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. Pick and Sort
- 2. Pattern Play
- 3. So Many Animals

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- → "The Plans" and "Really Awesome Plan"
- → Bible Story
- → Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

- 1. Memory Verse with Motions
- 2. Good Things
- 3. Build a Tree
- 4. Hungry Animals
- 5. Feed the Birds (!) ALLERGY
- 6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- → Going Home
- → Memory Verse Card
- → Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- → Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org





Today's Bible Story

God has good things for me to do.

Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:27-28; 2:15, 19-20

Key Question

Who has plans for you?

Bottom Line

God has plans for me.

Memory Verse

"For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord." Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

Inclusive Pro Tips



This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

Small Group

September — Week 1

SOCIAL 1/3

Pick and Sort



What You Need

□ Brown Butcher Pape	er
□ Ped Orange Vellow	, ,

- ☐ Red, Orange, Yellow, and Green Pom-poms
- ☐ Red, Orange, Yellow, and Green Construction Paper
- ☐ Plastic Bins
- □ Double-sided Tape
- ☐ Painter's Tape
- □ Scissors



Inclusive Pro Tips

Assist each child, as needed.

For a version with less movement, place the tree cutout on the floor or table and sit down around it. If using this version, adjust wording in What You Say section accordingly.

1) What You Do

Before the Activity

- 1. Cut a simple tree trunk with branches out of butcher paper and tape to the wall at child's height.
- 2. Place pieces of double-sided tape all over the branches and upper body of the tree.
- 3. Cover the pieces of tape with pom-poms.
- 4. Tape one piece of construction paper on each bin.
- 5. Spread out the bins across the room from the tree.

During the Activity

- 1. Encourage children to run to the tree and pick a pom-pom fruit, then run to the bins and place the pom-poms in the correct color bin.
- Continue until all the fruit is picked and sorted. Reset and repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, look at this big tree! It has so much fruit on it. Do you see all the fruit? (PAUSE.) I see red fruit, we can pretend these are apples. There's orange fruit, we can pretend those are juicy oranges. The yellow fruit, we'll pretend are lemons, and the green fruit we'll pretend those are limes! Let's play a game with all this colorful fruit!"

During the Activity

"When I say go, I want you to run to the tree and pick one piece of fruit then come back to me. Ready, set, go! (PAUSE.) Great! Everyone picked a fruit from the tree! See these bins with the colors on them? I want you to put your fruit in the bin with the same color. (PAUSE.) Super! Look, there is still so much fruit on the tree, go pick another piece of fruit! (PAUSE.) Hooray! Go put it in the right bin! (CONTINUE UNTIL ALL THE FRUIT IS REMOVED AND SORTED.) Look friends, our tree is empty, and our baskets are full! You did a great job."

After the Activity

"In our true story from the Bible, we'll hear about the first two people that took care of the plants and trees and animals in a really special garden. Are you ready to hear our Bible Story? (PAUSE FOR ANSWERS.) Me too! Let's go!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by talking about everyone's favorite fruits.

Small Group

September — Week 1

SOCIAL 2/3

Pattern Play





What You Need

- ☐ "Pattern Play" Activity Page
- □ Cardstock
- □ Crayons
- □ Scissors

Inclusive Pro Tips

Model placing the matching crayons on the "Pattern Play" Activity Page

Give children two crayons at time.

Assist each child, as needed.

1) What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy the "Pattern Play" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.

During the Activity

- 1. Give each child a pattern card. Name the colors in the pattern.
- 2. Encourage the children to recreate the pattern using crayons.
- 3. Once they complete the pattern, provide a new card with a different sequence.
- 4. Guide and celebrate their efforts as they work through each pattern.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, today we are going to play a fun pattern game! Patterns are like plans that that tell us what is next. Let's see if we can follow the plans on these cards using our crayons."

During the Activity

"Look at this pattern! It goes red, blue, red... what color comes next?

(PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.) That's right! Blue! Line up your crayons in the same pattern. (PAUSE.) You did it! Now, let's try another one. This one is yellow, yellow, green, yellow, yellow... what do you think comes next?

(PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.) Green! Great job! (CONTINUE WITH EACH CARD.) You did such an amazing job following the plan on these cards and making these colorful patterns!"

After the Activity

"Today we are going to hear a Bible Story about two people who had to follow God's plan! Are you ready to find out all about them? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Let's go!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by marching in a Pattern Parade—step, clap, step, clap—all the way to your designated area!

Small Group

September — Week 1

SOCIAL 3/3

So Many Animals



What You Need

- ☐ Toy animals in a variety of colors and patterns
- Option: "So Many Animals" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors

Inclusive Pro Tips



Assist each child, as needed.

Instead of requiring the child to find a specific type of animal, you can describe the animal they are holding. "[CHILD'S NAME] you picked an animal with stripes. Can we find all the animals with stripes?"

1) What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Place the animals on the table.

During the Activity

2. Encourage the children to help sort the animals by their characteristics and identify each animal.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come over here and look at all these animals! There are so many of them, I need your help to sort and name them. Will you help me? (PAUSE FOR ANSWERS.) Great! Let's get started!"

During the Activity

: "Everyone look at the animals on the table. Can you help me find all the animals with stripes? (PAUSE.) Let's put them in a pile right here. (PAUSE.) Let's see what animals have stripes...I see a (HOLD UP THE ZEBRA) zebra! Wow! Zebras have beautiful black and white stripes. What other animals have stripes? (HOLD UP AND NAME EACH ANIMAL WITH STRIPES.) Great job! Can you help me find all the animals that have spots? (CONTINUE SORTING EACH ANIMAL BY CHARACTERISTIC AND IDENTIFYING THEM.) That was so fun looking at these amazing animals that God made."

After the Activity

"Today in our Bible Story, we're going to learn about the first two people, Adam and Eve and the good things God gave them to do. One of those good things was to name all the animals! Wow! What a fun job! Are you ready to hear more about it? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Me too! Let's go!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by naming an animal and moving and/or making the sounds they make.

Small Group

September — Week 1

GROUPS 1/6

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 Supplie

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



Inclusive Pro 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.

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

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.

1 What You Do

Before the Activity

- 1. Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.
- 2. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

During the Activity

- 3. Teach the Memory Verse motions.
- 4. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

Small Group

September — Week 1

GROUPS 1/6

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 Supplie

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



Inclusive Pro 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.

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

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. "'For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you,' (MARCH) says the Lord," (POINT UP) Jeremiah 29:11. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK)"

During the Activity

"Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'For I know.'

(TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS.) Put your hand up and tap the side of your head like this (TAP YOUR TEMPLE.) and say, 'For I know.' (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'The plans I have for you.' (MARCH.)
March in place like this (MARCH) and say, 'The plans I have for you.'
(REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Wonderful! Now let's put that together. 'For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you.' (MARCH.)
Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'Says the Lord.' (POINT UP.) Put one finger up and point to the sky like this (POINT UP) and say, 'says the Lord.' (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Nice job! Now let's put that together. "'For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you,' (MARCH) says the Lord.' (POINT UP.)

"Now the last part is: 'Jeremiah 29:11.' (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: Jeremiah 29:11. (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? 'For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you,' (MARCH) says the Lord," (POINT UP) Jeremiah 29:11. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK) Nice job. Let's do it again!" (REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES.)

After the Activity

"The Bible teaches us that God has plans for [CHILD'S NAME], and [CHILD'S NAME], and [CHILD'S NAME]... (SAY EACH CHILD'S NAME.) God has plans for you and [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me! Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me!"

Small Group

September — Week 1

GROUPS 2/6

Good Things



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- □ Bag or Box
- □ Toy Fruits and Vegetables
- ☐ Toy Animals
- ☐ Artificial Flowers
- ☐ Garden Gloves
- ☐ Toy Garden Tools
- ☐ Little People® Man and Woman Figures

Inclusive Pro Tips



Assist each child, as needed.

For a version with less movement, either bring the box to each child or pull an item out and let children tell you what the item is. If using this version, adjust wording in What You Say section accordingly.

1) What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Place items in the bag/box.

During the Activity

- 1. Encourage children, one at a time, to reach in the bag/box and pull out an item.
- 2. Ask child to name the item and then review the part of the Bible Story that goes with the item.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Small Group

September — Week 1

GROUPS 2/6

Good Things



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- □ Bag or Box
- □ Toy Fruits and Vegetables
- ☐ Toy Animals
- ☐ Artificial Flowers
- ☐ Garden Gloves
- □ Toy Garden Tools
- □ Little People® Man and Woman Figures

Inclusive Pro Tips



Assist each child, as needed.

For a version with less movement, either bring the box to each child or pull an item out and let children tell you what the item is. If using this version, adjust wording in What You Say section accordingly.

What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hey, everyone! Come sit with me! I have a bag/box filled with things that will help us review our Bible Story!"

During the Activity

"When I say your name, you will get to reach in the bag/box and pull one thing out. Ready? Let's play! [CHILD'S NAME], reach into the bag/box and pull one item out. (PAUSE.) Show everyone and tell us what you have. (PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.) Oh wow! (USE THE WORDS BELOW FOR EACH ITEM)

- → Fruits and Vegetables: "Oh...You have a [fruit/vegetable]. God had Adam and Eve work and care for the things that grew in the garden, and it was a good thing!"
- → Animals: "You have a/an [animal]! What does a/an [animal] say? (Pause.) God had Adam name all the animals, and it was a good thing!"
- → Flower: "You have a beautiful [color] flower! God had Adam and Eve work and care for the things that grew in the garden, and it was a good thing!"
- → Garden gloves/Garden tools: "You have garden tools! We use them when we work and care for a garden. God had Adam and Eve work and care for the things that grew in the garden, and it was a good thing!"
- → Little People® Man: "Let's pretend this is Adam. God made Adam and had good things for him to do!"
- → Little People® Woman: "Let's pretend this is Eve. God made Eve and had good things for her to do!"

"Let's line up all the wonderful things we found in our bag/box today.

(HELP AS NEEDED.) God gave Adam and Eve good things to do like take care of the animals and the plants and trees in the garden, and God even had Adam name the animals! Wow!"

After the Activity

"God had plans for Adam and Eve. And God has plans for you and me too. So every time I ask, who has plans for you, I want everyone to say,
[BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me! Let's try it! Who has plans for you?
[BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me! Yay! God has plans for you, and
[BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me!"

Small Group

September — Week 1

GROUPS 3/6

Build a Tree



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Green Craft Sticks
- □ Red, Yellow, Green, and Orange Pom-poms
- ☐ Small Craft Tubes

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Hot Glue Gun
- ☐ Hot Glue Sticks



Inclusive Pro Tips

Assist each child, as needed.

Hot glue three green craft sticks together in an asterisk formation, one for every two children.

First Look Small Group

1 What You Do

Before the Activity

- 1. Place a craft tube, three green craft sticks, and a few pom-poms in every color around the table, one set for every two children.
- 2. Explain that you will work together with a partner to build a tree.

During the Activity

- 1. Encourage children to stand the tube up in between the two partners. Then, ask the partners to work together to place two craft sticks on the top of the tube to create an "x".
- 2. Once in place, encourage children to add one more craft stick on top to create the tree's canopy.
- 3. Encourage children to carefully add their red pom-poms on top to create an apple tree.
- 4. Once all the red pom-poms are added, encourage children to remove them and add green pom-poms to create a lime tree.
- 5. Repeat with the orange and yellow pom-poms.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Small Group

September — Week 1

GROUPS 3/6

Build a Tree



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Green Craft Sticks
- □ Red, Yellow, Green, and Orange Pom-poms
- ☐ Small Craft Tubes

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Hot Glue Gun
- ☐ Hot Glue Sticks



Inclusive Pro Tips

Assist each child, as needed.

Hot glue three green craft sticks together in an asterisk formation, one for every two children.

First Look Small Group

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit at the table! We're going to work together with a friend to build a tree with these objects!"

During the Activity

"Okay let's get started! Stand your tube up on the table like this.

(DEMONSTRATE.) Great job! This will be the trunk of your tree. Now, let's add the branches. Everyone pick up a green craft stick and lay them across the top of the trunk to make an "x" like this. (DEMONSTRATE.) It's starting to look like a tree! Let's add one more craft stick right across the middle of the "x" like this. (DEMONSTRATE.) Great job. Now it's time to add the fruit to your tree. Let's make a red apple tree. Can you place the red pom-poms on the branches? Be careful so the tree doesn't fall down! If it does though, that's okay. We'll just rebuild the tree! (PAUSE.) Your apple trees look great! Let's build a lime tree! What color are limes? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Green, that's right! Let's carefully take the red pom-poms off and add the green ones. (PAUSE.) Fantastic! (CONTINUE WITH THE YELLOW AND ORANGE POM-POMS.) That was so fun building the different fruit trees with you today!"

After the Activity

"God made Adam and Eve and put them in a beautiful garden. God loved Adam and Eve, and they loved God. God wanted Adam and Eve to take care of the garden and everything in it. That means take care of the land and the plants and the animals and grow food in the garden. God wanted Adam and Eve to take care of the things He made. God also asked Adam to name the animals! What a fun job! God gave Adam and Eve really good things to do, and God gives us good things to do too! God had plans for Adam and Eve, and God has plans for you and me too! Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me!"

Small Group

September — Week 1

GROUPS 4/6

Hungry Animals



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Hungry Animals" Activity Page
- □ Cardstock
- ☐ Empty, Family-sized Cereal Boxes
- □ Clear Tape
- □ Pom-poms
- □ Large Plastic Spoons
- □ Plastic Container
- □ Craft Knife

Note

Use the craft knife before children arrive and store it out of reach in another room

Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version with less movement, seat children in a circle and pass the "Hungry Animal" around the circle and model how to feed the animals.

Give each child three pompoms to feed the animals when they get passed to them.

(1) What You Do

Before the Activity

- 1. Copy "Hungry Animals" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
- 2. Tape one picture to the front of each cereal box.
- 3. Cut out the hole at the mouth, cutting through the picture and box.
- 4. Place in an open area with the open mouths facing out.
- Put pom-poms in the container with the spoons on the opposite side of the room.

During the Activity

- 1. Invite children to take turns carrying a pom-pom on a spoon across the room to feed one of the animals.
- 2. Cheer them on as they take their turns, encouraging them to be gentle and steady as they carry and feed the animals.
- 3. Continue playing until all the animals have been fed.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Small Group

September — Week 1

GROUPS 4/6

Hungry Animals

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Move

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Hungry Animals" Activity Page
- □ Cardstock
- ☐ Empty, Family-sized Cereal Boxes
- □ Clear Tape
- □ Pom-poms
- □ Large Plastic Spoons
- □ Plastic Container
- □ Craft Knife

Note

Use the craft knife before children arrive and store it out of reach in another room



Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version with less movement, seat children in a circle and pass the "Hungry Animal" around the circle and model how to feed the animals.

Give each child three pompoms to feed the animals when they get passed to them.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, today we learned that God made Adam and Eve and gave them good things to do. They took care of the garden, the plants, and the animals! Let's play a game to practice taking care of animals just like Adam and Eve did!"

During the Activity

"We are going to take turns feeding those animals over there. When I call your name, you'll pick up a spoon, place a pom-pom on it, then carefully take it across the room to feed one of those animals. Is everyone ready to do a good thing? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Great! [CHILD'S NAME] put a pom-pom on the spoon and pick an animal to feed. Let's cheer for [CHILD'S NAME]! (PAUSE.) Great job! Now [CHILD'S NAME], it's your turn! (CONTINUE UNTIL EACH CHILD HAS A TURN. REPEAT AS DESIRED.) Wow! You all did a great thing and took care of the animals by feeding them just like Adam and Eye did!"

After the Activity

"God gave Adam and Eve really good things to do. God wanted them to take care of the world He made! And do you know what? God gives us good things to do too! Like... Being kind and loving to everyone. Helping your neighbor. And taking care of the things God made. God had plans for Adam and Eve, and God has plans for you and me too! [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me. Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me."

Small Group

September — Week 1

GROUPS 5/6

Feed the Birds



(!) ALLERGY

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- "Feed the Birds Fun at Home" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- □ Cardboard
- ☐ Twine
- □ Lard
- ☐ Birdseed
- □ Paper Plates
- □ Craft Sticks
- ☐ Small Paper Cups
- □ Scissors
- ☐ Gallon-sized Resealable Bags
- ☐ Butcher Paper
- ☐ Masking Tape
- □ Baby Wipes
- □ Permanent Marker

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.

(1) What You Do

Before the Activity

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list lard, and birdseed, and post at the door.
- Copy "Feed the Birds Fun at Home" on cardstock and cut, one note per child.
- 3. Cover the table with butcher paper and tape to secure.
- 4. Cut cardboard in four-inch hearts, one per child.
- 5. Punch a hole in each heart.
- 6. Cut twine in twelve-inch lengths, one per child.
- 7. Fill each cup with birdseed, one per child.

During the Activity

- 1. Give each child a plate with a heart.
- 2. Give each child a craft stick with a tablespoon of lard on it.
- 3. Encourage children to spread the lard over the heart.
- 4. Ask children to pour birdseed over their heart and press down to help it stick.
- 5. Thread the twine through the hole and knot for each child's heart.
- 6. Slide each child's plate in a bag and seal.
- 7. Clean hands as needed. Send home with a note.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page →

Inclusive Pro Tips

Assist each child, as needed.

Create an example.

For a sensory-friendly version, prepare the heart cutout with lard and place in the child's bag. Give child a cup of bird seed to pour into their bag. Seal the bag and help children move and shake the bag around to adhere the bird seed to their heart.

Small Group

September — Week 1

GROUPS 5/6

Feed the Birds



(!) ALLERGY

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God Pray to God

Talk about God Live for God

What You Need

☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
☐ "Feed the Birds Fun at Home"
Activity Page
☐ Cardstock
☐ Cardboard
☐ Twine
□ Lard
☐ Birdseed
□ Paper Plates
☐ Craft Sticks
☐ Small Paper Cups
☐ Scissors
☐ Gallon-sized Resealable Bags
☐ Butcher Paper
☐ Masking Tape
□ Baby Wipes
☐ Permanent Marker

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.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come to the table with me. Today we are going to make a bird feeder to help us remember our Bible Story."

During the Activity

"Everyone gets a plate with a heart. What do hearts remind us of? (PAUSE FOR ANSWERS.) Yes! Hearts remind us of love! (GIVE EACH CHILD A CRAFT STICK WITH LARD.) Spread this over your heart cutout. (PAUSE.) Now pour the birdseed over your heart and press it down to help it stick. (PAUSE.) Great job! I'm going to add a piece of twine to your heart. When you get home you can hang it outside in a tree and help take care of the birds like Adam and Eve. (SLIDE EACH CHILD'S PLATE IN A BAG AND SEAL.)"

After the Activity

"When God made the world, God made Adam and Eve and put them in a beautiful garden. God loved Adam and Eve, and they loved God. God gave them very good things to do like taking care of the garden and everything in it. That means taking care of the land and the plants and the animals, and growing food in the garden. God even asked Adam to name the animals! God gives us good things to do too! Like... Being kind and loving to everyone. Helping your neighbor. And taking care of the things God made. God has plans for you and [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me. Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me."

Inclusive Pro Tips



- · Assist each child, as needed.
- · Create an example.
- For a sensory-friendly version, prepare the heart cutout with lard and place in the child's bag. Give child a cup of bird seed to pour into their bag. Seal the bag and help children move and shake the bag around to adhere the bird seed to their heart.

3-5 Year-Olds Small Group
September — Week 1

GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer

Reflect

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Bible
- □ Scissors
- □ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped Pen

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.

1 What You Do

Before the Activity

- Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group.
- 2. Place one card in your Bible at Jeremiah 29:11.
 - → Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.
- 3. Encourage the children to pretend to be any animal they want as you lead them to your Small Group spot.
- 4. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity

Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of good things they can do.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

3-5 Year-Olds Small Group
September — Week 1

GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer

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Create

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God Pray to God

Talk about God Live for God

What You Need

_	IVICITIOI y	verse cara	Activity
	Page		
	Cardstock	<	
	Bible		
	Scissors		
	Journal		
	Fun-shap	ed Pen	

☐ "Momory Vorce Card" Activity

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.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"It's Small Group time! Today we are going to pretend to be animals! Think of what kind of animal you want to be and pretend to be that animal while you follow me to our Small Group spot. I'm going to be a/an [ANIMAL NAME]! Come on, animal friends! Follow me! (PRETEND TO BE AN ANIMAL AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.) Here we are animal friends! You can be children now. It's time to talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

During the Activity

(OPEN THE BIBLE AND LAY IT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN.) "In our Bible Story today, we learned that God had good things for Adam and Eve to do. What were some of the good things Adam and Eve did? Let's see... they worked and cared for the garden. Oh! And Adam got to name all of the animals, like the (NAME SOME OF THE ANIMALS THE CHILDREN PRETENDED TO BE).

"God had plans for Adam and Eve, and God has plans for you and me too. That's why when I ask, who has plans for you, we'll say, [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me! Let me hear you say it! Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me! He sure does! And the Bible verse we are going to learn will help us remember that God has plans for us. It says, "'For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you,' (MARCH) says the Lord," (POINT UP) Jeremiah 29:11. (OPEN HANDS LIKE BOOK.) That is God talking to a man named Jeremiah. God knew the plans He had for Jeremiah, and God knows the plans He has for us too! Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! "'For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you,' (MARCH) says the Lord," (POINT UP) Jeremiah 29:11. (OPEN HANDS LIKE BOOK.)

"Wow! You sound great! (CLAP HANDS.) Thank you for saying that with me. Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (OPEN JOURNAL.) There are a lot of good things God has for us to do. Let's make a list of some of them in our prayer journal. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one good thing God has for us to do, and I will write it in our journal.

(SUGGESTIONS: TALK TO GOD, SHARE WITH OTHERS, BE KIND, LOVE LIKE JESUS, CARE FOR ANIMALS, CARE FOR THE WORLD GOD MADE, ETC. REMEMBER TO PRINT, AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)

After the Activity

"Look at all of the good things God has for us to do! (HOLD UP JOURNAL.)
Let's pray and thank God for having plans for us. 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 having plans for
(NAME EACH CHILD) and for me. Help us start with the good things You
have planned for everyone to do, like (READ THE LIST THE CHILDREN
MADE). You're the best, God. We love You! In Jesus' name. Amen."

Small Group

September — Week 1

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. bit.ly/FL_ConstructAndCreate

Social

Social
Pick and Sort
 □ Brown butcher paper □ Red, orange, yellow, and green pom-poms □ Red, orange, yellow, and green construction paper □ Plastic bins, four per Small Group □ Double-sided tape □ Painter's tape □ Scissors
 Cut a simple tree trunk with branches out of butcher paper and tape to the wall at child's height. Place pieces of double-sided tape all over the branches and upper body of the tree. Cover the pieces of tape with pom-poms. Tape one piece of construction paper on each bin. Spread out the bins across the room from the tree.
Pattern Play
☐ "Pattern Play" Activity Page ☐ Cardstock ☐ Crayons ☐ Scissors
1. Copy the "Pattern Play" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.
So Many Animals
☐ Toy animals in a variety of colors and patterns☐ Option: "So Many Animals" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors
 Place the animals on the table. Option: Copy "So Many Animals" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
Groups
Memory Verse with Motions
☐ No Supplies Needed
Inclusive Optional Supplies
□ "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF□ Cardstock

Continued on the next page \rightarrow

□ VELCRO Dots□ Scissors

Small Group

Good Things

September — Week 1

Getting Ready

Social

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3.	Place in an open area with the open mouths facing out.
	Pom-poms Large, plastic spoons Small Container
	Cardstock Family-sized cereal boxes, 3 per Small Group Clear tape
	"Hungry Animals" Activity Page
Hu	ıngry Animals
1.	Place a craft tube, three green craft sticks, and a few pom-poms in every color around the table, one set for every two children.
_	Hot Glue Sticks
Inc	clusive Optional Supplies
	Green craft sticks, 3 for every two children Small craft tubes, 1 for every two children Red, yellow, green and orange poms, 3 of each color per child
Bu	ild a Tree
1.	Place items in the bag/box.
	Bag or Box Toy Fruits and Vegetables Toy Animals Artificial Flowers Garden Gloves Toy Garden Tools Little People® Man Little People® Woman
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Small Group

September — Week 1

Getting Ready

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Feed the Birds

"Allergy Alert Poster"
"Feed the Birds Fun at Home" Activity Page
Cardstock
Cardboard
Twine
Lard
Birdseed
Paper plates
Craft sticks
Small paper cups
Scissors
Gallon-sized resealable bags
Butcher paper
Masking tape
Baby wipes
Permanent marker

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list lard, and birdseed, and post at the door.
- 2. Copy "Feed the Birds Fun at Home" on cardstock and cut, one note per child.
- 3. Cover the table with butcher paper and tape to secure.
- 4. Cut cardboard in four inch hearts, one per child.
- 5. Punch a hole in each heart.
- 6. Cut twine in twelve inch lengths, one per child.
- 7. Fill each cup with birdseed, one per child.

Journal and Prayer

"Memory Verse Card" Activity Page
Cardstock
Scissors
Bible
Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j.)
Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at bit.lv/3Nwi0Wh.)

1. Copy "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group.

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**.