

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. Sticky Grain
2. Family Fingerplay
3. Walk the Maze  ALLERGY

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Worship
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

4. Memory Verse with Motions
5. Story Bottles
6. Go With Me
7. Story in the Stalks

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

I can thank God for family.

Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz

Ruth 1-2

Key Question

Who can thank God for everything?

Bottom Line

I can thank God for everything.

Memory Verse

"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart."

Psalm 111:1 ESV

EveryChild Tips



This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the additional Special Needs resources included.

SOCIAL 1/3

Sticky Grain

What You Need

- ☐ Yellow sticky notes

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Pool noodles
- ☐ Utility knife



EveryChild Tips

Cut pool noodles in half.

Offer for children to use a pool noodle to collect the sticky notes.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Spread sticky notes all over the floor, sticky side up.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to move around the activity area collecting the sticky note "grains" as they walk.
2. Sit down together once all the grain has been collected and ask children to pull off the sticky notes and put them in a pile.
3. Reset and repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Today we are going to move all around the room. You can walk on and around all these yellow papers. We can pretend they are pieces of grain."

During the Activity

"Ready, set, move! **(PAUSE.)** Look at that! The yellow papers are sticking to your feet as you walk on them. Keep them on your feet and keep walking! Let's see how many we can collect. **(PAUSE.)** I think we got them all! Come sit in a circle with me on the floor and let's see how many pieces we collected. Take all the yellow papers off and put them in a pile in the middle of our circle. **(PAUSE.)** Wow! Look how much grain we collected! Let's do it again! **(RESET AND REPEAT. ADD NEW YELLOW STICKY NOTES AS NEEDED.)** That was so much fun! Thanks for helping me collect all the grain!"

After the Activity

"In today's true story from the Bible, we're going to hear about a woman named Ruth who collected grain to help feed her family. Let's go hear all about it."

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by putting a yellow sticky note on each child and ask them to try and keep it on them all the way to your designated area.

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

SOCIAL 2/3

Family Fingerplay

What You Need

→ No supplies needed

☐ Optional: Smiley face stickers

MADE TO
Play

USES MINIMAL
SUPPLIES



EveryChild Tips

Provide a parallel activity (like placing stickers on hand outlines) for children with fine motor differences.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Invite children to sit at the table with you.
2. Optional: Place smiley face stickers on each child's fingers to represent family members.

During the Activity

1. Lead children to use their fingers as they play along with the song
2. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit at the table with me. (PAUSE.) Today we're going to learn about families while we play a game moving our fingers to a song!"

During the Activity

"Follow me and do what I do. Let's meet each member of this family... (LEAD THROUGH FINGERPLAY)."

"This is Mama, kind and dear (WIGGLE THUMB)
This is Papa, standing near (WIGGLE POINTER)
This is brother, see how tall (WIGGLE MIDDLE FINGER)
This is sister, not so small (WIGGLE RING FINGER)
This is baby, sweet and cute (WIGGLE PINKY)
These are the family, who love to help YOU! (WIGGLE ALL FINGERS.)"

"Great job! Families come in all shapes and sizes. Tell me some people in your family and we'll do our fingerplay again with them. (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Let's try it together! You were so good at following along!"

"This is Grandma, kind and dear (WIGGLE THUMB)
This is Uncle, standing near (WIGGLE POINTER)
This is auntie, see how tall (WIGGLE MIDDLE FINGER)
This is cousin, not so small (WIGGLE RING FINGER)
This is puppy, sweet and cute (WIGGLE PINKY)
These are the family, who love to help YOU!" (WIGGLE ALL FINGERS.)"

(CHANGE OUT THE DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN THE FAMILY AND REPEAT AS DESIRED.)

Continued on the next page →

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

SOCIAL 2/3

Family Fingerplay

What You Need

→ No supplies needed

☐ Optional: Smiley face stickers

MADE TO
Play

USES MINIMAL
SUPPLIES

After the Activity

"Today's true story from the Bible is about a woman named Naomi. She went back to her hometown and had someone special go with her. That someone was family-and we're going to hear more about how they helped each other."

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by continuing the activity and saying "Let's continue to sing and play as we walk, sing the original or one of the adapted versions. This is Mama, kind and dear **(WIGGLE THUMB)** This is Papa, standing near **(WIGGLE POINTER)** This is brother, see how tall **(WIGGLE MIDDLE FINGER)** This is sister, not so small **(WIGGLE RING FINGER)** This is baby, sweet and cute **(WIGGLE PINKY)** These are the family, who love to help YOU!" **(WIGGLE ALL FINGERS.)**

EveryChild Tips



Provide a parallel activity (like placing stickers on hand outlines) for children with fine motor differences.

SOCIAL 3/3

Walk the Maze

! ALLERGY

What You Need

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Play-Doh®
- ☐ Little People®
- ☐ Building blocks
- ☐ Painter's tape



EveryChild Tips

Pair children up to do the activity together.

Provide support for each step, offering gentle guidance as needed to ensure all children can participate.

① What You Do

Note → Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (IN THE PRELUDE FOLDER) and post it at the door to your room.

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Play-Doh, and post at the door.
2. Create three different mazes on the table, one with Play-Doh, one with blocks, and the other with tape.
3. Position groupings of people at the end of each maze. Leaving several people figures at the beginning of each maze.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to take turns walking a Little People figure through the mazes to get to the families at the end.
2. Reset and repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Wow friends! Come to the table and look at all the mazes! We'll take turns walking these people through the mazes to the other side."

During the Activity

"When I call your name, come over and pick a person. [CHILD'S NAME] you'll go to the Play-Doh maze with your person. [CHILD'S NAME] you'll go to the block maze with your person. And [CHILD'S NAME] you'll go to the tape maze. Are you ready? Walk your person through the maze. (PAUSE.) Yay! You got your person to the other side and now they're with their families. Hooray! Our next friends can come up and pick a person when I call your name. (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.) Thank you for helping get all the people to their families at the end of the maze!"

After the Activity

"Today in our true story from the Bible, we are going to learn about a woman named Ruth who helped Naomi go back to the town where she grew up. I can't wait to hear more about Ruth and Naomi. Let's go!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by walking together in pairs to your designated area.

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

GROUPS 1/4

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



EveryChild 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. 'I will give thanks **(MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN)** to the LORD **(POINT UP)** with my whole heart,' **(TAP HEART TWICE)** Psalm 111:1." **(OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.)**

Continued on the next page →

GROUPS 1/4

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

EveryChild 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: 'I will give thanks.' (**MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN.**) Make your hand flat and put your fingertips on your chin like this. (**PLACE YOUR RIGHT HAND UP TO YOUR FACE WITH YOUR FINGERTIPS RESTING ON YOUR CHIN.**) Now bring your flat hand out from your face like this (**MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN**) and say, 'I will give thanks.' (**REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.**) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'To the LORD.' (**POINT UP.**) Put one finger up and stretch it up over your head like this (**POINT UP**) and say 'to the LORD.' (**PAUSE.**) Now let's put that together. 'I will give thanks (**MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN**) to the LORD.' (**POINT UP.**) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: "With my whole heart.' (**TAP HEART TWICE.**) Cross your right hand over your chest and tap your heart two times like this (**REACH RIGHT HAND OVER CHEST AND TAP HEART TWICE**) and say 'with my whole heart.' (**REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.**) Nice job! Now let's put that together. 'I will give thanks (**MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN**) to the LORD (**POINT UP**) with my whole heart.' (**TAP HEART TWICE.**) Super!

"Now the last part is: Psalm 111:1. (**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: Psalm 111:1. (**REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.**) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? 'I will give thanks (**MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN**) to the LORD (**POINT UP**) with my whole heart,' (**TAP HEART TWICE**) Psalm 111:1. (**OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.**) Nice job. Let's do it again!" (**REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES.**)

After the Activity

"The Bible teaches us that we can thank God for everything with our whole heart! That means family, friends, food, and people who help us! We can thank God for everything! Who can thank God for everything? [**BOTTOM LINE**] I can thank God for everything."

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

GROUPS 2/4

Story Bottles

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Story Bottles" Activity Page
- ☐ Copy paper
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ 2-Liter empty plastic bottles, 3 per Small Group



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Story Bottles" on copy paper, one set per Small Group.
2. Remove labels from each bottle.
3. Tape each picture to a 2-Liter bottle.

During the Activity

1. Use the bottles to help review the Bible Story.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

Hey, [CHILDREN'S NAMES]! Come sit with me. We're going to use these bottles (HOLD UP BOTTLES) to help us review today's true Bible Story."

During the Activity

(PUT NAOMI IN FRONT OF YOU AND RUTH AND BOAZ BEHIND YOU.) "One day, Naomi was getting ready to go back to her hometown. (PUT RUTH BY NAOMI.) A woman named Ruth said, 'I will be your family and go with you.' (WALK NAOMI AND RUTH BACK AND FORTH IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN. THEN PUT NAOMI BEHIND YOU AND RUTH IN FRONT OF YOU.)

"When Naomi and Ruth made it to Bethlehem, Ruth worked in a field picking up grain so they would have food to eat. (SLOWLY WALK RUTH BACK AND FORTH IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN. MAKE RUTH BOW DOWN A FEW TIMES LIKE SHE IS PICKING UP GRAIN. THEN PUT RUTH AND BOAZ IN FRONT OF YOU.) Later, Ruth married a man named Boaz and they became family! (PUT NAOMI, RUTH, AND BOAZ IN FRONT OF YOU AND MAKE THEM DANCE AROUND.) Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz were so thankful for family! Thank you, God, for family!" (REPEAT AND INVITE THE CHILDREN TO TAKE TURNS HOLDING THE BOTTLES.)

After the Activity

"Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz were thankful for family, and we can be thankful for family too, because we can thank God for everything! Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything! Again! Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!"

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

GROUPS 3/4

Go With Me

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Painter's tape



EveryChild Tips

Pair children up to do the activity.

Lead children at a pace that is suitable for all children to participate.

Assist children in wheelchairs or walkers so they may participate with their peers.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Put small pieces of tape, one per child, on the floor around the perimeter of your activity area.
2. Encourage children to stand on one of the pieces of tape.

During the Activity

1. Walk around the activity area, stopping at each tape piece to ask each child to join the train.
2. The first child will hold on to the leader's waist or hand and the other children added will hold the shoulders of the child in front of them.
3. The "train" proceeds to the next piece of tape and adds the next child to the train.
4. Continue until all children have joined the train and you've moved around your area a few times.
5. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page →

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

GROUPS 3/4

Go With Me

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Painter's tape



② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo, it's great to see you! There are little pieces of tape on the floor around our activity area. Please find a piece of tape to stand on. One friend for each piece of tape."

During the Activity

"We're going to play the train game! I'm the engine, and I need to add all the train cars—that's you! I'll move around, and when I stop at your tape, I want you to join the train. Then we'll go add another friend until we've added all our friends to our train! Are you ready? Chugga-chugga, choo-choo, here I come! Who will go with me? (STOP AT A PIECE OF TAPE.) [CHILD'S NAME], will you go with me? Great! Hold on to my waist/hand, and let's chugga-chugga to another friend! [CHILD'S NAME], will you go with us? Great! Hold on to [CHILD'S NAME]'s shoulders and chugga-chugga! Here we go! (CONTINUE UNTIL ALL CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ADDED.) All right friends, it's time for our train to pull into the station. Everyone, have a seat right where you are."

After the Activity

"That was so much fun, pretending to be a train and chugga-chugging all around the room. Thank you for going with me on our journey! In today's true story from the Bible, we learned about a woman named Naomi. Naomi decided to go back to the town where she grew up and Ruth went with her. Ruth was married to Naomi's son, and she said, "I'm your family, Naomi! Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live." (RUTH 1:16) Naomi was so happy that she and Ruth were family, and she had someone to walk with her.

"When they got to town, they were hungry so Ruth found a field nearby and picked some grain so they would have food to eat. This field belonged to a man named Boaz; Naomi was part of his family! Boaz took care of Ruth and Naomi and made sure they had plenty of food to eat!

"God gives us people to call family and all families can take care of each other. Thank You, God, for giving us family and friends who are life family! Thank You, God, for everything. Who can you thank for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything."

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

GROUPS 4/4

Story in the Stalks

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Story in the Stalks" Activity Page
- ☐ "Stalk Stickers" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Permanent marker

EveryChild Tips



Create an example for children to see.

Provide support for each step, offering gentle guidance as needed.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. "Story in the Stalks" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Copy "Stalk Stickers" on label paper, one set per child.
3. Remove the border of each sticker sheet and discard, leaving the stickers intact on the backing paper.
4. Cut the stickers into sets, one for each child.
5. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to color the stalks of grain then add each story sticker as you review the Bible Story.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page →

GROUPS 4/4

Story in the Stalks

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

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EveryChild Tips



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Provide support for each step, offering gentle guidance as needed.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come join me at the table and let's make some story art to help us remember we can thank God for everything!"

During the Activity

"On your paper are stalks of grain. Use the crayons to color the stalk and the grain. These big circles, leave them blank and we'll add to those in a bit. (PAUSE.) Okay! Look at this circle. (POINT TO THE FIRST CIRCLE.) It has one dot in it. Put this sticker of Naomi in it. (PAUSE.) Naomi was sad because her husband and sons had died, and she was all alone.

"This next circle has two dots in it. (POINT TO THE SECOND CIRCLE.) That's where the sticker of Naomi and Ruth goes. (PAUSE.) Naomi decided to go back to the town where she grew up and Ruth went with her. Ruth said, 'I'm your family, Naomi! Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live' (RUTH 1:16). Naomi was so happy that she and Ruth were family, and she had someone to walk with her. Ruth and Naomi took care of each other.

"This circle here has three dots on it. (POINT.) That's where the sticker of Ruth picking grain goes. (PAUSE.) Ruth and Naomi were hungry so Ruth found a field nearby and picked some grain for them to eat.

"This field belonged to a man named Boaz. And Naomi was part of his family! Boaz decided to take care of Ruth and Naomi and made sure they had plenty of food to eat! This sticker goes in the very last circle. (PAUSE.) Great job!"

After the Activity

"God gave Naomi family to help her. Then God sent more family to help. Thank You, God! God gives us people to call family too. All families can take care of each other. Thank You, God, for giving us family! Thank You, God for everything. Who can you thank for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything."

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.
https://bit.ly/FL_GoingOnAPicnic

Social

Brave Shield Hunt

- ☐ Yellow sticky notes

1. Spread sticky notes all over the floor, sticky side up.

Family Fingerplay

- ☐ No supplies needed
- ☐ Optional: Smiley face stickers

Walk the Maze

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Play-Doh®
- ☐ Little People®
- ☐ Building blocks
- ☐ Painter's tape

1. Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Play-Doh, and post at the door.
2. Create three different mazes on the table, one with Play-Doh, one with blocks, and the other with tape.
3. Position groupings of people at the end of each maze. Leaving several people figures at the beginning of each maze.

Continued on the next page →

Getting Ready

Social

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Pinterest

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https://bit.ly/FL_GoingOnAPicnic

Groups

Memory Verse with Motions

→ No supplies needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

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

Story Bottles

- ☐ "Story Bottles" Activity Page
- ☐ Copy paper
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ 2-Liter empty plastic bottles, 3 per Small Group

1. Copy "Story Bottles" on copy paper, one set per Small Group.
2. Remove labels from each bottle.
3. Tape each picture to a 2-Liter bottle.

Go With Me

- ☐ Painter's tape

1. Put small pieces of tape, one per child, on the floor around the perimeter of your activity area.

Story in the Stalks

- ☐ "Story in the Stalks" Activity Page
- ☐ "Stalk Stickers" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Avery® Labels # 22807 or equivalent
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Permanent marker

1. Copy "Story in the Stalks" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Copy "Stalk Stickers" on label paper, one set per child.
3. Remove the border of each sticker sheet and discard, leaving the stickers intact on the backing paper.
4. Cut the stickers into sets, one for each child.
5. Write each child's name on their paper.

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**.