

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. Let's Build a House
2. Rooms in the House
3. Help a Friend

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. Fingerprint Hearts
2. Elisha's Room
3. Travel Around
4. Thankful Picnic

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 people who help me.

Elisha's Room

2 Kings 4:8-17

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

Let's Build a House

What You Need

- ☐ Building blocks

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Large, easy-to-grasp blocks



EveryChild Tips

If a child doesn't want to build, invite them to point out or describe the rooms others are building.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Set out a variety of blocks in a central place where the children can gather and build.

During the Activity

1. Invite children to work together to build a house using the blocks.
2. As they build, talk about the different rooms they might include: a kitchen, a bathroom, a place to eat, a bed to sleep in, or a place to sit.
3. Encourage children to describe what each room is for and how it helps people. Guide the children to build a special room.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Come join me over here at the blocks. Today we're going to use the blocks to build a house."

During the Activity

"Let's think about all the rooms a house might need. A house needs a kitchen to make food in. Can you build a kitchen? (PAUSE.) What other rooms? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Oh yes! A house needs a bedroom to sleep in. Can you build a bedroom? (PAUSE.) What about a bathroom to wash your hands or take a bath in? Can you build a bathroom? (PAUSE.) You're doing such a great job building! Can you add a bed to your bedroom to sleep in? (PAUSE.) What about a table to eat at in your kitchen? (PAUSE.) And maybe a chair in another room so you can sit and rest. (PAUSE.) Now can you build another room on top of your house? (PAUSE.) Great job friends!"

After the Activity

"You built a wonderful house and added a special room. Let's go hear how someone in our Bible Story today helped a man named Elisha by adding a room to their house for him to stay and rest."

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by pretending to build.

SOCIAL 2/3

Rooms in the House



What You Need

- ☐ Little People® figures
- ☐ Little People® toy house

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Set the house and people figures on the table.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to explore and play with the house and figures.
2. Call out different rooms in the house and ask children to place a people figure in that room.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hey friends, come gather round the table and look at what we have to play with today! (PAUSE.) It's a little house! It's the Little People's house!"

During the Activity

"Play and explore moving all the people around in the house. (PAUSE.) Wow that looks like so much fun! Can you put your person in the kitchen? (PAUSE.) Great job! What do you do in the kitchen? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Yes! You make and eat food in the kitchen! Okay! Let's move your person to the family/living room. (PAUSE.) Great job! What do you do in the family/living room? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Those are great things to do! (CONTINUE WITH THE DIFFERENT ROOMS OF THE HOUSE.) That was fun moving your people all around the house and talking about what we do in all the rooms of our houses."

After the Activity

"In today's true Bible Story we're going to hear about a woman who built a room on her house for a man name Elisha so he would have a place to rest. Let's go hear more about Elisha and his room!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by giving high fives and telling the children you are thankful for them.

SOCIAL 3/3

Help a Friend

What You Need

- ☐ Plush friends
- ☐ Small pillows
- ☐ Baby blankets
- ☐ Toy food
- ☐ Large basket



EveryChild Tips

Model the activity so children have something to follow.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Place all the items in the basket.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to select a plush friend from the basket and use the other items to take care of them by giving them a place to sit, sleep, or food to eat. If there are more children than plush friends, pair children to work together.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Everyone look I have a basket full of plush friends and lots of things to help you take care of them."

During the Activity

"Everyone, pick a friend from the basket. (PAUSE.) How can you help your friend if they're hungry? (PAUSE.) Can you find some food in the basket to feed your friend? (PAUSE.) Oh, very good. Now your friend needs a place to sit, can you help your friend find a cozy place to sit? (PAUSE.) Great job! Now it's nighttime, and your friend needs a place to sleep, do we have beds or blankets to share? (PAUSE.) Yes! All our friends look so cozy. Great job helping your friend."

After the Activity

"That was so fun taking care of our plush friends. In our Bible Story today, we'll hear about a man who needed help and a woman who gave him food, a chair, a bed, and a room in her house. She was a kind friend. Are you ready to hear our Bible Story? I know I am."

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by asking children to walk with a friend.

GROUPS 1/4

Fingerprint Hearts

Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Fingerprint Hearts" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Washable ink pads
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Heart stamps



EveryChild Tips

For children with sensory sensitivities, allow children to use stamps instead of their fingers.

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. Copy "Fingerprint Hearts" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Write each child's name on their paper.
3. Say the verse and do the motions together with the children.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to say the verse and add fingerprints to their heart.
2. Repeat as desired.
3. Clean hands as needed.

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Let's 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! No let's sit down at the table to fill the whole heart on your paper with your sweet fingerprints."

During the Activity

"See the big heart on your paper? It has words inside it. Those words are our Memory Verse. Let's say it together as you add your fingerprints. Tap your finger on the ink pad and then on your paper. Ready? 'I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,' Psalm 111:1. Nice job! Keep adding to your heart as we continue to say our verse together. (REPEAT AS DESIRED.) Look! You filled your whole heart! They look so good."

After the Activity

"The Bible teaches us that we can thank God for family, friends, food, and people who help us because we can thank God for everything with our whole heart! Who can thank God for everything? (BOTTOM LINE) I can thank God for everything!"

GROUPS 2/4

Elisha's Room



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Elisha's Room" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Glue stick
- ☐ 8.5"x11" cardboard box or larger
- ☐ One Little People® woman
- ☐ Two Little People® men
- ☐ Several small toys (food, cars, animals, plants, etc.)
- ☐ Toy house furniture pieces: bed, lamp, chair, and desk/table

EveryChild Tips



For a non-verbal option, encourage children to give a thumbs up or down.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Elisha's Room" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
2. Glue "Elisha's Room" to one side of the box.
3. Put all the toys, including the toy furniture, inside the box.

During the Activity

1. Gather the children around the box.
2. As you review the Bible Story, pull a toy out of the box and ask the children, "Did the woman and her husband put a [toy] in Elisha's room?" If the item is a furniture piece, place it in front of Elisha's room. If it is not a furniture piece, put it behind the box.
3. Continue playing until all the furniture pieces are in front of Elisha's room. Repeat as time and interest allow.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Everyone, I need your help putting furniture in Elisha's room. Will you please help me? (PAUSE.) Yay! Thank you!"

During the Activity

"Let's sit in front of this house. (GATHER AROUND THE CARDBOARD BOX.) We are going to pretend this is the house where the woman and her husband lived in our Bible Story today. This is the woman, and this is her husband. (PLACE TOY WOMAN AND MAN IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE.) One day, the woman and her husband made a room for Elisha so he would have a place to stay when he was in town. This can be Elisha. (PLACE ANOTHER TOY MAN IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE.)

(BEGIN PULLING THINGS FROM THE BOX.) "Did the woman and her husband put a [TOY] in Elisha's room? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Yes! They put a [BED, LAMP, DESK, CHAIR] in Elisha's room! OR no, they didn't put a [TOY] in Elisha's room." (REPEAT AS TIME AND INTEREST ALLOW.)

After the Activity

"Elisha had people help him, and we have people who help us too! Who are some of the people who help you? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) We can thank God for the people who help us, 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 4

GROUPS 3/4

Travel Around

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Travel Around" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Painter's tape
- ☐ Heart-shaped sticky notes



EveryChild Tips

If you have a child that cannot physically move around the room, you can adapt this into a table activity for children to do with an adult or a few friends.

For a non-verbal option, teach children to use the ASL sign for "Thank you."

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Travel Around" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
2. Tape the pictures on the wall around the room at child's height.
3. Give children several heart sticky notes.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to travel to different places and put a heart on each picture and say "thank you."

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, in our Bible Story, Elisha went from town to town telling people about God. People in each town helped him, we have people in our town who help us, too. Let's go around the room and see if we can find different places that have people who help. When we find them, we will put these hearts on the picture." **(GIVE EACH CHILD SEVERAL HEART STICKY NOTES.)**

During the Activity

"Let's travel. Let's go to the fire station! **(WALK TO THE FIRE STATION PICTURE.)** We know the firefighters work here and they help keep us safe. Say "thank you firefighters" and put a heart sticky note on the picture. **(PAUSE.)** Great job. Now let's go find the next place in town. **(CONTINUE TO EACH PLACE, SAYING THANK YOU AND ADDING A HEART STICKY NOTE.)** Hooray! We found all the places and thanked all the people. Great job!"

After the Activity

"We need people who help us, just like Elisha needed people to help him. We can thank God for people who help us because we can thank God for everything! Who can thank God for everything? **(BOTTOM LINE)** I can thank God for everything!"

GROUPS 4/4

Thankful Picnic



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Thankful Picnic" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Green cardstock or construction paper
- ☐ 5-inch people paper cutouts
- ☐ Washable markers
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Permanent marker

EveryChild Tips



Create an example for children to see.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Thankful Picnic" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
2. Write each child's name on their green paper.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to color their picnic blanket then glue it to the middle of their green paper.
2. Encourage children to color and decorate their three people cutouts. One to look like themselves, and two like people who help them.

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 create a picnic picture!"

During the Activity

"Have you ever gone on a picnic? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** They are really fun! You pack a basket with all kinds of yummy food and drinks, spread a blanket out on the ground and sit with family or friends and eat and talk to each other.

"I have a picnic blanket with a picnic basket of food **(GIVE EACH CHILD A CUTOUT)** for you to decorate. **(PAUSE.)** Now glue your picnic blanket to the green paper. **(PAUSE.)** Wow! It looks like your picnic blanket is on a nice patch of grass! You can't have a picnic without people. Decorate one of these people cutouts to look like you. **(PAUSE.)** Now decorate the other two people to look like people who help you. People who help can be friends, family, a teacher, or even a police officer. Lots of people help us. **(PAUSE.)** Now let's glue all the people around the picnic blanket. **(YOU COULD LET CHILDREN GLUE THEM FLAT OR BEND THEM IN HALF AT THEIR "WAIST" AND LET THEM SIT ON THE BLANKET.)** Wow, look at the people who help you. That's a thankful picnic!"

After the Activity

"In today's true story from the Bible we learned that Elisha loved God, and he traveled all over, telling people about God. In one town, there was a woman who wanted to help Elisha. So, when Elisha was in their town, the woman and her husband would have Elisha eat at their house. Then they made a room on the roof of their house so Elisha would have a place to rest. The woman put a chair, a table, a lamp, and a bed in the room. Elisha was so thankful God gave him people to help him. God gives us people to help us too! We can thank God for the people who help us because we can thank 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

Let's Build a House

- ☐ Building blocks

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Large, easy-to-grasp blocks

1. Set out a variety of blocks in a central place where the children can gather and build.

Rooms in the House

- ☐ Little People®, one per child
- ☐ Little People® House, one to two per Small Group

1. Set the house and people figures on the table.

Help a Friend

- ☐ Plush Friends, one per child
- ☐ Baby blankets
- ☐ Small pillows
- ☐ Play food
- ☐ Large basket

1. Place all the items in the basket.

Continued on the next page →

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Groups

Fingerprint Hearts

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- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Heart Stamp

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2. Write each child's name on their paper.

Elisha's Room

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- ☐ Glue stick
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- ☐ One Little People® woman
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Travel Around

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- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Painter's tape
- ☐ Heart-shaped sticky notes

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2. Tape the pictures on the wall around the room at child's height.

Thankful Picnic

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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**.