

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. Grain Movers ⚠️ ALLERGY
2. Family Portrait
3. Put it in the Basket

Large Group (20 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. Memory Verse with Motions
2. Follow the Line
3. Pass the Thanks
4. Collecting Food
5. Thank God for Family ⚠️ ALLERGY
6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



Today's Bible Story

Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz

I can thank God for family.
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."

Psalms 103:1-5



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

Grain Movers

! ALLERGY

What You Need

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- ☐ "Grain Movers" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Two shallow plastic containers
- ☐ Dry rice
- ☐ Serving spoons
- ☐ Painter's tape

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Tablecloth or sheet



EveryChild Tips

For a version with less movement, place the two containers next to each other on a tablecloth. Sit with children and help as needed.

Pair children up to do the activity.

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 each rice, and post at the door.
2. Copy "Grain Movers" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
3. Place the containers on opposite sides of the room.
4. Fill one container with rice and tape the picture of Naomi on the other.

During the Activity

1. Ask children to line up behind the rice container.
2. Take turns scooping rice with the spoon and walking it to the other container.
3. Ask children to pour the rice from their spoon into the container.
4. Encourage children to come back to the line and pass the spoon to the next child.
5. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

Continue on next page →

SOCIAL 1/3

Grain Movers

! ALLERGY

What You Need

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- ☐ "Grain Movers" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Two shallow plastic containers
- ☐ Dry rice
- ☐ Serving spoons
- ☐ Painter's tape

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Tablecloth or sheet



EveryChild Tips

For a version with less movement, place the two containers next to each other on a tablecloth. Sit with children and help as needed.

Pair children up to do the activity.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand with me over here at this container. This container is full of rice and that one over there is empty but there's a picture of a woman on it. Her name is Naomi. Let's play a game to bring food to Naomi. Do you think we can fill up that container?"

During the Activity

"[CHILD'S NAME], take a spoon and scoop up some rice. Now carry it to the empty container, and pour it in. Ready? Set, go! (PAUSE.) You made it! Pour the rice into the container. (PAUSE.) Hooray! Come back to the line and hand your spoon to the next friend. [CHILD'S NAME] scoop and carry some grain. (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.) Wow, we had fun gathering the grain! You did such a great job helping each other."

After the Activity

"In our 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 pretending to carry the spoonful of rice to the designated area.

SOCIAL 2/3

Family Portraits



What You Need

- ☐ "Family Portraits" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Washable dry-erase markers
- ☐ Laminate pouches
- ☐ Paper towels
 - Option: Sheet protectors in place of laminate pouches

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ People stickers in a variety of age, gender, and ethnicity
- ☐ Pictures of family members.



EveryChild Tips

Provide a sample picture or visual cue cards showing family members (e.g., mom, dad, grandma, pet) to support children with visual processing needs.

Offer stamp markers, stickers, or pre-cut family figures for children with fine motor delays or challenges holding drawing tools.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Family Portraits" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Laminate each copy.
3. Place on the table with dry erase makers and paper towels.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to draw the people in their family inside the picture frame.
2. Offer support by asking simple questions like, "Who helps you at home?" or "Do you want to draw someone you love?"
3. As children work, engage with their stories and encourage their drawings.
4. After everyone finishes, invite children to share their portraits with the group if they feel comfortable.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Today we're going to draw something special: your family! Family is a gift from God and our families may look different from one another. Can you think of the people you like to call family? Let's draw them inside this picture frame!"

During the Activity

"I love seeing who you put in your family! Some people have big families and some have small families, and all families are special. God gives us people to help us and love us. Friends, your pictures are wonderful!"

After the Activity

"I love seeing how all our families are super special! Today we're going to hear about the people God gives to call family. I can't wait to hear all about it."

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by calling two to three children to make a walking family to travel to your designated area.

SOCIAL 3/3

Put it in the Basket

What You Need

- ☐ Picnic basket
- ☐ Toy food
- ☐ Picnic blanket
- ☐ Paper plates
- ☐ Napkins
- ☐ Cups
- ☐ Plastic spoons

→ Option: Tote bag in place of a picnic basket.



EveryChild Tips



To be mobility friendly place picnic blanket on a table

Encourage nonverbal participation (e.g., pointing, choosing items).

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Spread out a picnic blanket on the floor in an open area of your room
2. Set the toy food and supplies nearby.

During the Activity

1. Invite children to help you pack for a picnic trip.
2. Encourage children to pick items they think would be fun or helpful to bring on a trip and place them in the basket.
3. Once the basket is packed, invite children to pretend they are going on a trip with their family.
4. Walk around the room or area together with the basket and stop and sit at the blanket.
5. Unpack the basket and enjoy the picnic together.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hi friends! Let's get ready to go on a picnic! Let's think of yummy food and things we might need. Will you help me find the things we need and pack our picnic basket? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Fantastic! Let's go!"

During the Activity

"You're doing a great job finding all sorts of wonderful things for our picnic! Pack it all in our basket. Do you think we got enough food? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Should we get a little more? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Great! Pack it up! **(PAUSE.)** I'm not sure we can fit much more into our picnic basket! Let's close it up and get ready to find the perfect picnic spot! **(LEAD CHILDREN AROUND THE ROOM AND STOP AT THE PICNIC BLANKET.)** Oh look, we found it, the perfect picnic spot! Let's sit and unpack our basket. **(PAUSE.)** We can share what's inside! **(TALK ABOUT EACH OF THE THINGS YOU UNPACK.)** Wow! We had a wonderful picnic! You helped me pack our food, go on trip to find our picnic spot, and then we shared all the wonderful food! Thank you for making our picnic so nice!"

After the Activity

"Friends, today in our Bible Story, we'll hear about a family that went on trip just like we did! Let's get ready to listen and find out what happened on their trip and how they helped take care of each other!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by pretending to carry our picnic baskets.

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

GROUPS 1/6

Memory Verse with Motions



Memory Verse Activity

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 1/6

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

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."

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

GROUPS 2/6

Follow the Line

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Follow the Line" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Painter's tape in four different colors



EveryChild Tips

Keep lines simple to follow for better mobility.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Follow the Line" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
2. Make four long tape paths, each in a different color.
3. Make the paths cross over one another to add an extra layer of fun.
4. Place a picture at the end of each path.

During the Activity

1. Place children in groups of two to three and assign each group a color line to move on.
2. Encourage each group to follow the line to the end, pick up the picture and bring it back.
3. When you have all four pictures, review the Bible Story together.
4. Repeat as time and interest allow.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 2/6

Follow the Line


 Uses Minimal Supplies


 Made to Move

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Follow the Line" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Painter's tape in four different colors

② What You Say (cont.)

Before the Activity

"Ooo...look at these colorful lines. I have a fun game we can play with them!"

During the Activity:

"First, everyone needs a game group. (CALL TWO TO THREE CHILDREN BY NAME.) Come stand on this [COLOR] line. (REPEAT FOR EACH COLOR LINE.) Everyone else, sit here (POINT) and watch what they do and cheer them on then you'll get to go next.

"Okay, when I say follow the line, walk down your line, pick up the story picture at the end of the line, and bring it back. Ready? Follow the line! (PAUSE.) Yay! You found all four pictures! Now let's look at the pictures together. Come sit with me. (HOLD UP NAOMI.) This is Naomi from our Bible Story. (LAY THE PICTURE OF NAOMI DOWN IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN AND HOLD UP THE PICTURE OF RUTH.) This is Ruth. Ruth chose to be Naomi's family and go to Naomi's hometown with her. (LAY THE PICTURE OF RUTH BESIDE NAOMI AND HOLD UP THE PICTURE OF THE GRAIN.) When Naomi and Ruth got there, Ruth picked up grain behind the workers in the field so she and Naomi would have food to eat. (LAY THE PICTURE OF THE GRAIN BESIDE RUTH AND HOLD UP THE PICTURE OF BOAZ.) The field where Ruth picked grain belonged to a man named Boaz. Boaz and Naomi were family. Boaz decided to make sure Ruth and Naomi always had food to eat. Yay! Let's do that again! (RESET THE PICTURES AND PAIR THE REMAINING CHILDREN INTO GROUPS OR LET GROUPS TRAVEL DOWN THE ANOTHER COLOR LINE.) Thank you friends for helping review our Bible Story today."

After the Activity:

"Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz thanked God for family. And guess what! We can thank God for family too, because we can thank God for everything! So, when I ask you, who can thank God for everything, we are going to say, [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything! Get ready! Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything. Yay! [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!"

EveryChild Tips



Keep lines simple to follow for better mobility.

GROUPS 3/6

Pass the Thanks

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

☐ Alphabet Picture Book

EveryChild Tips

Use an alphabet picture book for ideas to help kids choose what to thank God for.

Repeat or model the phrase for children who may need language support.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Gather the children in a circle or seated side-by-side.
2. Explain that you're going to play a special game where they pass a thankful message quietly to one another.

During the Activity

1. Whisper to the child seated next to you, "I can thank God for... [something simple, like my family]," and have that child whisper it to the next child, and so on.
2. When it gets to the last child, encourage them to say the message out loud.
3. Celebrate if the message made it all the way around clearly or laugh together if it got a little silly!
4. Invite the next child in the circle to start a new thankful message, and repeat.
5. Talk about how it's fun to share what we're thankful for.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit with me on the floor in a circle. I have a fun game for us to play to help us practice saying thank you to God!"

During the Activity

"I'm going to whisper something I can thank God for into [CHILD'S NAME]'s ear, then they'll whisper it to the next friend, and we'll keep going around the circle until it gets to our friend [CHILD'S NAME ON YOUR OTHER SIDE]. Let's see if what I say makes it all the way around the circle! Ready? (WHISPER I CAN THANK GOD FOR FAMILY.) Did you get it? Okay turn and whisper it to the friend next to you. (CONTINUE UNTIL IT MAKES IT ALL THE WAY AROUND.) Okay, [CHILD'S NAME], tell us what the message was. (PAUSE FOR RESPONSE. THEN CELEBRATE IF CORRECT OR GIGGLE IF THE MESSAGE GOT SILLY.) That was fun! Now it's [CHILD'S NAME] to start the message. (CONTINUE UNTIL EACH CHILD HAS A TURN TO SHARE A MESSAGE.) That was fun and a little silly to share what we're thankful for in our game today!"

After the Activity

"Today we heard a true story from the Bible about Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz! We learned how they were family and helped each other. God gave Naomi someone to love her and help her. And you know what? God gives us people, too! We can thank God for everything and everyone He gives us. Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!"

GROUPS 4/6

Collecting Food



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Ball pit balls
- ☐ Food stickers
- ☐ Plastic container
- ☐ Con-Tact® paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Painter's tape



EveryChild Tips

Set up activity on a long table so everyone can comfortably join in.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Place a food sticker on each ball pit ball, making sure to have a variety.
2. Place the ball pit balls with the food stickers into the container.
3. Place the container on one side of the room.
4. Cut a large square of Con-Tact paper and remove the backing.
5. Place the Con-Tact paper, sticky side up, on the floor opposite the container.
6. Secure the edges of the Con-Tact paper to the floor with tape.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children one at a time to pick a ball pit ball from the container and roll it across the room.
2. After each child has a turn, walk across the room with all the children.
3. Pick up each ball pit ball collected on the sticky paper and name the food on each.
4. Reset and repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 4/6

Collecting Food



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Ball pit balls
- ☐ Food stickers
- ☐ Plastic container
- ☐ Con-Tact® paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Painter's tape

EveryChild Tips



Set up activity on a long table so everyone can comfortably join in.

② What You Say (cont.)

Before the Activity

"Hello, hello friends! Come stand in a line with me. Look in this container, it has lots of ball pit balls in it and look! (PICK UP ONE OF THE BALL PIT BALLS.) It has a [FOOD] on it."

During the Activity

"Let's play a game and roll the balls across the room to try to get them to stick to the square. We'll take turns. Ready? [CHILD'S NAME] pick a ball pit ball and roll it. (PAUSE.) Great job! Next friend! [CHILD'S NAME] your turn! (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.) Great job friends! Walk with me over here and let's see what we collected. (CARRY THE CONTAINER WITH YOU ACROSS THE ROOM.) Let's see, we collected (PICK UP ONE BALL PIT BALL AND LOOK AT THE STICKER) a/an [FOOD]! Yum! (PUT THE BALL PIT BALL INTO THE CONTAINER.) What other foods did we collect? (REPEAT WITH EACH OF THE BALL PIT BALLS.) Let's play again! (REPEAT AS DESIRED.) Wow friends! Thank you for helping me collect all this yummy food!"

After the Activity

"Today in our true story from the Bible, Ruth went with Naomi back to her hometown. Ruth told Naomi 'I'm your family, Naomi! Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live.' (RUTH 1:16) Ruth and Naomi took care of each other.

"When they got to Naomi's hometown, they were hungry and needed food to eat. A man named Boaz owned a field nearby so Ruth went there to pick some of the grain. When Boaz saw her collecting food and found out that Naomi was a part of his family, Boaz decided to take care of Ruth and Naomi and make sure they had plenty of food to eat! Wow!

"Thank You, God, for giving us people to call family. All families can take care of each other. Thank You, God, for giving us family! Thank You, God, for everything! Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything."

GROUPS 5/6

Thank God for Family

! ALLERGY

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- ☐ "Thank God for Family" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Rice Krispies® cereal
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Craft glue
- ☐ 3-ounce paper cups
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Biodegradable packing peanuts



EveryChild Tips

Create an example for children to see.

Use the adaptive Inclusive Optional Supplies.

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



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 Rice Krispies, and post at the door.
2. Copy "Thank God for Family" on cardstock, one per child.
3. Fill the cups halfway with Rice Krispies, one per child.
4. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to color their paper then glue the cereal to their paper.
2. Offer children more cereal for a snack.

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 today's true story from the Bible."

During the Activity

"Look on your paper. I see Ruth in Boaz's field collecting grain for her and Naomi. Color your paper and then we'll add something special to it. (PAUSE.) Great job! Now let's glue some of this cereal in the field and in a pile next to Ruth. (PAUSE.) Great job friends! Now, here's a little extra cereal to eat as a snack. (PASS OUT ADDITIONAL CEREAL.) Let's thank God for our snack. Say it with me. Thank You, God, for our friends, our food, and for everything. (WITH CHILDREN.) Thank You, God, for our friends, our food, and for everything."

After the Activity

"God gave Naomi family like Ruth and Boaz to help her. Ruth walked with Naomi to her hometown and found food for them to eat in Boaz's field. When Boaz found out that Naomi was part of his family, he decided to make 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! Thank You, God, for everything! Who can thank God for everything? (BOTTOM LINE) I can thank God for everything."

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

- ☐ "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen

MADE TO
↓
Reflect

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 "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group.
2. Place one card in your Bible at Psalm 111:1. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*
3. Encourage children to pretend they are picking up grain as you lead them to your Small Group spot.
4. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity

1. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions.
2. Encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of people they call family.

After the Activity

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

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"It's Small Group time! Today we are going to pretend we are walking in a field picking up grain, like Ruth did in our Bible Story. Follow me, and let's pick up some grain! **(STOP A FEW TIMES, BEND DOWN, AND PRETEND TO PICK UP GRAIN AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.)** Great work! Let's sit down and rest while we talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

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

- ☐ "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen



During the Activity

(OPEN THE BIBLE AND LAY IT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN.) "In our Bible Story today, we heard a story about a family. First, Ruth chose to go with Naomi and be her family. Then, after Ruth and Naomi got to Naomi's hometown, Ruth picked grain for them to eat. Ruth picked grain from a field that belonged to man named Boaz. When he found out that Naomi was his family, he decided to make sure Naomi and Ruth had plenty of food to eat.

"Do you think Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz thanked God for family? **(PAUSE.)** Yes! Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz thanked God for family, and we can thank God for family too, because we can thank God for everything! That's why when I ask you, who can thank God for everything, everyone will say, **[BOTTOM LINE]** I can thank God for everything! Who can thank God for everything? **[BOTTOM LINE]** I can thank God for everything!

"Yes! There are SO many things we can thank God for! It's like the world is a GIGANTIC picnic, and everywhere we look we see amazing and wonderful things we can thank God for with our whole heart.

"Hey! That reminds me of the new Bible verse we are learning today! It says, '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.)** Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! '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.)** Yay! **(CLAP.)**

"Do you know what I want to thank God for right now? **(PAUSE.)** Thank You, God, that we can learn Bible verses together! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. **(OPEN JOURNAL.)** Since one of the many things we can thank God for is family, we are going to make a list of people we call family in our prayer journal. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one person you call family, and I will write it in our journal." **(REMEMBER TO PRINT, AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)**

After the Activity

"This is a list of very special people we call family. **(HOLD UP JOURNAL.)** Let's pray and thank God for them. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? **(GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.)** Dear God, Thank You for stories in the Bible that teach us about You and how we can thank You for everything. Today, we want to thank You for family. Thank You for **[CHILD'S NAME]'s [NAME OF PERSON THEY LISTED]**. Thank You for... **(SAY THIS WITH EACH CHILD'S NAME AND WHAT THEY LISTED)**. Please help us give thanks to You with our whole heart every day. We love You, God! 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.

https://bit.ly/FL_GoingOnAPicnic

Social

Grain Movers*

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- ☐ "Grain Movers" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Shallow plastic containers, two per Small Group
- ☐ Dry rice, 2-3 large bags per Small Group
- ☐ Serving spoons
- ☐ Painter's tape

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Tablecloth or sheet

1. Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list rice, and post at the door.
2. Copy "Grain Movers" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
3. Place the containers on opposite sides of the room.
4. Fill one container with rice and tape the picture of Naomi on the other.

Family Portraits

- ☐ "Family Portraits" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Dry-erase markers
- ☐ Laminate pouches
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Option: Sheet protectors in place of laminate pouches

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Family member stickers (or magazine people cut-outs to represent families)
- ☐ Completed family portrait,
- ☐ Soft-grip crayons
- ☐ Non-laminated frames
- ☐ Family choice board with pictures of family members

1. Encourage children to draw the people in their family inside the picture frame.
2. Offer support by asking simple questions like, "Who helps you at home?" or "Do you want to draw someone you love?"
3. As children work, engage with their stories and encourage their drawings.
4. After everyone finishes, invite children to share their portraits with the group if they feel comfortable.

Continued on the next page →

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Socials (cont.)

Put it in the Basket

- ☐ Picnic basket
- ☐ Toy food
- ☐ Picnic blanket
- ☐ Paper plates
- ☐ Napkins
- ☐ Plastic cups
- ☐ Plastic spoons
- ☐ Option: Tote bag in place of a picnic basket.

1. Spread out a picnic blanket in your small group area.
2. Set the play food and supplies nearby.

Groups

Memory Verse with Motions

→ No supplies needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

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

Follow the Line

- ☐ "Follow the Line" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Painter's tape in four different colors

1. Copy "Follow the Line" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
2. Make four long tape paths, each in a different color.
3. Make the paths cross over one another to add an extra layer of fun.
4. Place a picture at the end of each path.

Pass the Thanks

→ No supplies needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Pictures of things we can thank God for

Continued on the next page →

Getting Ready

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Groups (cont.)

Collecting Food

- ☐ Ball pit balls
- ☐ Food stickers
- ☐ Plastic container
- ☐ Con-Tact paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Painter's tape

1. Place a food sticker on each ball pit ball, making sure to have a variety..
2. Place the ball pit balls with the food stickers into the container.
3. Cut a large square of Con-Tact paper and remove the backing.
4. Place the Con-Tact paper, sticky side up, on the floor in an open area of the room.
5. Secure the edges of the Con-Tact paper to the floor.

Thank God for Family*

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- ☐ "Thank God for Family" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Rice Krispies® cereal
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Craft glue
- ☐ 3-ounce paper cups
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Biodegradable packing peanuts

1. Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Rice Krispies, and post at the door.
2. Copy "Thank God for Family" on cardstock, one per child.
3. Fill the cups halfway with Rice Krispies, one per child.
4. Write each child's name on their paper.

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j)
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen

1. Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
2. Place the card in your Bible at Psalm 111:1.

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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**.