

Small Group Leader Guide



Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags

1. Application Activity

2. Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions

- bucket

3. Verses to Take with You

- floor tape

4. Make It Personal with Prayer

Pray for your group before they arrive

Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the people in their lives who have helped them.

Recall a time when someone showed up for you when you needed it most. Thank God for placing people in your life to help you. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom to know when and how to step in for others.

Ask God to help the preteens understand that they don't have to be afraid to help others because He is always with them. Pray that they would understand that helping isn't about getting recognition but it's about showing God's love.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would help them become more aware when someone is in need and have the courage to step up and take action!

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Rahab / The Promised Land

Joshua 2

(Supporting: Joshua 6:22-25)

Conversation Starter

How can you show someone you care?

Bottom Line

God can give you courage to help someone in need.

Memory Verse

**"When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you."
Psalm 56:3**



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

- ☐ Bowl/Bucket
- ☐ "Five Words" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow kids to play as "guessers" for the entire game.

The small group leader can quietly offer examples to each kid on their turn.

What You Do

1. Before you begin, place the ten cards from the "Five Words" Activity Page in the bowl.
2. Gather the kids together.
3. Explain how to play:
 - Each kid will draw a card with a word from today's Bible Story (such as a person, place, or object).
 - On their turn, they'll tell the group five things about that word (words that describe a person, or what color something is, what it does, what it's near, what it's made of, or who used it).
 - For example, if the word is "Rahab," someone might say, "Brave, woman, Jericho . . ."
 - Give the kids a chance to try and come up with their own five words before offering help.
 - Encourage the rest of the kids to guess what the word from the Bible Story is from the kid's five things.
 - Once a card is guessed correctly, ask: "How does this word relate to today's Bible Story?"
4. Continue until all the cards have been guessed.
5. Tell the kids that Rahab took a huge risk helping the spies. Even though she wasn't a member of God's family like the two spies, she chose to trust God, and God gave her courage!
6. Explain that when they choose to be brave and help someone else (maybe a kid getting picked on or someone who sits alone at lunch), others can see God's love and kindness at work!

Discussion Questions:

Ask the following:

1. When has someone helped you?
2. If you were in Rahab's shoes, what would you have done?
3. Why do you think Rahab was willing to help the spies, even though it was dangerous?
4. What are some truths about God you can remember that can help you when you're scared to help?
5. What does this moment show us about who God is and what He can do through unlikely people?

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
- ☐ "Verse Letters" Activity Page
- ☐ Straws
- ☐ Bowls
- ☐ Floor Tape



Inclusive Pro Tips

Have some kids to be the "verse builders" at the start line while other kids retrieve letters.

What You Do

Make sure to throw away used straws so next service doesn't get used straws

1. Before you begin, fill each bowl with one set of cards from the "Verse Letters" Activity Page.
2. Divide the kids into three teams.
3. Give each team a Bible.
4. Lead each team to find Psalm 56:3 using the Bible Navigation tips.
5. Repeat the verse together several times.
6. Give every kid one straw.
7. Tape off a start line for each team.
8. Instruct each team to line up behind their team's start line.
9. Place the bowls several feet away from the starting line, one bowl across from each team.
10. Explain and demonstrate how to play:
 - "Are you ready for a challenge? One at a time, you'll race down to your team's bowl and use your straw to suck up one letter, bring it back to your team, and then the next person goes. Once all the letters are collected, your team is to work together to put them in the order of Psalm 56:3. First team to spell the verse correctly wins!"
 - *NOTE: Encourage kids to use their Bibles to reference the verse.*
11. Continue playing until both teams have successfully placed the verse letters in order.
12. Ask:
 - What words stick out to you in Psalm 56:3?
 - How could remembering this verse help you this week?
13. Optional: Introduce kids to the following Scripture references.
 - Joshua 1:9—Remind kids that God commands us to be brave and strong, because He is always with us!
 - Philippians 4:6-7—Prayer can help them give their fears to God. God can replace their worry with peace and help them be brave!
 - 2 Timothy 1:7—Share with kids that fear is not from God, courage is!
 - John 14:27—Encourage them that Jesus speaks peace directly to our fear. The peace Jesus gives us is different than what the world gives.

*Finding Verses with 4th-5th graders

1. 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.
2. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
3. Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

Preteen

Small Group

September — Week 3

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Index Cards
- ☐ Pencils

What You Do

1. Invite kids to form groups of two or three.
2. Explain that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything.
3. Encourage the kids to ask each other:
 - Who can you be brave and help this week?
 - How can I pray for you?
4. Give the kids a few moments to pray for each other.
 - *NOTE: You can let them choose to pray silently or out loud.*
5. Close your group in prayer.

Inclusive Pro Tips



If kids prefer not to pray out loud, invite them to whisper or pray silently.

Offer index cards and pencils to write or draw who they want to help before sharing.