

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. Tissue Dance
2. Friends Can
3. Picnic Time

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

1. Heart Jump
2. Story Puzzles
3. Wake Up
4. Thankful Table Topper

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 friends.

Daniel's Friends Pray

Daniel 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

Tissue Dance

What You Need

- ☐ Facial tissues

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Sheets of tissue paper



EveryChild Tips

Assist children in wheelchairs or walkers as needed so everyone can participate.

If using this version, adjust wording in the What You Say section accordingly.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Ask children to stand in a single line on one side of the room.

During the Activity

1. Place a single tissue on each child's head.
2. Instruct the children to walk across the room, one at a time, while trying to keep the tissue on their heads.
3. When tissues fall off, encourage children to help each other put the tissues back on each other's heads and continue.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, line up beside me. I have a fun game for us to play today."

During the Activity

"Do you think this tissue will stay on your head as you walk to the other side of the room? Watch me. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** When it's your turn, I'll place this tissue on your head, and you'll walk to the other side of the room. Try to keep the tissue on your head, just like I did. **[CHILD'S NAME]**, let's give it a try. **(PAUSE.)** Remember, it's okay if the tissue falls off. We can ask our friends to help us place it back on our head and keep going. **(PAUSE.)** Wow! What great friends you are to help each other keep the game going!" **(REPEAT AS DESIRED.)**

After the Activity

"Raise your hand if your tissue fell off while you were walking. **(LOOK FOR RESPONSES.)** Yes, we lost our tissues a lot, but we had friends to help us put them back on, didn't we? In our Bible Story today, we're going to hear about some friends that helped each other by praying for each other. Let's go hear all about these friends."

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by continuing the activity and let the leader walk with the tissue on their head. The children can help put it back if it falls off.

SOCIAL 2/3

Friends Can

What You Need

- ☐ "Friends Can" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Small container or bag



EveryChild Tips

For a version with less movement, replace actions like jumping jacks with stationary movements like, clapping, cheering, giving a high-five.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Friends Can" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
2. Place the cards in a container or bag.

During the Activity

1. Invite one child at a time to draw a card from the container/bag.
2. Describe the action on the card aloud: "Friends can do...[action]! Encourage children to do the action together.
3. Continue taking turns drawing cards and performing actions together, reinforcing the idea of friendship and cooperation.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Today, we're going to play a game about the fun things friends do. We'll take turns pulling a card from this container/bag. I'm so glad we're friends and we get to learn and play together!"

During the Activity

"Okay, it's our friend [CHILD'S NAME]'s turn to pick a card. (PAUSE.) Look! These friends are dancing, 'Friends can dance together!' Let's all dance! Go, go, go! You all are amazing dancers! Let's see what else friends can do! (CONTINUE UNTIL EACH CHILD HAS A TURN. ACTIONS ARE READING, GIVING A HIGH-FIVE, PLAYING, RUNNING, AND SHARING A SNACK. REPEAT AS DESIRED.) You all did such a great job playing together and trying all those fun friend actions."

After the Activity

"Our Bible Story today is about something else that friends can do. Let's get ready to hear all about what a guy named Daniel and his friends did together."

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by walking like you are going to see a King!

SOCIAL 3/3

Picnic Time

What You Need

- ☐ Large Picnic Basket
- ☐ Green paper shreds
- ☐ Variety of toy food



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Fill the picnic basket with green paper shreds and hide the toy food inside.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to feel around the basket and pull out the food.
2. Identify each food as it is pulled out.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Look at this big basket I have, it's called a picnic basket. Have you ever gone on a picnic? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) I love going on picnics! Let's sit down together and explore what's inside!"

During the Activity

"Reach inside and feel around. Once you feel an item, pull it out of the basket and we'll say what it is. [CHILD'S NAME] what do you feel? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.) Pull it out and show everyone. Oh, wow that's a [FOOD]! What else is in there? (CONTINUE UNTIL EACH CHILD HAS A TURN. RESET AND REPEAT AS DESIRED.) There was a lot of yummy food in our picnic basket!"

After the Activity

"In our true story from the Bible, we're going to learn about a group of people who were hungry. I wonder if they had a picnic basket too. I can't wait to hear what food they got to eat!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by asking each child what they found in the basket.

EveryChild Tips



A child with sensory sensitivities may prefer to look inside the basket and select which item to pull out.

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 2

GROUPS 1/4

Heart Jump

Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Painter's tape

USES MINIMAL SUPPLIES

MADE TO Move



EveryChild Tips

Help any child who may need it and allow a child to walk near the heart instead of on the tape line.

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. Create a large heart outline on the floor with tape.
2. Say the verse together as you do the motions.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to walk on the heart as you say the verse together.
2. When you get to the word heart, encourage children to jump inside the heart.
3. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Look at this shape. Does anyone know what it is? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Yes, it's a heart! Everyone come stand on the heart with me. Let's get ready to say our verse together as we do the motions. Here we go! '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.)** That was fantastic!"

During the Activity

"Now let's walk around the heart going this way **(POINT)** as we say the words to our Memory Verse. Ready to walk? Here we go! 'I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,' Psalm 111:1. Everybody freeze where you are. **(PAUSE.)** The next time we say our verse, when we say the word heart, I want you to jump inside the heart. Let's practice jumping in. Heart! Jump in! **(PAUSE.)** Great job everyone! Now go back and stand on the heart and we'll start walking again. Ready? Let's go! 'I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart.' Oh! We said heart, let's jump into the heart! **(PAUSE.)** Great job! Okay everyone get back on the heart and let's do it again. **(REPEAT AS DESIRED.)** You did so good walking around the heart and jumping inside it! It's so much fun to learn our Memory Verse together!"

After the Activity

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

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 2

GROUPS 2/4

Story Puzzles

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Story Puzzles" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Scissors

MADE TO
Play

USES MINIMAL
SUPPLIES

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Story Puzzles" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

During the Activity

1. Invite children to help put together the four 2-piece puzzles.
2. Review the Bible Story as you put the puzzles together.
3. Talk about how God gave Daniel friends who prayed for him. God gives us friends too! We can thank God for our friends, because we can thank God for everything!

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"I need some friends to help me put these puzzles together. Can you help me?"

During the Activity

(START WITH THE KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR PUZZLE.) "Look! It's the king from our Bible Story. The king had a dream and needed help. He was angry because no one could help him.

(WORK THE DANIEL PUZZLE SECOND.) "This puzzle has Daniel on it. Daniel went to the king and said he could help him if he would give him some time, and the king said yes.

(WORK THE SHADRACH, MESHACH, ABEDNEGO, AND DANIEL PUZZLE NEXT.) "Aww...this one is of Daniel's friends! Daniel went to his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and asked them to pray for him. And they did!

(WORK THE KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR AND DANIEL PUZZLE LAST.) "This puzzle is the end of our story. Daniel thanked God for telling him how to help the king. Then Daniel went to the king and helped him understand what his dream meant.

"That was fun! Let's mix up the pieces and work the puzzles again!"

After the Activity

"Thank you for helping me put these puzzles together! You are such good friends. Daniel had good friends who helped him too. We can thank God for our friends, because 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 2

GROUPS 3/4

Wake Up

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Music player
- ☐ Soft lullaby music
- ☐ Upbeat praise music

USES MINIMAL
SUPPLIES

MADE TO
Move



EveryChild Tips

Allow children to stand and pretend to sleep or sit in a chair and pretend to sleep.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Ask children to join you in an open area of the room and spread out.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to pretend to sleep while the lullaby music plays and when the praise music plays, encourage children to wake up, dance, and praise!

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends come spread out and let's get ready to have some fun. We're going to listen to different kinds of music. I have soft sleepy music and fast praise music. When I play the soft music, let's lay down and pretend to sleep like this. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** And when I play praise music, I want you to hop up and start praising and dancing like this. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** Ready?"

During the Activity

"Okay! Everyone listen to the music. It's soft sleepy music, let's pretend to sleep. Yawn! I'm so sleepy! **(PAUSE.)** Are you dreaming? **(SWITCH TO PRAISE MUSIC.)** Wow this is praise music and it means it's wake-up time! Everybody jump up, dance and praise God. We can clap, sing, and dance. Great praising! **(REPEAT AS DESIRED.)** That was so much fun!"

After the Activity

"Hey, do you remember in our Bible Story today we heard about a King that went to sleep and had a dream he didn't understand. And we heard about Daniel who had awesome friends who prayed for Daniel to be able to tell the king about his dreams. Daniel was grateful for his friends. He thanked God for them. We can thank God for our friends too because 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 2

GROUPS 4/4

Thankful Table Topper

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Thankful Table Topper" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Washable markers or crayons
- ☐ Self-inking heart and smiley face stamps
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ 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. "Thankful Table Topper" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Fold each paper on the designated lines, then lay flat.
3. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to decorate their paper with crayons or markers and stamps.
2. Help each child fold their paper into a triangular table tent then rub glue across the tab to secure it.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page →

GROUPS 4/4

Thankful Table Topper

USES MINIMAL SUPPLIES

MADE TO Create

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

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- ☐ Self-inking heart and smiley face stamps
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Permanent marker

EveryChild Tips



Create an example for children to see.

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

② What You Say (cont)

Before the Activity

"Friends! Come join me at the table. I have something for you to make that will help you remember today's true story from the Bible. You can place it on your table at home."

During the Activity

"Look at your paper and point to the section with Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. (PAUSE.) Daniel asked his friends to pray. The friends prayed and talked to God and asked God to help. (DANIEL 2:17,18) Color that part of your paper. (PAUSE.)

"This part (POINT) says, 'I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart.' Psalm 111:1. Decorate it with stamps and stickers. (PAUSE.) These are looking great! There is one more section and the words on this page say (BOTTOM LINE) I can thank God for everything. Draw a picture of you and a friend on this part. (PAUSE.) Wow, fantastic!

"Now we get to fold it to make it stand. (ASSIST EACH CHILD AS NEEDED.) Let's rub some glue along the tab and press it together to keep the ends together. (ASSIST EACH CHILD AS NEEDED.) See how it stands? Turn it around to see all the sides!"

After the Activity

"In today's true story from the Bible, we learned about a wise man named Daniel. He worked for King Nebuchadnezzar helping the king know what to do.

"When the king had a dream that worried him, he asked his wise men to help him understand it. But they didn't know what it meant, and this made the king angry. Daniel knew that only God could help. So he asked his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to pray to God for help. God showed Daniel how to help the king! (DANIEL 2:19) Daniel told the king all about his dream and what it meant. (DANIEL 2:27-45) The king was so thankful to know what his dream meant.

"God gave Daniel really good friends. God gives us friends too. We can pray for our friends and ask them to pray for us too. We can thank God for our friends, and 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

Tissue Dance

- ☐ Facial Tissues

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Sheets of tissue paper in place of facial tissues

Friends Can

- ☐ "Friends Can" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Small container or bag

1. Copy "Friends Can" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
2. Place the cards in the container or bag.

Picnic Time

- ☐ Large picnic basket
- ☐ Green paper shreds
- ☐ Toy food

1. Fill the basket with shreds and hide the food inside.

Continued on the next page →

Getting Ready

Social

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Groups

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Groups

Heart Jump

- ☐ Painter's tape

1. Create a large heart outline on the floor with tape.

Story Puzzles

- ☐ "Story Puzzles" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Scissors

1. Copy "Story Puzzles" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

Wake Up

- ☐ Music player
- ☐ Soft, lullaby music
- ☐ Upbeat praise music

Thankful Table Topper

- ☐ "Thankful Table Topper" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Washable markers or crayons,
- ☐ Self-inking heart and smiley face stamps
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Permanent marker

1. Copy "Thankful Table Topper" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Fold each paper on the designated lines, then lay flat.
3. 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**.