

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



Supplies NOT Included in Activity Bags:

1. Bible Story Review- Roll and Tell

- toy cars

2. Application Activity- What's Around the Bend?

3. Memory Verse Activity- Vroom, Vroom Memory Verse

- toy cars
- coloring supplies

4. Pray and Dismiss

Today's Bible Story

Ruth

Ruth 1

(Supporting: Ruth 2-4)

Bottom Line

God can give you courage when you don't know what's next.

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 courage in an uncertain situation. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to guide you when you didn't know what was next.

Ask God to help you encourage the kids that they don't have to figure everything out on their own because the Holy Spirit will help them!

Pray that the kids would see that stepping into the unknown with courage isn't about being fearless, but about trusting God no matter what. Ask God to help them listen when He leads them and to have the courage to take the next step.

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.

Roll and Tell

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Roll and Tell" Activity Page
- ☐ Matchbox or Other Toy Cars



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider your group's needs and adjust the activity accordingly. If playing this game on a table works better for your group, please do so!

Allow the kids to have movement breaks between each picture.

Invite kids to participate by choosing a feeling face that matches that part of the story (For example, kids might make a worried face for picture 3, or a happy or relieved face for picture 4.)

What You Do

1. Gather the kids together.
2. Lay out the pictures from the "Roll and Tell" Activity Page on the floor in order. Leave 1-2 feet of space between each picture.
3. Give each kid a toy car.
4. Point to "Picture 1." Invite the kids to stand a few feet away and roll their cars to land on it.
5. Once everyone has had a turn, instruct the kids to "park" the cars along the edge of the picture.
6. Gather to talk about what's happening in the story.
7. Repeat this process for each picture, moving from one to the next in story order.

Picture 1: Naomi with Ruth and Orpah

- There was a famine in Bethlehem, so Naomi, her husband, and her two sons moved to Moab. While they were in Moab, Naomi's husband died. Her sons married Ruth and Orpah, but her sons died too.

Picture 2: Ruth Stays with Naomi

- Naomi heard that the famine was over in Bethlehem and wanted to go back home. Naomi encouraged Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab. Orpah chose to stay home with her family in Moab, while Ruth chose to go with Naomi to Bethlehem, take care of her, and follow the one, true God.

Picture 3: Ruth Gathers Grain

- Life was hard for Ruth and Naomi in Bethlehem because they didn't have jobs. They weren't sure how they would even eat! But Ruth picked leftover grain from a field that belonged to Boaz to help Naomi.

Picture 4: Boaz Helps Ruth

- Boaz asked about Ruth and learned that she had been helpful to Naomi. He told Ruth not to pick grain from any other field and made sure she had enough. Later, Boaz married Ruth, and they had a baby boy!

Continued on the next page. ->

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What You Say

"Whoa! Why do you think Ruth chose to stay with Naomi instead of going back home? (INVITE RESPONSES.) That's right! Ruth wasn't just a very good and loyal friend, she wanted to follow God! She didn't know anything about what was ahead—she was moving to a new town, and she didn't know how she would take care of Naomi. But Ruth did know one thing, that God was worth her trust. And God took care of everything Ruth needed! He made sure she had food, was safe, and He even sent her Boaz! God took care of everything. And the same God who helped Ruth is with YOU too!

"God was so honored by Ruth's trust in Him! He was so honored, that He wrote her story into something way bigger! Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David, and many, many generations later, another baby was born into David's family. Do you know who that was? (PAUSE.) That's right. It was Jesus! God wrote Ruth into Jesus' family tree!

"Whether you feel unsure about your first soccer practice or nervous about your move to a new school, remember you're never alone. God is with you. God will go with you in whatever you're facing, and He is the strongest! And that can give you courage to face what's next. So whatever God calls you to do, remember: [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don't know what's next.

Transition -> Tell your group about an age-appropriate time when you trusted God by stepping into the unknown. Maybe you left a steady job to start a new company. Maybe you moved to a new city without knowing anyone. How did trusting God, even when you weren't sure what was coming next, help you to have courage?

What's Around the Bend?

Application Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Steering Wheel" Activity Page
☐ *Optional: Bible*

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ "Steering Wheel" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly. Be mindful of any physical needs present.

Adjust where this activity takes place (**ON THE FLOOR OR AROUND A TABLE**) depending on the needs of your entire group.

What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of four. It's okay if there's a group of three or five.
2. Give the "driver" in each group a steering wheel from the "Steering Wheel" Activity Page.
3. Instruct each group to sit in two rows of two as if they were in a car.
4. Explain how to play:
 - Say, "We're going on a road trip! Pay close attention to what I say—I'll describe what's ahead while you steer!"
 - One at a time, begin describing the drive with fun surprises. (See sample descriptions below.)
 - Invite the kids to react and respond to each prompt as you call them out.
 - After several prompts, say "Switch drivers!" until everyone has had a turn to "drive."
5. Once everyone has had a turn in the driver's seat, gather the kids to discuss together. Ask:
 - "What was it like not knowing what was coming next? Did you feel surprised? Nervous?"
 - "Ruth didn't know what would happen next either, but she trusted God. How can you trust God too?"

Road Trip Ideas

- "The road is smooth and the sun is shining. It's a perfect day for a drive!"
- "Whoa! Curve ahead! Turn, turn, turn! Don't tip over!"
- "Okay, STOP! A deer is crossing the road. Let's wait and be patient . . ."
- "Oh no, look! A HUGE hill. Let's climb slowly . . . up, up, up! I'm not sure what's on the other side."
- "Yikes! The sun is shining in your eyes. It's hard to see the road. Drive slow and carefully."
- "THUMP! That was a big pothole! Quick, steer around it!"
- "Ahh, it's starting to rain! Turn on your wipers! Can you see okay?"
- "Uh-oh, this part of the road is super bumpy! Let's slow way down."

Continued on the next page. ->

What's Around the Bend?

Application Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

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Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Steering Wheel" Activity Page
- ☐ *Optional: Bible*

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ "Steering Wheel" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

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Adjust where this activity takes place (**ON THE FLOOR OR AROUND A TABLE**) depending on the needs of your entire group.

What You Say

"Whoa! What a wild ride! We don't always know what's coming next. But guess what? There is something you can know. God is with you! And He will take care of you, no matter what's coming, because He loves you so much.

"Friends, you can be brave and face whatever's up ahead because God is with you! Whenever you're feeling nervous or afraid of what's next, pray to God and ask: 'God, would You please give me courage? Help me trust You even though I don't know what's next.'

"When you choose to follow Jesus, God sends His very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, to live inside of you. God is closer than close! He goes with you wherever you go, and He is the strongest! And the truth that God the strongest, faces everything with you, can help you be brave. When you face something new and you're unsure, remember: [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don't know what's next."

Vroom, Vroom, Verse

Memory Verse Activity

MADE TO
↓
Create

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible marked at Psalm 56:3
- ☐ "Adventure Verse" Activity Page
- ☐ Toy Cars
- ☐ Coloring Supplies

Inclusive Pro Tips



Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly. Be mindful of any physical needs present.

Adjust where this activity takes place (ON THE FLOOR OR AROUND A TABLE) depending on the needs of your entire group.

①

What You Do

1. Invite an older kid to open the marked Bible to Psalm 56:3 and read the Memory Verse aloud. (READ IT YOURSELF IF NEEDED.)
2. Repeat the verse together several times.
3. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
4. Give each kid a car and an "Adventure Verse" Activity Page.
5. Point out the words of the Memory Verse along the road.
6. Set out the coloring supplies and encourage the kids to color the road on their page.
7. Invite the kids to "drive" their car along the road as they say the verse slowly together.
8. Say the verse in various ways.
→ Whisper, robot voice, fast, or slow, etc.
9. Help the kids write their names on the page.
10. Encourage the kids to take their "Adventure Verse" Activity Page home and practice the verse with family!

What You Say

"Wow! Look at these fun roads and the truth you're learning! Our Memory Verse this month tells us something BIG: When we feel afraid or unsure, we can put our trust in God.

"So, tell me: when I'm afraid, when you're afraid, who can we put our trust in? (PAUSE.) God! That's right! You can trust God no matter what. On good days, on bad days, and on days with lots of ups and downs!

"When we memorize the Bible, God's Word, it isn't just a 'cool' thing to say. It's true! It gets stored in our hearts and the Holy Spirit helps us remember it. We CAN put our trust in God. He is strong, He keeps His promises, and He never changes! Take your page home to share this verse with your family! No matter what happens, remember [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don't know what's next."



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 Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

If a kid needs more space, allow them to sit outside the circle and still be included.

Offer adaptive seating and fidget tools to utilize during prayer time.

① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Say something like: "This month we've seen how God gives courage to all kinds of people when we trust Him. [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don't know what's next too!"
3. Explain to kids that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!
4. Invite kids to share any prayer requests they might have.
5. Lead them in the call-and-response prayer below.
6. Say each line slowly and clearly to give kids the opportunity to repeat after you.

② What You Say

"God, You are AMAZING! (REPEAT)
 Thank You for loving us, (REPEAT)
 for guiding us, (REPEAT)
 and for giving us courage (REPEAT)
 when we're afraid. (REPEAT)
 Help us to trust You (REPEAT)
 no matter what comes our way, (REPEAT)
 because YOU are with us always (REPEAT)
 and You are the strongest! (REPEAT)
 We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen! (REPEAT) "

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share their Adventure Verse Activity Page from the "Vroom Vroom Verse" Activity. Challenge them to share the verse with their grown-up!