we are learning today! It says, '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.)** Let's stand up again and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! '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.)**

"You did it! **(FIST BUMPS)** Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. **(OPEN JOURNAL.)** When Queen Esther needed to be brave to talk to the king, she asked her family to pray. We all need help being brave. Let's make a list of things we need to be brave to do in our prayer journal. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one thing you need to be brave to do, and I will write it in our journal. **(SUGGESTIONS: GO TO THE DENTIST/DOCTOR; WALK IN A CLASSROOM; MAKE A NEW FRIEND; RIDE A BIKE; SLEEP BY YOURSELF. REMEMBER TO PRINT, AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)**"

After the Activity

"Look at our list. **(HOLD UP JOURNAL.)** We all need help being brave. Let's pray, like Queen Esther and God's people did, and ask God to help us be brave. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? **(GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.)** Dear God, no one is more powerful than You! We pray to You because only You can help us be brave. Please help **[CHILD'S NAME]** be brave and **(SAY WHAT THEY LISTED)**. Please help **[CHILD'S NAME]** be brave and **(SAY WHAT THEY LISTED)**. Please help... **(READ EACH CHILD'S NAME AND WHAT THEY LISTED)**. You are the best, God, and we love You! In Jesus' name. Amen."

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

In the Cards

☐ Deck of cards

1. Remove the Ace, Joker, and instruction cards and set aside.
2. Shuffle the remaining cards.

Crown Catch

☐ Paper crowns
☐ Ball pit balls
☐ Container

1. Place the ball pit balls in the container and set at the table.

Super Kids to the Rescue

☐ Little People®, two per child
☐ Painter's tape
 → Option 1: People-shaped craft sticks in place of Little People.
 → Option 2: Craft sticks and smiley face stickers in place of Little People.

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

☐ Fabric strips in place of painter's tape.

1. Lay the Little People around on the table and place a strip or two of tape over each one.

Groups

Memory Verse with Motions

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

☐ "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF
☐ Cardstock
☐ VELCRO® dots
☐ Scissors

Continued on the next page →

Getting Ready

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Groups (cont.)

Story Crown

- ☐ "Story Crown" Activity Page
- ☐ "Story Crown Stickers" Activity Page
- ☐ Bright yellow cardstock
- ☐ Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent
- ☐ Heart stickers
- ☐ Dot markers
- ☐ Sentence strips
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Stapler
- ☐ Permanent marker

1. Copy "Story Crown" on bright yellow cardstock and cut one per child.
2. Copy "Story Crown Stickers" on label paper, one set per child.
3. Write each child's name on their crown.

Bedazzle the Crown

- ☐ "Bedazzle the Crown" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Large colorful jewels
- ☐ Sparkly pom-poms
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker
- *Option: Dry erase die and dry erase markers in a variety of colors in place of "Bedazzle the Crown" Activity Page, cardstock, clear tape, and scissors.*

1. Copy "Bedazzle the Crown" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group.
2. Assemble the cube and tape the sides together.
3. Cover the table with a piece of butcher paper and tape to secure.
4. Draw an outline of a large crown on the paper.
5. Place some pom-poms and jewels on either side of the crown.
 - *Optional: Copy and assemble a second die and draw two large crown outlines one on either end of the table.*
 - *Optional: Scribble one color on each side of the die.*

King May I

→ No Supplies Needed

Getting Ready

Social

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Groups (cont.)

Bravery Badge

- ☐ "Bravery Badge" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Washable markers
- ☐ Dot markers or crayons
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

1. Copy "Bravery Badge" on cardstock and cut one per child.
2. Write each child's name on their badge and punch a hole at the top.
3. Cut yarn into 36-inch lengths, one per child, and run through the hole of each badge.

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j.)
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen

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**.