

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions

- clipboard
- paper
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Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You

- Bible
- markers
- White board and marker
- paper

Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

- index cards
- pencils

Pray for your group before they arrive

Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time.

Recall a time in your life when you experienced uncertainty, but you knew that God was with you. Ask God to give each child courage when they face uncertainty.

Pray they will trust God even when they don't know what's next. Ask God to help the kids see that God is always working in their lives!

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jacob's Dream Genesis 28:10-22

Supporting: Genesis 25:19-34; 27

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

MADE TO
↓
Create

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Fine-Tip Markers
- ☐ "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Think about the needs of your group. Let the kids verbally describe the word instead of writing it if they don't feel comfortable.

Be mindful of any kids with sensory sensitivity by offering a quiet guessing option where kids raise their hands to guess a word.

What You Do

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give one kid from each team a clipboard with 10 pages of paper and three fine-tip markers.
- Explain and demonstrate how to play "Knuckle Draw":
 - The kid with the clipboard is to go first.
 - You will show both kids the same card from the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page without letting others see it.
- The kid will hold all three markers between the fingers of one hand. (Demonstrate using the picture on the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page as an example.)
- The goal is for the kids to write the bolded word from the cards while holding the markers in this way.
- The rest of their team will try to guess the word.
- The first team to guess correctly wins the round.
- After each round, read the sentence on the card and let kids share what they remember about that part of the Bible Story. (Refer to Genesis 28:10-22; 25:19-34; 27 if needed.)
- Switch kids and use a new card for the next round.
- Continue until everyone has had a turn writing and all 10 cards from the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page have been used.

Ask:

- How does Jacob's story show us that we can trust God no matter what?
 - How did God remind Jacob that He was with him?
 - How does God let us know He's with us today?
 - When you feel alone or are facing something tough, what helps you remember God is with you?
- Share with kids that Jacob wasn't perfect. He made mistakes, but God never left him!
 - Explain that all of God's promises to Jacob came true. Eventually, Jesus was born into Jacob's family!
 - Encourage the kids that no matter what happens or what we do, God is always with us. We can trust God because of who God is and what He has done! He is good and He has always been good.



Jacob made a pot of STEW .	Esau was a HUNTER .
Esau was very HUNGRY .	Jacob had a DREAM about God where God shared some promises.
Esau traded his BIRTHRIGHT .	Jacob RAN away from his home and family.
Jacob TRICKED his father.	Esau was MAD .
Jacob had a dream with angels on a STAIRWAY and God standing beside it.	Jacob used a ROCK for a pillow.

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 helps you remember that God is with you?

→ Would Jacob be someone you would trust all the time?

Why or why not?

And yet Jacob is part of God's plan. How does that encourage you to trust God, knowing that even when you mess up, God still loves you and is working toward His good plan?

→ Abraham and Jacob were part of God's Big Story. What about us?

How do we fit into God's plan today? (God invites us into a relationship with Him through Jesus! When we choose to follow Jesus and share His love with others, we are a part of God's Story!)

→ What does Jacob's story tell us about God's character and His love for us?



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Be sensitive to kids needing 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
- ☐ Die
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-Erase Marker



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of your group. Allow extra time for processing if any kids need it.

If a kid is nervous about reciting the verse words out loud, tell them it's okay to skip that step and write the verse words on their team's paper.

Use a whiteboard and a dry-erase marker to write Hebrews 11:1 for any visual learners.

What You Do

- Divide the kids into 2-3 teams.
- Give each team a Bible.
- Direct them to look up Hebrews 11:1, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
- Ask the following questions one by one and direct the groups to discuss.
 - According to Hebrews 11:1, what does it mean to have faith?
 - Why can we trust that God is always with us?
 - He promises it in the Bible (Isaiah 41:10, Deuteronomy 31:6, Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5); when we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside of us and lead and guide us every day.
 - When have you had to trust God, even when you couldn't see the outcome?
- Give each team a die, a piece of paper, and markers.
- Explain the game:
 - Each kid will take turns rolling the die.
 - The number they roll is the number of words they must recite and write down from Hebrews 11:1.
 - Each team will take turns in this way until they recite and correctly write the entire verse.
 - The first team to complete the verse wins.
- Check the team's papers before announcing a winner.
- Repeat at least two rounds.

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.

Make It Personal with Prayer

Prayer Activity



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

- Invite the kids to join you in a seated circle.
- Give each kid an index card and a pen (or pencil).
- Encourage the kids to write the first letter of their first name on one side and the first letter of their last name on the back.
- Using one of their initials, invite the kids to write a word that describes God.
 - For example, if their first initial is "T," they might say "trustworthy!" Or, if their first initial is "S," they might say "strong!"
- Use the other initial to write a place they might go this week.
 - For example, if their last name begins with a "D," they might say the doctor's.
- NOTE: If kids can't come up with words using their first and last names, suggest they use their middle name. Offer assistance as needed.
- Challenge the kids to write a sentence that includes the two words that they wrote.
 - For example, "God is _____, and He is with me at _____."
- Encourage the kids that wherever they go this week, God is with them.
- Encourage the kids to use what they wrote to create a prayer praising God for who He is and thanking Him for always being with them!
- Invite those who are willing to pray out loud.
- Close in prayer.

Inclusive Pro-Tips



Let the kids draw their words instead of writing them if they feel more comfortable doing so.

Ensure there isn't any pressure to pray out loud! Allow kids to pray quietly and read their prayer card to themselves.