

Small Group Leader Guide

Materials Not Included in the Activity Bags:

Bible Story Extension

- Bible

Discussion Questions

Verses to Take with You

- Bibles
- index cards
- cups-5 cups for every 2 kids
- pencils

Make It Personal with Prayer

Pray for your group before they arrive

Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to remind every kid that God is with them, even when they don't feel ready.

Pray that the kids would find the courage to try new things. Ask God to help the kids remember that even when it feels big or scary, God's plan is perfect!

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Creation and the Fall Genesis 1-2:3, 3

Supporting Romans 5:8

Key Question

How do you know you can trust God?

Bottom Line

You can trust God no matter what.

Memory Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1 NIV)

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Foil
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Prepared foil rod

*Consider using these passages:

- ☐ Genesis 1:1, 3
- ☐ Genesis 1:9-10
- ☐ Genesis 1:20-21
- ☐ Genesis 1:25
- ☐ Genesis 1:26-27
- ☐ Genesis 3:2-3
- ☐ Genesis 3:6
- ☐ Romans 5:8

Inclusive Pro-Tips



Allow extra time for any kids who may need it to finish shaping their foil rods or to respond after each verse.

Pair up kids who might benefit from some extra support to help them during the activity and encourage communication.

What You Do

Create Together

- Give each kid a 3-foot piece of aluminum foil.
- Show kids the prepared foil rod as an example. (This will help them visualize what they're going to make.)
- Direct each kid to roll their piece of foil along the longest edge to create a 3-foot foil rod.
- Explain that you will read several verses from today's Bible Story, and they'll shape their pieces of aluminum foil into something that reminds them of the creation story.
- One at a time, read a passage from the Bible that's from the Bible Story.
 - Whenever you pause after reading a Bible passage, start the timer for 30 seconds and encourage the kids to shape their foil rods into something that reminds them of the creation story during the time.
 - For example, if you read about the creation of humans (Genesis 1:26-27), kids might shape their foil rod into a heart or stick figure.
 - After each 30-second period, invite the kids to share what they created with the group.

Prompt discussion with the kids by asking:

- What characteristics of God can we see in creation? (Affirm the kids' answers.)
 - God is good—He made good things like grass that's soft to walk on, a different beautiful sunset each night.
 - God is creative—He made the duck-billed platypus and creatures that shine at the ocean depths! God provides—everything has all of its needs met, like honeybees and flowers, and we have the exact recipe of air we need!
 - God has infinite wisdom—He put the planets spinning in motion, and they're all exactly where they need to be!
- In what way does knowing those things about God help you trust Him?
- How did God make a way to fix the mess that people made when they sinned against God? (God sent Jesus.)
- We can't actually see God with our eyes, but what other evidence does God give us to help us know He's real and near? (The Bible—God gave us the Bible so we can know Him; we can see what God has done and what He has made, etc.)

Talk Together

1. Explain to kids that even though people turned away God, God NEVER gave up on them. He loves us and wants to be our close friends! From the beginning, God had a plan to restore the world through Jesus.
2. Encourage the kids that they can trust that nothing will ever change God's love for them. God loves you so, so much! Anyone who believes and follows Jesus can be friends with God!

Note: Be sensitive to kids who might have questions about following Jesus. Use the Gospel Guide for having conversations with kids about salvation. Involve families in this discussion or decisions as well.

Discussion Questions

MADE TO
↓
Connect

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do

Ask

- How do you know you can trust God?
- What do you think it means to trust God with something you can't see or control?
- When you're having a hard time trusting God, what can you do? Who can you talk to?
- What would you tell someone who doesn't believe God exists?

Inclusive Pro-Tips



Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

Memory Verse Activity

MADE TO
Explore

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Cups
- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pens

Note

Before you begin, consider watching a demonstration of the activity here:

bit.ly/4im8gq0

Inclusive Pro-Tips



Print the “Memory Verse” Activity Page to provide a printed visual of the Bible verse. Some kids process information better when they see it rather than just hearing it.

Kids may need extra time to process the verse and respond to discussion questions. Be patient and give them space to think and speak without pressure.

If necessary, consider adapting the game's structure. For example, you can modify the speed or process of taking turns to help kids with physical or processing challenges succeed.

What You Do

1. Invite kids to get into pairs.
2. Give each pair a Bible and direct them to look up this month's Memory Verse, Hebrews 11:1.
3. Use the Bible Navigation tips below to help kids find the verse.*
4. Repeat the verse together several times.

Ask

- What do you think it means to be “sure of” what you do not see?
- What things do you know exist even though you've never seen them? (Kids might say air or wind, love, Wi-Fi, germs, etc.)
- What do you know is true about God even though you've never seen Him?

Explore Together

- Pause after asking kids each question to give them time to process and respond.
- Give each group four index cards, five cups, and a pen for each kid.
- Direct the kids to divide Hebrews 11:1 into four parts and write one part of the verse on each index card.
- For example:
 - Faith is being sure of
 - what we hope for.
 - It is being sure of
 - what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1
- Create a model cup tower for the kids to reference as they build their own.

Continued on the next page ->

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

Verses to Take with You



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(Continued)

Walk the kids through the following steps to create the cup tower:

1. Set one cup upside down on the floor, and place the first index card (with the first part of Hebrews 11:1 face up) on top of the cup.
2. Place another cup on top of that card, then add the second index card on top of that cup.
3. Continue stacking cups, alternating with index cards in verse order.

Explore Together

1. As the kids successfully stack the cups, they must recite the portion of the verse on the index card they pulled out.
2. Check the kid's towers to ensure the cups are being stacked upside down.
3. Once each cup tower is complete, challenge the groups to take turns pulling an index card from the cups as fast as possible so that the cup drops onto the one underneath it.
4. Encourage the kids to re-build their tower if the cups fall off.
5. Play a few rounds before inviting the kids to place their verse cards in order and recite the verse together again.

Make It Personal with Prayer

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

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What You Need

No supplies needed



What You Do

1. Invite the kids to stand in a circle, arm's length apart.
2. Instruct the kids to take a step forward into the circle each time you pause to indicate they are praying along with you.
3. Close the group in a prayer similar to the following, pausing for kids to add their own words:

Dear God, thank You for the amazing world You've created and all the ways it shows us Your goodness, Your creativity, and Your love.

(PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO WHISPER OR SAY ONE THING THEY'RE THANKFUL FOR THAT GOD CREATED.)

Help us to trust You this week no matter what comes our way.

PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO SILENTLY THINK OF ONE THING THEY NEED TO TRUST GOD WITH.)

Thank You for the plan You had from the very beginning to show Your love by sending Jesus to make a way for us to be close to You again.

(PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO SILENTLY OR QUIETLY THANK GOD FOR SOMETHING SPECIFIC ABOUT JESUS.)

We love You and want to follow You. Help us see ways we can trust You more every day.

(PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO SAY, "GOD, I TRUST YOU," IF THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE.)

We pray these things In Jesus' name.
Amen.