

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. All the Stars
2. Lots and Lots
3. Waiting for the Surprise! ⚠️ ALLERGY

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. Star Walk
2. Count the Stars
3. Follow the Plan ⚠️ ALLERGY
4. Balancing Stars
5. Paint the Stars
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](#)

THIS MONTH
↓



Today's Bible Story

I can wait for God's plan.

Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 12:1-3; 15:5-6; 18:1-14; 21:1-7

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.

SOCIAL 1/3

All the Stars



What You Need

- ☐ Parachute
- ☐ Yellow Pom-poms



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow a child to remain close to the activity and move their body even if they do not want to hold the parachute.

This activity could get loud as children enjoy the movements, offer headphones or a break to any child that might become overwhelmed.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Lay the parachute on the floor in an open area.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to move the parachute as directed then freeze.
2. Add pom-poms to the parachute and encourage children to shake it up and down to make the stars go high in the sky.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"I am so excited! The parachute is out, I love playing with the parachute. Do you want to come join me?"

During the Activity

"Grab the parachute and wait until all our friends have joined us. (PAUSE.) Yay! All our friends are here! We're ready to start. Lift the parachute up! (PAUSE.) Now down. (PAUSE.) Now shake it really fast. (PAUSE.) That was so fun. Now I'm going to add some pom-poms. (HOLD UP A POM-POM.) These remind me of stars. (ADD SOME POM-POMS.) Let's shake them up and down. (PAUSE.) Let's add more stars! (ADD THE REST OF THE POM-POMS.) Wow that is a lot of stars, let's shake and pop the stars up in the sky! (PAUSE.) Look at all the stars! There are so many we can't count them all."

After the Activity

"In our true story from the Bible, we're going to learn about a man named Abraham and his wife, Sarah. God had plans for them. God told Abraham and Sarah they would have more children in their family than stars in the sky. Let's go hear more about it."

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by twinkling like stars all the way to your designated area.

SOCIAL 2/3

Lots and Lots



What You Need

- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Chisel-tip Permanent Marker
- ☐ Washable Markers
- ☐ Masking Tape

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Cover the table with butcher paper and tape to secure.
2. Draw outlines of different size and shape people all around the table with the permanent marker.
3. Place the markers in the middle of the table.

During the Activity

4. Encourage children to decorate and design all the different people shapes on the table.
5. Walk around and look at all the different people and count them as you go.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello, hello friends! It's great to see you today! Come join me at the table."

During the Activity

"Look at all the people shapes on the table! (PAUSE.) Will you help me color and decorate each one? (PAUSE FOR ANSWERS.) Great! Thank you! (PAUSE.) You've done such a great job making sure every person shape is colored in! Let's stand up and walk around the table so we can look at each one. (PAUSE.) Ready? Let's count them as we go. One, two, three... (CONTINUE COUNTING EACH PEOPLE SHAPE AS YOU WALK AROUND THE TABLE.) Wow! We counted [NUMBER] people! That's a lot of people!"

After the Activity

"Today we're going to hear a true story from the Bible when God told a man named Abraham and his wife Sarah that they would have a big, big family with lots of people! Let's go hear all about it!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by asking children to line up by the color they are wearing and as you walk, ask children wearing a specific color **Who has plans for you?** Repeat as desired until you reach your designated area.

SOCIAL 3/3

Waiting for the Surprise!

! ALLERGY

What You Need

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Lemons
- ☐ Baking Soda
- ☐ Dish Soap
- ☐ Plastic Spoons
- ☐ Vinegar
- ☐ Coated Paper Bowls
- ☐ Small Paper or Plastic Cups
- ☐ Sharp Knife
- ☐ Baby Wipes
- ☐ *Optional: Food coloring*

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



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list lemons, baking soda, dish soap, baking soda, vinegar, and food coloring if using, and post at the door.
2. Cut lemons in half.
3. Place one lemon half, cut side up, in each bowl along with a spoon, one per child.
4. Fill each cup with baking soda, one for every two children.

During the Activity

5. Encourage children to poke and squeeze their lemon halves with their spoon to get the juice flowing.
→ *Optional: For a more colorful volcano, add a few drops of food coloring to the top of the lemon.*
6. Drizzle a layer of dish soap over each lemon half. Then ask children to sprinkle spoonfuls of baking soda over the top of the lemon.
7. Observe and talk about any changes.
8. Next, slowly pour a small amount of vinegar over each lemon.
9. Watch and wait as the mixture bubbles up and creates a "volcano" effect!

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page →

SOCIAL 3/3

Waiting for the Surprise!

! ALLERGY



What You Need

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Lemons
- ☐ Baking Soda
- ☐ Dish Soap
- ☐ Plastic Spoons
- ☐ Vinegar
- ☐ Coated Paper Bowls
- ☐ Small Paper or Plastic Cups
- ☐ Sharp Knife
- ☐ Baby Wipes
- ☐ *Optional: Food coloring*

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

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Come join me at the table. Today, we are going to do a fun experiment! We have to wait a little bit to see what happens, but I promise it will be a fun surprise if we follow my plan! Do you think you can wait with me? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Great! I think you'll love it!"

During the Activity

"First, let's poke our lemons to get them ready like this. (DEMONSTRATE.) Next I'm going to drizzle some soap on your lemons. (PAUSE.) What do you see? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Use your spoon to sprinkle some baking soda on top. (PAUSE.) Do you see anything happening now? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Now, let me add one more thing. This is vinegar. Watch and wait for it... (PAUSE FOR REACTION.) WOW! Look! It's so fizzy! It took a little time, but it was worth the wait, right?"

After the Activity

"It was hard to wait for the reaction to happen. We kept adding new ingredients, and we waited, and waited and waited for our lemon volcano surprise, but when it finally happened it was so worth the wait! In today's Bible Story, we'll hear a story about a man named Abraham and his wife Sarah who waited a really long time for God's promise. Let's go hear all about it!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by playing freeze and wait. Have kids take tiny steps, freeze when you say "wait," and cheer when you say "go!"

GROUPS 1/6

Star Walk



Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Star Walk" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Painter's Tape

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Little People



Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version with less movement, seat children at a table or in a circle on the floor.

Tape stars to the table or floor.

Give each child a Little People toy to use instead of moving themselves.

Children will move their toy along the Star Walk. Adjust the wording in "What You Say" to match this version.

Notes → 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. Copy "Star Walk" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
2. Line the stars up in order on the floor and tape to secure.
3. Say and do the motions to the Memory Verse.

During the Activity

1. Invite children to move from star to star, stepping or hopping on them as say the verse together.
2. Repeat several times, adding excitement and movement.

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Come stand near the stars with me! Today, we're going to go on a star walk as we say our Memory Verse. But before we start, let's do the motions as we say our verse. "'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) Wow! Great job everyone!"

During the Activity

"Okay! Let's walk from star to star and we'll say the verse together. Ready? Here we go! (STEP OR HOP TO EACH STAR AS YOU SAY EACH PART!) 'For I know.' Let's do the next part! 'The plans.' (PAUSE.) I have for you.' (PAUSE.) 'Says the Lord.' (PAUSE.) Jeremiah 29:11. Wow! You did it! You completed our Memory Verse Star Walk! Way to go! Let's do it again!" (REPEAT AS DESIRED.)

After the Activity

"Waiting can be hard, but just like Abraham and Sarah learned, God always keeps His promises. And just like the stars in the sky, God's plans for us are BIG! Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me!"

GROUPS 2/6

Count the Stars



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Abraham and Sarah" and "Baby Isaac" Activity Pages
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue Sticks
- ☐ Star Stickers or Self-inking Star Stamps

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Adaptive Scissors



Inclusive Pro Tips

- Provide adaptive scissors.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Abraham and Sarah" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Copy "Baby Isaac" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.

During the Activity

1. As you review the Bible Story, give each child a copy of "Abraham and Sarah."
2. Next, give each child star stickers or star stamps to put above Abraham and Sarah.
3. Go to each child as they work and count their stars with them.
4. End with giving each child a baby Isaac to glue to their page.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Everyone, come sit at the table with me. We are going to make some story art that will help us remember today's Bible Story!"

During the Activity

"This is a picture of Abraham and Sarah, (GIVE EACH CHILD AN ACTIVITY PAGE.) God had plans for them. God told them they would have as many people in their family as there are stars in the sky! Let's put stars in the sky above Abraham and Sarah. (GIVE EACH CHILD STAR STICKERS OR A SELF-INKING STAR STAMP) Oh...look at all the stars! Let's try and count the stars together. One, two, three..." (SAY THIS WITH EACH CHILD AS THEY WORK.) God's plans for Abraham and Sarah were for them to have more children than stars in the sky. They were so excited about God's plan, and they knew that God always keeps His promises. They waited, and waited, and waited until one day, they had the baby they had waited and waited for! Abraham and Sarah had a little boy, and they named him Isaac. Let's glue this picture of baby Isaac by Abraham and Sarah. (GIVE EACH CHILD A BABY ISAAC.) God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah, and their family grew... and grew... and grew! There were more people than stars in the sky!"

After the Activity

"Wow! Your pictures look great! Now you can take them home to help you remember that God had plans for Abraham and Sarah, and God has plans for you too! Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me!"

GROUPS 3/6

Follow the Plan

! ALLERGY

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster" and "Follow the Plan Label" Activity Pages
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Avery® Labels #22807 or Equivalent
- ☐ Elmer's® School Glue
- ☐ Elmer's® Magical Liquid Slime Activator
- ☐ Shaving Cream
- ☐ Metallic Star Shaped Confetti
- ☐ Washable Markers
- ☐ Small Bowls
- ☐ Large Mixing Bowl
- ☐ Large Wooden Spoon
- ☐ 5.5-ounce Disposable Snack Cups with Lids
- ☐ Permanent Marker
- ☐ Measuring Cups
- ☐ Baby Wipes

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Sandwich-sized Resealable Freezer Bags in Place of 5.5-ounce Disposable Snack Cups with Lids

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

1. Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Elmer's® Magical Liquid Slime Activator and shaving cream, and post at the door.
2. Copy "Follow the Plan Label" on label paper, one label per child.
3. Place star confetti in several bowls.
4. Write child's name on the bottom of their cup.

During the Activity

1. Measure 5 1/3 cups of glue and 6 cups of shaving cream in a large bowl and stir.
2. Add 2.5 cups of activator to start, and add more as needed to get to the desired firmness.
3. Allow each child to stir the mixture with a spoon. (This recipe makes enough dough for approximately 15 children.)
4. Fill each child's cup up to half inch from the top.
5. If desired, let children color their slime with a marker.
6. Encourage children to play with their slime to mix the color then mix in a handful of star confetti.
7. Help children return their slime to their cups and snap the lids on.
8. Clean hands as needed.
9. Ask children to add the label to the lid of their cup.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page →



Inclusive Pro Tips

For children with sensory sensitivities, place slime in a sandwich-size freezer bag and encourage children to play with the slime by kneading it and squishing it while sealed in the bag.

GROUPS 3/6

Follow the Plan

! ALLERGY

Application Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster" and "Follow the Plan Label" Activity Pages
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Avery® Labels #22807 or Equivalent
- ☐ Elmer's® School Glue
- ☐ Elmer's® Magical Liquid Slime Activator
- ☐ Shaving Cream
- ☐ Metallic Star Shaped Confetti
- ☐ Washable Markers
- ☐ Small Bowls
- ☐ Large Mixing Bowl
- ☐ Large Wooden Spoon
- ☐ 5.5-ounce Disposable Snack Cups with Lids
- ☐ Permanent Marker
- ☐ Measuring Cups
- ☐ Baby Wipes

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Sandwich-sized Resealable Freezer Bags in Place of 5.5-ounce Disposable Snack Cups with Lids

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit with me at the table. I need your help to follow this plan to make slime! Will you help me? (PAUSE.) Hooray!"

During the Activity

"The first two steps of the plan is to add glue and shaving cream to the bowl. (PUT 5 1/3 CUPS OF GLUE AND 6 CUPS OF SHAVING CREAM INTO THE BOWL.) The next step of the plan is mixing it together! (LET CHILDREN TAKE TURNS STIRRING.) Now the next step is to add the activator. It will turn the glue and shaving cream into slime! (POUR IN AND STIR, LETTING CHILDREN TAKE TURNS STIRRING AGAIN. ADD MORE ACTIVATOR IF NEEDED.) Great job, friends! We made slime! (PORTION OUT SLIME INTO EACH CHILD'S CUP.) Now this is the part of the plan that YOU get to decide. You can leave your slime white, or you can make it a color. If you want your slime to be a different color, use a marker to draw on your slime. (PAUSE.) Take your slime out and mix it around like this. (DEMONSTRATE.) Look at the pretty colors you made! But our plan isn't finished yet. We need to add some of these sparkly stars to your slime. (PAUSE.) Stars remind me of our Bible Story. How many stars do you think you added to your slime? (PAUSE FOR ANSWERS.) Maybe! But not as many as are in the sky! (ALLOW CHILDREN TO PLAY WITH THEIR SLIME.) Okay, let's put your slime back in the cup and add the lid. (HELP SNAP THE LIDS ON AND HELP CHILDREN CLEAN HANDS AS NEEDED.) Now add this label to your lid. (PAUSE.) Fantastic! We'll put these aside for you to take home today."

After the Activity

"In our Bible Story, we learned that Abraham and Sarah waited a long time for God's plan. God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah, and their family grew...and grew...and grew! There were more people than stars in the sky! God had plans for Abraham and Sarah, and God has plans for you! Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me."



Inclusive Pro Tips

For children with sensory sensitivities, place slime in a sandwich-size freezer bag and encourage children to play with the slime by kneading it and squishing it while sealed in the bag.

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

September — Week 4

GROUPS 4/6

Balancing Stars



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Star Cutouts

Inclusive Optional Supplies

☐ Star-shaped Sticky Notes



Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version that's a better fit for your group, use star sticky notes in place of the star cutouts.

Assist children, as needed.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

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

During the Activity

2. Challenge children to balance their star on different parts of their body, such as their forehead, elbow, or foot.
3. Encourage them to try different ways and see who can keep their star balanced the longest. If a star falls, they can pick it up and try again.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Abraham and Sarah had to wait a long time for God's plan, and waiting can be hard! Let's see if we can do something that may seem a little hard to do—balancing a star! **(POINT TO THE STAR CUTOUTS.)**

During the Activity

"Ready? Okay! Can you balance your star on your forehead? **(DEMONSTRATE AND PAUSE.)** Wait, wait, now how about on your elbow? **(DEMONSTRATE AND PAUSE.)** Wait, wait, now try balancing it on your foot! **(DEMONSTRATE AND PAUSE.)** It's a little hard, but you're doing great! Let's try balancing on some other places. **(CONTINUE AS LONG AS TIME AND INTEREST ALLOW.)** That was a lot of fun!"

After the Activity

"Abraham and Sarah waited a long time for God's plan, but God always keeps His promises! God had plans for Abraham and Sarah, and God has plans for you! Who has plans for you? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God has plans for me!"

GROUPS 5/6

Paint the Stars



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Paint the Stars" Activity Page
- ☐ White Cardstock
- ☐ Dark Blue Cardstock
- ☐ White Washable Paint
- ☐ Paint Brushes
- ☐ Paper Cups
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue Sticks
- ☐ Paint Smocks
- ☐ Plastic Tablecloth
- ☐ Baby Wipes
- ☐ Permanent Marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Star stickers or star stamps



Inclusive Pro Tips

Offer star stickers or star stamps in place of painting.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Paint the Stars" on white cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.
2. Write each child's name on their paper.
3. Spread the tablecloth over the table.
4. Pour a little bit of paint in each paper cup, one for every two children.
5. Help children put their smocks on.

During the Activity

1. Model and encourage children to dip their paintbrush into the paint then hold it straight out about 5-inches above their paper.
2. Ask children to gently tap the paintbrush with their other hand.
3. Repeat this painting process moving to different spots of their paper.
4. Put the paintbrushes down then ask children to rub glue on the back of their cutout and press on their starry paper.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page →

GROUPS 5/6

Paint the Stars



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Paint the Stars" Activity Page
- ☐ White Cardstock
- ☐ Dark Blue Cardstock
- ☐ White Washable Paint
- ☐ Paint Brushes
- ☐ Paper Cups
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue Sticks
- ☐ Paint Smocks
- ☐ Plastic Tablecloth
- ☐ Baby Wipes
- ☐ Permanent Marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Star stickers or star stamps



Inclusive Pro Tips

Offer star stickers or star stamps in place of painting.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit at the table with me. I have a super fun story picture for you to create today."

During the Activity

"Today in our Bible Story, we learned about Abraham and his wife, Sarah. One night, God told Abraham, 'Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can. That's how many children will be born into your family.' Everyone dip your paintbrush into the paint then hold it over your picture like this. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** Now take your other hand and gently tap the paintbrush. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** Great, now move the paintbrush over another spot on your paper and tap it again. **(REPEAT A FEW TIMES.)** Super job everyone. Lay your paintbrushes flat on the table and look at your beautiful sky filled with stars! **(PAUSE.)** Take your picture of Abraham and Sarah and flip it over. Rub some glue on the back then stick it to your starry picture. **(CLEAN HANDS AS NEEDED.)** Abraham and Sarah were excited about God's plan, and they knew that God always keeps His promises. They waited many, many years and became very old but still didn't have any children. One day God sent three visitors to Abraham, and they told him that in one year Sarah would have a baby boy. And exactly one year later, they had the baby they had waited and waited for! Abraham and Sarah had a little boy, and they named him Isaac. God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah, and their family grew...and grew...and grew! Their family had more people than stars in the sky! Look at the stars on your picture again. That's a lot of stars and God gave Abraham and Sarah more people in their family than the stars in the sky! How wonderful!"

After the Activity

"Sometimes waiting is hard. Abraham and Sarah waited a long time for God's plan, but God always keeps His promises! God had plans for Abraham and Sarah, and God has plans for you and me too! Who has plans for you? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God has plans for me."

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" Activity
Page from Week One in Bible
- ☐ 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

1. If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, 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 children to pretend they're carrying a baby as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity

1. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of things we have to wait for.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page →

GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer

MADE TO
↓
Create

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Memory Verse Card" Activity
Page from Week One in Bible
- ☐ 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.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"It's Small Group time! Today we are going to pretend we are carrying a baby, like this **(DEMONSTRATE)**, while we walk to our Small Group spot. Okay, everyone, hold your baby and follow me! **(PRETEND YOU ARE CARRYING A BABY IN YOUR ARMS AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.)** You did a great job holding your babies! We can stop pretending now because it's time to sit down and 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 plans for Abraham and Sarah's family to have as many people as there are **WHAT** in the sky? **(PAUSE.)** Yes! Stars! That's a lot of people! Abraham and Sarah waited for God's plans, and they finally had baby boy named Isaac, just like God said they would. God had plans for Abraham and Sarah, and God has plans for you and me too! So tell me, who has plans for you? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God has plans for me! One more time! Who has plans for you? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God has plans for me!

"Yay! **[BOTTOM LINE]** God has plans for me! And we have been learning a Bible verse that 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.)** Did you hear that? God knows the plans He has for us! 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.)** You sound so good, I think you're ready to say that verse all by yourself. I want everyone to sit down, and we will take turns saying it. Who wants to go first? I have my stickers/star hand-stamp ready! Way to go, **[NAME OF CHILD]!** **(GIVE TWO THUMBS UP)** Here is a **(STICKER/STAMP)** for you! **(SAY AND DO THIS WITH EACH CHILD AS THEY TRY AND SAY THE BIBLE VERSE.)** I'm very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse. When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/stamp. One, two, three! **(PAUSE TO LOOK.)** Yay! **(CLAP.)**

"Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. **(OPEN JOURNAL.)** Today we're going to make a list of things we wait for in our prayer journal. We wait for our turn on the slide. We wait for dinner to be ready. We wait for our birthdays. We wait for all kinds of things! So when I say your name, I want you to tell me one thing you have waited for and I will write it in our journal. Then, we can use the list when we pray. **(REMEMBER TO PRINT, AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)**

Continued on the next page →

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

September — Week 4

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" Activity
Page from Week One in Bible
- ☐ 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.

After the Activity

"And I am going to add 'God's plans' to our list, because today we learned that we can wait for God's plans. **(HOLD UP JOURNAL.)** Let's pray and talk to God about it. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? **(GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.)** Dear God, sometimes we have to wait for things like **(READ THE LIST THE CHILDREN MADE)**. Thank You for helping us learn that we can wait for Your plans too. We know Your plans for us are always best, so please help us wait for them. We love You! 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.
bit.ly/FL_ConstructAndCreate

Social

All the Stars

- ☐ Parachute
- ☐ Yellow pom-poms

Lots and Lots

- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Chisel-tip permanent marker
- ☐ Washable markers
- ☐ Masking tape

1. Cover the table with butcher paper and tape to secure.
2. Draw outlines of different size and shape people all around the table with the permanent marker.
3. Place the markers in the middle of the table.

Waiting for the Surprise!

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Lemons, one for every two children
- ☐ Baking soda
- ☐ Dish soap
- ☐ Plastic spoons
- ☐ Vinegar
- ☐ Coated paper bowls
- ☐ Small paper or plastic cups
- ☐ Sharp knife
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ *Optional: Food coloring*

1. Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list lemons, baking soda, dish soap, baking soda, vinegar, and food coloring if using, and post at the door.
2. Cut lemons in half.
3. Place one lemon half, cut side up, in each bowl along with a spoon, one per child.
4. Fill each cup with baking soda, one for every two children.

Continued on the next page →

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Groups

Star Walk

- ☐ "Star Walk" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Tape

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Little People, one per child

1. Copy "Star Walk" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
2. Line the stars up in order on the floor and tape to secure.

Count the Stars

- ☐ "Count the Stars" Activity Page
- ☐ "Baby Isaac" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Star stickers or self-inking star stamp

1. Copy "Abraham and Sarah" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Copy "Baby Isaac" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.

Continued on the next page →

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Follow the Plan

- ☐ "Allergy Alert Poster"
- ☐ "Follow the Plan Label" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent
- ☐ Elmer's® school glue
- ☐ Elmer's® Magical Liquid Slime Activator
- ☐ Shaving cream
- ☐ Metallic star confetti
- ☐ Washable markers
- ☐ Small bowls
- ☐ Large mixing bowl
- ☐ Large wooden spoon
- ☐ 5.5-ounce disposable snack cups with lids
- ☐ Permanent marker
- ☐ Measuring cups
- ☐ Baby wipes

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Sandwich-sized resealable freezer bags in place of 5.5-ounce disposable snack cups with lids

1. Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Elmer's® Magical Liquid Slime Activator and shaving cream, and post on the door.
2. Copy "Follow the Plan Label" on label paper, one label per child.
3. Place star confetti in several bowls.
4. Write child's name on the bottom of their cup.

Balancing Stars

- ☐ Star Cutouts

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Star-shaped Sticky Notes

Continued on the next page →

Getting Ready

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Paint the Stars

- ☐ "Paint the Stars" Activity Page
- ☐ White cardstock
- ☐ Dark blue cardstock
- ☐ White washable paint
- ☐ Paint brushes
- ☐ Paper cups
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Paint smocks
- ☐ Plastic tablecloth
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Star stickers or star stamps

1. Copy "Paint the Stars" on white cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.
2. Write each child's name on their paper.
3. Spread the tablecloth over the table.
4. Pour a little bit of paint in each paper cup, one for every two children.

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible
- ☐ Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j.)
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen
- ☐ Reward Stickers or hand-stamp

1. If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut one per small group. Place it in the Bible at Jeremiah 29:11.
 → *Note: Keep the Memory Verse Card in your Bible all month.*

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**.