

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule and Materials not included in activity bags:

1. Bible Story Review: Go Fish with a TWIST!

- 2 cones or floor tape
- 2 buckets
- Bible

2. Application Activity: YOU Can Trust God

- coloring supplies

3. Memory Verse Activity: Work It Out Verse

- Bible

4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

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 Romans 5:8

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)**

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.

Go Fish with a TWIST!

Bible Story Review

MADE TO
↓
Play

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible marked at Romans 5:8
- ☐ "Creation Playing Cards" Activity Page
- ☐ 2 cones or floor tape
- ☐ 2 buckets

Note

Look for opportunities to have conversations about what it means to make a decision to follow Jesus! (If you need help with what to say, ask your ministry leader.)

Inclusive Pro Tips



Repeat the instructions several times and pause to demonstrate each step if needed to ensure every kid understands.

For any kids who might need help with mobility, pair them with another kid to help them retrieve a card and find a matching buddy.

What You Do

1. Divide the kids into two teams.
2. Place cones or floor tape on the floor to mark the starting lines for each team.
3. Scatter one set of the "Creation Playing Cards" Activity Page at the opposite end of your group space across from each team.
4. Place a bucket next to each team's starting line.

Explain the card relay:

1. One at a time, a kid from each team will run to pick up one card and run it back to their team's bucket.
2. Continue the relay until all the cards are collected. It's okay if some kids have to go twice.
3. After all the cards are collected, each kid will grab one.

Explain how to play Go Fish with a Twist!:

1. Instead of sitting, the kids will walk up to another kid on the opposing team and ask for a match by saying, "Do you have an animals card?"
2. If they have a match, the pair can sit down together.
3. If not, they must draw another card from their team's bucket and ask again.
4. Keep going until every kid has a match.

Talk Together

1. Gather the kids together and invite them to show their matching cards to the group.
2. Discuss each image and how it relates to today's Bible Story. (If there are any remaining cards in the buckets, grab those to discuss as well.)
3. Read Romans 5:8 from the Bible aloud to the group.
4. Share with the kids that even when people turned away from God, God never left us alone! God sent Jesus and anyone who chooses to follow Him will live with God forever!

What You Say

Continued on the next page ->

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- ☐ "Creation Playing Cards"
- Activity Page
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Note

Look for opportunities to have conversations about what it means to make a decision to follow Jesus! (If you need help with what to say, ask your ministry leader.)

Inclusive Pro Tips



Repeat the instructions several times and pause to demonstrate each step if needed to ensure every kid understands.

For any kids who might need help with mobility, pair them with another kid to help them retrieve a card and find a matching buddy.

What You Say

"Of all the incredible things God made, people (that's you and me!) are God's favorite! We are the only creations God made in His image! That means that we were created to show each other what God is like. God is good, so we should be good like He is! God is kind, so we should be kind like He is! God is fair, so we should be fair like He is! And He made us to be His friends."

"But sadly, the people God made sinned and ushered in a curse. The curse infected Adam and Eve's heart with sin, and every person who would live after them would have an infected heart too. Their curse of sin would pull them away from God and they couldn't have a relationship with Him."

"Only God could fix it. But it would take a big plan. Sin is all the things God is NOT. God is good, sin is not. God is kind, sin is not. God is fair, sin is not. Sin is when we choose our way instead of God's way. Sin pulls us away from God. It keeps us from being close to Him like He wanted. But God didn't give up—not for a second. God loves us so much and His love IS bigger and stronger than sin!"

"So God had a plan to make things right. Jesus came, gave His life, and paid for sin for all time. Now, when we choose to follow Jesus, we can have a relationship with God again!"

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Tell the group about how you don't always make good choices, but God's love is always bigger. God never gives up on you. He loves you very, very much.

"When you make a bad choice, you can trust that God loves you too! **[BOTTOM LINE]** You can trust God no matter what!"

YOU Can Trust God

MADE TO
↓
Create

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

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Live for God

What You Need

☐ "Trust God Frames" Activity

Page

☐ Prepared picture frame example

☐ Coloring supplies

Inclusive Pro-Tips



Keep the finished example visible for the kids to refer to. Remind the kids that each frame is unique, just like them! They can decorate it however they'd like.

What You Do

1. Give each kid a "Trust God Frames" Activity Page.
2. Show the finished example of the project.
3. Assist the kids with writing their names at the top of their frame.
4. Invite the kids to repeat after you.
5. Say, [BOTTOM LINE] "You can trust God no matter what!"
6. Instruct the kids to decorate their frames with coloring supplies.
7. Encourage the kids to take their frames home and hang them up on a mirror.
8. Challenge the kids to look in the mirror frame this week and say to themselves, [BOTTOM LINE] "You can trust God no matter what!"
9. Set frames aside for the Prayer activity.

What You Say

"Look at these amazing frames! Of all the incredible things God made, people (that's you and me!) are God's favorite! He made us in His very own image, and He wants us to be His friends! God made you and loves you SO much, friends. God proved that love by sending Jesus. By choosing to give up His life for our sins (the things we do that go against God and His ways), Jesus took care of the big problem of sin and made a way for everyone to have a relationship with God that lasts FOREVER! He rescued us because He loves us! No matter what you've done, or how many times you mess up, remember that God loves you and [BOTTOM LINE] you can trust God no matter what!"

"I want you to take these frames home and with a grown-up's help, tape them to your mirror so that they frame your face each time you look in the mirror. When you do, I want you to remember that: [BOTTOM LINE] You can trust God no matter what!"

Work It Out Verse

Memory Verse Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Bible Marked at Hebrews 11:1

*Exercises

- Arm curls: bend both arms up and down
- Squats: lower your hips from a standing position, and then stand back up
- Leg balance: lift one leg out to the side
- Arm circles: stretch both arms out to the side and rotate arms in a circle
- Hops: jump up and down in place
- Planks: hold up your body in a push-up position

Inclusive Pro-Tips



For versions with less movement, allow kids to sit while performing the motions.

What You Do

1. Invite kids to form groups of two.
2. Give each group a Bible.
3. Use the Bible Navigation tips below to lead the kids to look up Hebrews 11:1 together.
4. Repeat the verse together several times.
5. Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
6. Point out the first part of the verse:

“Faith is being sure of what we hope
7. Explain to the kids that while we can’t see God with our eyes, we can be sure (or have confidence) that God is with us because we have “seen” the wonderful things He has done.
8. Instruct the kids to stand up and spread out.
9. Share with kids that they will perform superhero exercises to get in shape while reciting this month’s Memory Verse.
10. Call out various exercises* based on your group’s ability, and encourage the kids to recite the Memory Verse with you as they perform the movement.
11. Before each movement, demonstrate it for the kids.

What You Say

“Awesome job, friends! I love our Memory Verse this month. Why do you think we memorize verses from the Bible? (INVITE RESPONSES.) That’s right! The Bible is God’s Word and it reminds us of what’s true. When we remember verses from the Bible, we can carry the truth with us no matter where we are—at school, at a soccer game, or on the playground. We could be facing a tough situation and Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that faith is being sure of what we hope for! We can be reminded that God is with us because we can see all that God has made and all that He has done! And because of all God has done, [BOTTOM LINE] you can trust God no matter what.”

*Finding verses with Kindergarteners

- ① Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page.
- ② Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud.
- ③ Guide them to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number.
- ④ Guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud.
- ⑤ Lead everyone to say the verse together.

*Finding verses with 1st graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.)
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book’s name.
- ③ When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter.
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Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Handheld mirror

Inclusive Pro-Tips



If any kid is shy or hesitant to participate, invite them to observe first and join in when they feel ready.

If a kid has trouble pointing to themselves or holding the mirror, offer assistance or suggest saying the Bottom Line out loud without holding the mirror.

What You Do

1. Gather kids to sit in a circle.
2. Say the Bottom Line: [BOTTOM LINE] You can trust God no matter what.
3. Repeat the Bottom Line again, then invite the kids to say it with you.
4. Demonstrate how to hold the mirror in front of you, point to yourself and say: [BOTTOM LINE] "I can trust God no matter what!"
5. Pass the mirror around the circle, encouraging each kid to repeat the Bottom Line to themselves.
6. Close in prayer.

What You Say

"God, we love You. Thank You for the wonderful world You made and for creating each one of us in Your image. Thank You for loving us so much! When we make a bad choice, help us to remember that Your love for us is always bigger and we can trust You no matter what! Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin so we could be close to You. Teach us to be Your friends so we are close with You our entire lives. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their "Trust God Frames" as they tell their grown-ups that **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God no matter what.