

Small Group Leader Guide

Materials that are NOT Included in the activity bags:

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions

Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You

- Bibles
- clipboards
- dry erase boards and markers
- paper

Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

- index cards
- pencils

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

God Chooses Abram Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6

Key Question

What does it look like to trust God?

Bottom Line

You can trust that God has a plan.

Memory Verse

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

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.

Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ "Unlikely Heroes" Activity

Page- see next page

What You Do

- Mix together the cards from the "Unlikely Heroes" Activity Page and hand them out in no particular order.
 - If you have fewer than 10 kids, it's okay if some kids have more than one card.
- Tell kids to look at their card but not to let other kids see what it says.
- Explain the activity:
 - Each kid is to take a turn reading the story statement at the top of their card, which describes something that happened in today's Bible Story.
 - When each kid reads the card out loud to the group, they are to read the statement using the "secret superpower" described at the bottom of their card.
 - The rest of the kids will try to guess their unusual "superpower."
- After all the cards have been read, recap by reminding kids that from the very beginning, when people turned away from God and ushered in that evil curse, God had a plan to restore us because He loves us and wants to be our close friends. Throughout God's Big Story—which is recorded in the Bible and which we are going through this year—we see how God has been working out that plan. He worked on His great rescue plan for a long, long time.
- Ask:
 - Why would it have been a challenge for Abram and Sarai to trust God's plan and promise?
 - What does it teach you about who God is that He stayed faithful to His promises even when Abram and Sarai made bad choices?
 - What is something you learned about God's character from the Bible Story?
 - What does it look like for a kid your age to trust God in a situation that might require you to wait a long time?
 - What can we take from Abraham and Sarah's story to encourage us to trust God?
- Encourage kids to share their own stories or the stories of someone they know who trusted God in a situation that took a long time to work out. Discuss why these stories help us have faith too.
- [Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a time you had to trust God for something that took a long time to happen. How did you wait well and show your faith in God's plan and timing?)
- Encourage kids with that even when things take a long time, we can trust that God still has a plan.
- Share that nothing can stop God's plan to work things for good!



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of kids in your Small Group. Some kids might need more time to process or read the statements.

If any kids struggle to speak or read aloud, allow them to have another kid help them read the story statement.

<p>Story Statement: When Abram was 75 years old, God told him to pack up his family and move to a new land.</p> <p>Superpower: You can imitate a bird.</p>	<p>Story Statement: God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's into Sarah, because He was going to keep His promise. When Abraham was nearly 100 and Sarah was nearly 90 years old, they had a baby. They named their baby Isaac.</p> <p>Superpower: You speak and move in slow motion.</p>
<p>Story Statement: God told Abram that his family would grow into a huge nation with many people.</p> <p>Superpower: You never stop laughing.</p>	<p>Story Statement: Even though Abraham and Sarah weren't always faithful, God was always faithful to keep His promises. God kept His promises to Abraham and Sarah.</p> <p>Superpower: You never stop running.</p>
<p>Story Statement: Abram and Sarai were old and had no children.</p> <p>Superpower: You never speak above a whisper.</p>	<p>Story Statement: Jesus was born in Abraham's family years and years after Isaac.</p> <p>Superpower: You never stop hiccupping.</p>
<p>Story Statement: God told Abram that his children would be as countless as the stars in the sky.</p> <p>Superpower: You sing everything you say.</p>	<p>Story Statement: God used Abraham's trust in Him and in His promises in His great plan to rescue us.</p> <p>Superpower. You think you are a robot.</p>
<p>Story Statement: Abram and Sarai followed God for years and years and miles and miles, but they didn't always make good choices.</p> <p>Superpower: You never stop turning in circles.</p>	<p>Story Statement: God's plan is always good because He is good. We can always trust Him.</p> <p>Superpower: You never stop crying.</p>

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed

What You Do

Ask

- What does it look like to trust God in your everyday life?
- Think about a person you really trust. What makes them trustworthy?
- Now, think about God. What do you believe about God that makes Him even more trustworthy than the most reliable person you know?
(Examples: God always keeps His promises, God knows everything, God loves me no matter what.)
- Why is it still possible to trust God even when things don't go as expected?
(Point kids to the idea that God has a plan, and God sees things we can't see yet!)
- Faith means trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see. What's something you can see in your life that reminds you to trust God?

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] by sharing an age-appropriate time God helped you through something hard, God answered a prayer, or how God has provided for you in another way!

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?"

Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ "Psalm 3:5" Activity Page
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-Erase Marker



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Think about your group's needs. If any kids need more time to process, consider changing the time or playing without a timer. If running isn't an option, let kids answer the questions and pass the clipboard to a teammate to run. If kids in your group process best visually, consider writing the fill-in-the-blank questions on the whiteboard and keeping score on the side portion of the whiteboard. High-energy games can be overwhelming for some kids. Offer an alternative role, like keeping score or writing questions on the whiteboard.



① What You Do

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Instruct kids to look up Proverbs 3:5 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
- Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
- Invite kids to share their thoughts about the meaning of Proverbs 3:5.

Ask:

- What does this verse say about trusting God?
 - The word "heart," in this verse means more than feelings. What do you think it means to "trust in the Lord with all your heart"?
- Divide kids into teams of 2-3.
 - Direct the teams to spread out.
 - Give each team a clipboard with 10 sheets of paper, and markers.
 - Explain the game:
 - You will ask a question about the verse from the "Proverbs 3:5" Activity Page.
 - One kid from each team will write the answer on the paper on the clipboard, then run it to you—all within 10-20 seconds.
 - The kids are not to run until they finish writing.
 - You will check each team's answer.
 - Teams that answer correctly within the time get 10 points.
 - The team with the most points at the end wins!
 - Set the timer for each round.
 - Use the whiteboard and dry-erase marker to keep score.
 - Before each question, instruct the teams to move their top paper to the back so the next kid has a fresh piece of paper for each round.
 - Share with kids that spelling isn't the focus; just do your best to choose an answer quickly!
 - Celebrate the kids' effort and calculate the scores!

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.

-
- 1. What should we do with all our heart?**
 - (Trust in the LORD)
 - 2. What is the missing word in this part of Proverbs 3:5? "Do not _____ on your own understanding."**
 - (depend)
 - 3. On what should we not depend?**
 - (Our own understanding)
 - 4. In whom should we trust?**
 - (The LORD)
 - 5. What is the missing word in this part of Proverbs 3:5? "Do not depend on your own_____."**
 - (Understanding)
 - 6. In what book of the Bible is this verse found?**
 - (Proverbs)
 - 7. What is the missing word in this part of Proverbs 3:5? "Trust in the _____ with all your heart."**
 - (LORD)
 - 8. What word sticks out to you the most in Proverbs 3:5?**
 - (Answers will vary)
 - 9. What word does this statement define? "Trusting what you can't see because of what you can see."**
 - (Faith)
 - 10. Is Proverbs 3:5 in the Old Testament or the New Testament?**
 - (Old Testament)

Make It Personal with Prayer

MADE TO
Reflect

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ index cards
- ☐ Pens or Pencils

What You Do

1. Give each kid a notecard and pen (or pencil).
 - Invite kids to write a 1-2 sentence prayer to God.
 - Encourage kids to ask God for help to trust Him and strengthen their faith this week.
2. Once the kids are finished, encourage them to take turns reading their prayers aloud.
 - It's okay if kids don't feel comfortable sharing their prayers aloud.
3. Close in prayer, asking God to help the kids continue to trust in Him and in His good plan because He is good! Ask God to help the kids learn to trust in Him because of who He is and what He's done!



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Give extra time to write the prayers for kids who need it. Let them know it's okay if they need a few extra minutes.