

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. Going on a Picnic
2. Bowl and Spoon
3. In the Sand

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. Manna Celebration
2. Basket of Thanks
3. Bread on the Ground
4. Thankful for Food

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 food.

Manna and Quail

Exodus 16

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

Going on a Picnic



What You Need

→ No supplies needed

EveryChild Tips



Adapt the movements so all children can participate - children who are seated can move their arms or pretend to pass food.

Be sure to repeat each food slowly and clearly and give space for children to echo with confidence.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Gather with children in an open area of the room.

During the Activity

1. Teach children the "Going on a Picnic" chant to the tune of "Going on a Bear Hunt."

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! I'm so glad you're here today! We're going on a pretend picnic, and we're going to bring all kinds of fun food with us. Let's get ready to go!"

During the Activity

"Friends, I'll start our chant, and you can follow me. **(START MARCHING AROUND THE ROOM.)**

"We're going on a picnic, we're walking in the sun,
We're bringing lots of food; it's going to be fun!"

"Now freeze! This time say it with me!
We're going on a picnic, we're walking in the sun,
We're bringing lots of food; it's going to be fun!
I'm bringing tacos! **(WITH CHILDREN.)** I'm bringing tacos!"

"We're going on a picnic, we're walking in the sun,
We're bringing lots of food; it's going to be fun!
I'm bringing meatballs! **(WITH CHILDREN.)** I'm bringing meatballs!"

(CONTINUE THE CHANT, CHANGING THE FOOD EACH ROUND.)

"Thank you for going on a pretend picnic with me today! That was so much fun."

After the Activity

"Today, in our true story from the Bible, we'll hear about a time when God's people were hungry, and guess what? God gave them food every day and every night! Let's go find out how God took care of them."

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by continuing to pretend to eat and march .

SOCIAL 2/3

Bowl and Spoon

What You Need

- ☐ "Bowl and Spoon" Activity Page
- ☐ Avery® Labels #6450 or equivalent
- ☐ Paper bowls
- ☐ Plastic spoons



EveryChild Tips

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

Pair children up to do the activity together.

Allow children to point to the matching spoon and bowl.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Bowl and Spoon" on label paper, two sets per Small Group.
2. Attach one set of stickers on the bottom inside of each bowl, and the other set of stickers on the "bowl" of each spoon.
3. Spread out the bowls and spoons on the table.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to work together to match the images on the spoon to the bowl with the same image.
2. Celebrate when all matches are made.
3. Talk about each food item.
4. Reset and repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Who's ready to go on a picnic? Come to the table and we can play a game to get ready!"

During the Activity

"There are bowls and spoons on the table, they all have a food item on them. Will you help me match the food on these spoons to the food in the bowls? **(PAUSE.)** Great! Let's get matching! Look this spoon has a **[FOOD]** on it. Can you find the bowl with the **[FOOD]**? **(PAUSE.)** Yay! You found it! Put the spoon in that bowl. What other foods do you see? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Let's keep working together to match all the food. **(PAUSE.)** Hooray! We did it! **(HOLD UP THE CORRESPONDING SPOON AS YOU NAME THE FOODS.)** We matched the apples, the chicken leg, the fish crackers ... **(CONTINUE WITH EACH FOOD.)** These are all yummy foods and perfect for a picnic! Thank you for helping me make the matches."

After the Activity

"Today in our true story from the Bible, we are going to learn that we can thank God for food! Let's go hear all about it!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by pretending to eat each of the foods from the activity.

SOCIAL 3/3

In the Sand

What You Need

- ☐ Large flat bin or sand table
- ☐ Play sand
- ☐ Plastic tablecloth or tarp
- ☐ Small plastic cups
- ☐ Sand sifters

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Child-sized gardening gloves



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Fill a flat bin or sand table with an inch or two of sand.
2. Set the bin on a plastic tablecloth or tarp.
3. Place the sifters in the sand for play.
4. If you have a large class, consider offering two sand tables.

During the Activity

1. Encourage the children to gather around the sand table and play with the sand, sifters, and plastic cups.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, gather around the sand table!"

During the Activity

"Let's sift and play with the sand. Make sure your cups and sifters stay over the bin. (PAUSE.) That was so fun! Let's put our cups and sifters back in the bin. You know, all this sand reminds me of a desert. Have you ever seen pictures of a desert? Some deserts are sandy like this and they can be VERY hot!"

After the Activity

"In our true story from the Bible we'll hear about some people who were traveling in a desert. Let's find out what happened to them!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by pretending to walk through the sandy, hot desert.

EveryChild Tips



Provide gloves for children to wear if they have sensory sensitivities.

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 3

GROUPS 1/4

Manna Celebration

Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Pop-up tunnel
- ☐ Yellow confetti or small squares of paper

EveryChild Tips



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

If children are unable to go through the tunnel or afraid to, encourage them to go around it while saying the verse, then toss confetti over them.

USES MINIMAL SUPPLIES

MADE TO Move

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. Place the tunnel in the middle of the activity area.
2. Say the Memory Verse and do the motions for the children.

During the Activity

1. Invite the children to crawl through the tunnel while saying the verse.
2. Toss some manna over them as they exit the tunnel.
3. Continue with each child.
4. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand in front of the tunnel with me, and we can do the motions as we say our Memory Verse together. Ready? '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.) Great job everyone!"

During the Activity

"When I call your name, I want you to crawl through the tunnel to me as we say the words to our verse. [CHILD'S NAME] crawl through. 'I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,' Psalm 111:1. (TOSS MANNA OVER THEM AS THEY EXIT THE TUNNEL.) Wow! Look it's manna like God sent the Israelites. [CHILD'S NAME], your turn to crawl through! 'I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,' Psalm 111:1. (TOSS CONFETTI AND CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD AND SAY THE VERSE.)

"That was a fun way to say our verse and remember that we can thank God for everything!"

After the Activity

"God is so good! Every day, God made sure the Israelites had meat to eat at night and bread to eat in the morning. Wow, God gave the Israelites food to eat! We can thank God for all kinds of food! We can thank God for everything. 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."

GROUPS 2/4

Basket of Thanks

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Picnic basket
- ☐ Toy bread
- ☐ Toy chicken leg
- ☐ Other toy foods

MADE TO
Explore

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Fill a picnic basket with toy foods.
2. Place the toy bread and toy chicken leg on top of the other foods.

During the Activity

1. Gather the children around the basket.
2. As you review the Bible Story, hold up the toy bread and toy chicken leg.
3. When you are done reviewing the story, call each child by name and let them choose a food from the basket to hold up.
4. Lead the children in saying, "I can thank God for [name of food child is holding]" each time a child chooses a food.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Who wants to see what's inside this picnic basket? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** I do too! What's inside will help us review today's Bible Story."

During the Activity

"In our Bible Story, God's people, the Israelites, went on a long trip in a desert. Have you ever gone on a long trip? Did you get hungry? The Israelites got hungry too! Their tummies were SOOOO hungry. **(PAT YOUR TUMMY.)**

"God knew His people were hungry, so He told Moses He would send bread **(PULL OUT BREAD FROM BASKET)** in the morning and meat **(PULL OUT CHICKEN LEG FROM BASKET)** in the evening. When the people woke up, there was bread on the ground for them to eat. And then in the evening, there was meat for them to eat, just like God said! Yay, God!

"The Israelites were happy for the food. We can be happy for our food and thank God for it too! Let's thank God for some food right now. When I say your name, you get to pick a food from this basket. Then we can thank God for it together! Ready? **[CHILD'S NAME]** pick a food from the basket. **(PAUSE.)** Show us what you picked. **(PAUSE.)** You picked the **[FOOD]!** I can thank God for **[FOOD]!** Say that with me. I can thank God for **[FOOD]!** **(CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.)** Great job everyone!"

After the Activity

"No matter what food you have, you can thank God for it, because you can thank God for everything! Now, when I ask you, who can thank God for everything? I want you to stand up and say, **[BOTTOM LINE]** I can thank God for everything! Ready? Who can thank God for everything? **[BOTTOM LINE]** I can thank God for everything! Yay!"

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 3

GROUPS 3/4

Bread on the Ground

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Parachute
- ☐ Yellow or brown pom-poms



EveryChild Tips

Children can sit in a chair or wheelchair and participate.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Spread the parachute out in an open space of the room.
2. Sprinkle pom-poms on the parachute.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to raise the parachute high in the air and watch the pom-poms (bread) fall from the sky to the ground.
2. Collect the "bread" and do it again.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Oh, look the parachute is out! I love playing with the parachute. Everyone come grab a handle and let's play!"

During the Activity

"Look at all those pom-poms on the parachute. Let's pretend they're bread. Now let's be really quick and pop the parachute up. One, two, three! (PAUSE.) Wow, look at all the bread falling to the ground. Everyone put the parachute down on the ground and help me collect the bread so we can play again. (PAUSE.) Great job! Toss all the pom-poms on the parachute and grab a handle. Ready? One, two, three! Pop the parachute in the air! Friends, that was so much fun!" (REPEAT AS DESIRED.)

After the Activity

"In our Bible Story today, we heard how God gave His people, the Israelites, meat to eat at night, and bread to eat in the morning. They were so happy to have food. Friends, you and I can thank God for food we eat 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 3

GROUPS 4/4

Thankful for Food

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Thankful for Food" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Yellow and brown tissue paper
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Yellow and brown dot markers in place of tissue paper, scissors

EveryChild Tips



Create an example for children to see.

Use yellow and brown dot markers in place of tissue paper.

Offer adaptive scissors.



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. "Thankful for Food" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Cut tissue paper into one-inch squares.
3. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to glue the tissue paper squares or confetti onto their picture

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come to the table and let's make some story art to help us remember God's people, the Israelites. They walked in a hot desert for a long time, they were unhappy and hungry."

During the Activity

"Look! This side (**POINT TO THE NIGHT SCENE**) shows the Israelites at nighttime, and this side (**POINT TO THE DAY SCENE**) shows Israelites in the daytime. Color your pictures. (**PAUSE.**) God loved His people and wanted to take care of them. God knew they needed food so He told their leader, Moses, that He would send meat at night and bread in the morning. Wow, God is so good! That night they had plenty of meat to eat for dinner! Everyone was so happy to have food. Scrunch up some brown tissue and glue it to the nighttime picture. (**PAUSE.**) The next morning, there were small pieces of bread all over the ground for the people to eat! Glue some yellow pieces of paper to the ground on the daytime side. (**PAUSE.**) Great job! Every day, God made sure the people had meat to eat at night and bread to eat in the morning. Wow, God gave the Israelites food to eat!"

After the Activity

"Friends, we can thank God for all kinds of food! We can thank God for everything! Let's thank God together. Thank You, God, for everything. (**WITH CHILDREN.**) 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

Going on a Picnic

→ No Supplies Needed

Bowl and Spoon

- ☐ "Bowl and Spoon" Activity Page
- ☐ Avery® Labels #6450 or equivalent
- ☐ Paper bowls
- ☐ Plastic spoons

1. Copy "Bowl and Spoon" on label paper, two sets per Small Group.
2. Attach one set of stickers on the bottom inside of each bowl, and the other set of stickers on the "bowl" of each spoon.
3. Spread out the bowls and spoons on the table.

In the Sand

- ☐ Large flat bin or sand table
- ☐ Play sand
- ☐ Plastic tablecloth or tarp
- ☐ Small plastic cups
- ☐ Sand sifters

1. Fill a flat bin or sand table with an inch or two of sand.
2. Set the bin on a plastic tablecloth or tarp.
3. Place the sifters in the sand for play. If you have a large class, consider offering two sand tables.

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.

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

Groups

Manna Celebration

- ☐ Pop-up tunnel
- ☐ Yellow confetti or small squares of paper

1. Place the tunnel in the middle of the activity area.

Basket of Thanks

- ☐ Picnic basket
- ☐ Toy bread
- ☐ Toy chicken leg
- ☐ Several other toy foods

1. Fill a picnic basket with toy foods.
2. Place the toy bread and toy chicken leg on top of the other foods.

Bread on the Ground

- ☐ Parachute
- ☐ Yellow or brown pom-poms

1. Spread the parachute out in an open space of the room.
2. Sprinkle pom-poms on the parachute.

Thankful for Food

- ☐ Copy "Thankful for Food" on cardstock, one per child.
- ☐ Cut tissue paper into half-inch squares.
- ☐ Write each child's name on their paper.

1. Copy "Thankful for Food" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Cut tissue paper into half-inch squares.
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**.