

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



Materials Not Included in the Activity Bags

1. Bible Story Review-Moses' Journey

- bandanas

2. Courage Stick

- Floor tape or cones

3. Verse in Motion

4. Pray and Dismiss

Today's Bible Story

Moses

Exodus 3-6:12, 7-12:42; 13:17-14:31

Bottom Line

God can give you courage when you don't feel ready.

Memory Verse

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

Pray for your group before they arrive
Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time.

Recall a time when God gave you the courage to do something you didn't think you were ready for.

Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside of you and help you take the next step!

Ask God to help the kids trust Him when they feel nervous or unsure. Whether it's a big change or something small, pray that kids would know God is with them even when they don't feel ready.

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.

Show It with Scarves

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Scarves or Bandanas
- ☐ "Story Movements" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow kids to sit while performing the motions with their scarves.

What You Do

1. Instruct the kids to stand up and spread out in your small group area.
2. Direct the kids to stretch their arms out wide like a star to ensure they have enough space.
3. Give each kid a scarf or bandana.
4. Say, "We're going to use our scarves to help us remember the amazing story of Moses and the courage God gave him, even when he didn't feel ready!"
5. Explain how to play:
 - When you move your scarf, the kids are to move their scarves in the same way as you recap the Bible Story.
 - Encourage the kids to imagine being in the story as they follow along!
6. Read through the story recap and movements using the "Story Movements" Activity Page.
7. Gather the kids to discuss.

"Wow! We covered a LOT of events in the life of Moses today! By God's power, the waters of the Red Sea parted, and God's people were saved. It took SO much courage to stand in front of Pharaoh and to lead a whole nation of people! But . . . God was with Moses every step of the way. And guess what? God is with YOU too!

"You will face some things you don't feel ready for—like starting kindergarten, riding the bus for the first time, or trying to read new words. It might feel really scary to introduce yourself to a new friend or to make a mistake and not know how to fix it. What are some things that you might need courage for? (INVITE RESPONSES.) Thank you for sharing! Friends, God is with us every step of our lives—even in the hard things! He is stronger and bigger than anything we face! The God who is stronger than everything is with you, and [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"

Make It Personal -> Tell your few about an age-appropriate time when you faced something hard —especially something new—that you didn't feel ready for. Maybe you signed up to play a new sport, or you got a brand-new job. Maybe you moved to a new city. Talk about how remembering God was with you helped you have courage when you did the new thing. Maybe God reminded you of His presence through the people He sent to cheer you on, or you carried a Scripture along the way that reminded you of what's true.

“Joseph was taken to Egypt, but God helped him rise to power!” *(Stretch your scarf high like you’re lifting someone up.)*

“Later, Joseph’s family, God’s people, moved to Egypt, and God’s people grew.” *(Wave your scarf wide, like a growing crowd.)*

“A new Pharaoh was scared of God’s people since there were so many. He made them work so hard!” *(Pretend to push heavy things with your scarf.)*

“Pharaoh wanted to hurt baby boys, but one brave family hid baby Moses.” *(Crumple your scarf like a blanket and pretend to place it into a basket.)*

“The princess found baby Moses and took care of him like he was her own son!” *(Make a heart shape with your scarf.)*

“When Moses grew up, he tried to protect some of God’s people, but he made trouble instead. So, Moses ran away and lived a quiet life until . . .”

“God called to Moses through a bush that burned but didn’t burn up!” *(Wave your scarf quickly like a flickering flame.)*

“God had heard the cries of His people and wanted Moses to lead the rescue mission to help them!”

God told Moses: “I will be with you.” *(Wrap your scarf around your shoulders like a hug.)*

“Moses didn’t feel ready! He was nervous to speak.” *(Cover your face with the scarf, like you are afraid.)*

“But, God gave Moses lots of things to help him! God also told Moses that his brother Aaron would help him speak.” *(Hand your scarf to a friend.)*

“Finally, Moses trusted God and went. Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, ‘Let God’s people go!’” *(Stomp your foot and swing your scarf.)*

“Pharaoh said no. So God sent plagues to show His power. Rivers to blood, frogs, bugs, darkness—SO many signs! Pharaoh still refused to let God’s people go! Then there was one final, terrible plague. God gave Moses special instructions to protect His people from the awful plague that was coming.” *(Place the scarf over your head as if you are shielding yourself.)*

“God told the people to mark their doors with lamb’s blood, and that night, God protected them.” *(Pretend to wipe your forehead with your scarf.)*

“Everything happened as God had said. Egyptians were devastated, and Pharaoh let God’s people go! They packed quickly and followed God.” *(Hold your scarf over your back like a backpack.)*

“But the Pharaoh changed his mind again! God’s people were stuck between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea. It was so scary!” *(Freeze your scarf like it’s frozen in fear.)*

“The sea was in front of God’s people, but God made a way for His people to make it across!” *(Push your scarf out to the sides like parting water.)*

“God saved His people and they praised God!” *(Throw your scarf up in celebration!)*

“Just like the lamb’s blood saved God’s people, Jesus gave His life to save us.” *(Pretend your scarf is the cross and hug it tight.)*

“Story Movements” Activity Page

GROUPS 2/4

Courage Scenarios

Application Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Courage Scenarios" Activity Pages
- ☐ Floor Tape or Cones

What You Do

1. Show the picture cards from the "Courage Scenario" Activity Page one at a time.
2. Briefly discuss what's happening in the pictures.
3. Divide the kids into four groups and give one picture to each group.
4. Let the groups look at their picture and answer:
 - "How do you think the kid in this picture feels?"
 - "What could help them have courage?"
5. Use floor tape (or cones) to mark a line across your group area.
6. Collect the pictures and invite the entire group to stand along the line.
7. Explain how to play:
 - You will hold up each scenario one at a time, and the kids will share what they could do in that situation to help them have courage, even if they don't feel ready.
 - After allowing a few kids to answer each scenario, lead the whole group to take one step forward.
 - Before moving on to the next picture, remind the kids: [Bottom Line] God can give you courage when you don't feel ready."
8. Continue until all pictures are reviewed and every group gets to share their answers.

What You Say

"Wow, some of those situations seemed really hard, huh? Starting a new school? Making new friends? Speaking in front of your whole class? These can all feel scary. And you know what? It's okay to feel that way. But you don't ever have to go through those hard things alone. You aren't going through any of those hard things alone! God is ALWAYS with you! The same God who made the oceans, the stars, and YOU is right there in it with you! He is stronger and bigger than anything, and He will always be with you. The next time you feel nervous or not ready, stop and pray to God. You can say something like, 'God, remind me that You are with me. Please help me be brave!'"

"When we follow Jesus, God gives us the best helper ever—the Holy Spirit! God is closer than close! God's Spirit lives in us and goes with us everywhere! School, in the car, at home, at basketball practice, you name it! The Holy Spirit helps and guides as we go through our every day. Remember God is with you and [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"

Inclusive Pro Tips



Give kids the option to sit instead of standing on the line.



Memory Verse Motions

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

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What You Need

☐ "Verse Motions Page"



Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version with less movement, show the "Verse Motions" Activity Page and have them point to each motion instead of doing the motion physically.

What You Do

1. Instruct the kids to get into pairs, and give every pair a Bible.
2. Use the Bible Navigation tips below to lead to the kids to look up Psalm 56:3 together.
3. If any kids struggle to find the verse, use the Bible marker to guide them.
4. Read the verse together several times.
5. Review any unfamiliar words.
6. Show the kids the "Verse Motions" Activity Page and use it to teach the kids motions to Psalm 56:3.
→ NlrV: When I'm (point to self) afraid (make a scared face), I put my trust (make a cross with index fingers) in you (point up).
7. Repeat the Memory Verse with the motions 3-5 times.
8. Let the kids take turns leading the motions!

What You Say

"Whoa! How awesome is the Bible?! It's not just any book—it's God's Word! It helps us discover who God is, and God speaks to us through it! When we memorize verses like Psalm 56:3, we can remember we are NEVER alone! Let's say it again together: When we're afraid, who can we put our trust in? (PAUSE.) God! That's right, friends! We're never alone. Whether we're at school, getting ready for bed, or nervous to try something new. He is the biggest, and He goes with us!

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.

When I'm



afraid



I put my trust



in you.



Psalm 56:3 NIV



Pray and Dismiss



Faith Skills

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What You Need

☐ No Supplies Needed


Inclusive Pro Tips

Demonstrate how to draw a heart in the air. Have kids repeat the motion.

When you pray, use simple and clear words so the kids can understand. Offer an opportunity for the kids to respond "Amen" with you at the end.

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What You Do

1. Help kids form groups of two. It's okay if there's a group of three.
2. Invite the kids to share their names with their buddy!
3. Explain to kids that prayer is a conversation we can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!
4. Say: "We're going to take a quiet moment to pray for our friend. You don't have to say your prayer out loud. You can talk to God quietly and ask Him to help them know that God is with them, and to give your friend courage this week!"
5. Once the groups have finished praying, invite them to look each other in the eyes and say, **[BOTTOM LINE]** "God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"
6. Close in prayer.

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What You Say

"God, You are SO amazing! Thank You for helping Moses when he didn't feel ready. Thank You that You reminded him that You were with him, and that gave him courage. Help us remember that You are the biggest, and You are with us in all things! This week, when we're feeling scared or nervous, may Your Holy Spirit help us to know that You are with us, to trust You, and to take brave steps even when it's hard. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share Psalm 56:3 with verse motions. Encourage the kids that this week, **[BOTTOM LINE]** "God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"