



Impact Kids Fall 2025

Older Kids Leader Guide

September 3, 2025

Live It Out- As you grow as a disciple, seeing and knowing God's character helps us love Him with all of our soul and strength. Matthew 22: 37

Bible- **Sept 3-** Acts 12:6-17- God is surprising, so we watch for His surprises.



At a Glance



The Code



Gospel Page



**Live It Out
Leader Devo**

prayer challenge

Think of 2 ways God has shown you
His surprises are good.
Thank Him for those reminders in prayer.

Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM



Low Energy Game:

Supplies

- washable markers (1 per child)
- paper (1 sheet per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Play a Game That Blends Telephone and Pictionary

Say: Today we're discovering that God is surprising! Surprises are unexpected and—most of the time—exciting. Let's play a game that has a few surprises.

- Give each person a piece of paper and marker, and then form teams of three.
- Have teams sit in rows so they can reach and “draw” on each other's backs.
- You'll whisper a word or phrase to the people in the back of the lines, describing what to draw. They'll use a finger to draw what they heard directly on the backs of the people in front of them. They'll save their papers and markers for their turn at the head of the line.
- The second person in line will then use a finger to draw what they feel being drawn on their back on the back of the next person in line.
- The person in the front of the line will then draw on their paper what they feel being drawn on their back.
- The message is passed along Telephone-style, but drawn instead of whispered. After the people drawing on the paper have finished, they can hold up their papers so everyone on their team can see the drawing and see if the outcome looks right or is surprisingly different from what the first person drew.
- Have kids swap roles so that everyone gets a turn drawing on the paper and being the one who hears what should be drawn.

You can choose what you'll have the kids try to draw, or you can use the following ideas:

- a snowman
- a sailboat
- an apple tree

If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • How did the final pictures compare to your expectations?

• When has something in life turned out different than you expected?

Share about a surprise from your life where something didn't turn out quite as you expected, but even better. Maybe you didn't think you'd be friends with a person the first time you met, but that person ended up being one of your best friends.

Say: God is surprising, so when things don't go the way we expect, we can look for the good in it and look for God in it. We can watch for God's surprises and know he always wants what's good for us.

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch “An Angel Frees Peter”

Say: We’re learning that God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises. And boy, did he have a lot of surprises for Peter! Let’s watch what happened to Peter.

Ask: • What was the most surprising part of this Bible story?

- Why do you think the people praying were surprised when God answered their prayers?
- What’s something you’d be surprised to see God do in your life?

Say: God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises. We can pray like the church prayed for Peter and wait to see how he answers our prayers. And he might even surprise us like he surprised Peter and do something we never would’ve expected!

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bibles
- glasses or sunglasses
- wax paper
- transparent tape

Easy Prep

- Cover the lenses of the glasses or sunglasses with wax paper.

Examine

Say: We’re learning that God is surprising. Let’s look again at how surprised the people in our Bible story were when God freed Peter from jail.

Read Acts 12:9.

Ask: • On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being really surprised, how surprised did Peter seem at first? Have kids stand in a line to show their ranking, and allow kids to explain their choices.

Say: Maybe Peter was so surprised he thought it was too good to be true. Or maybe he wasn’t that surprised at first because he thought it was just a dream. Let’s look at the people who were praying for Peter.

Read Acts 12:14-15.

Ask: • On a scale of 1 to 10, how surprised did the people praying for Peter seem at first? Again have kids stand in a line and explain their rankings.

Say: One thing is clear: neither Peter nor the people praying for him immediately reacted the way you’d expect people to if they were surprised. God did a very surprising thing for Peter and his friends, but we’re not sure if they felt surprised right away. What if we don’t feel surprised by God? Let’s dig in to that.

Blind Yourself

Say: Let’s look at some of the things that could block us from watching for God’s surprises.

Read James 4:2-3.

Ask: • What do these verses show you about missing God’s surprises?

Say: When we focus on ourselves instead of God, we might miss his surprises. They might be right in front of us, but we just don’t see them. It’s kind of like this.

Have kids take turns wearing the covered glasses. As kids wear them, other kids can make funny faces but then stop before each person takes off the glasses.

Deeper Bible: cont

Ask: • How did it feel wearing the covered glasses?

Say: When you were wearing the glasses, you missed out on some funny stuff right in front of you. And when you focus on the wrong things, you can miss out on God's surprises right in front of you, too.

Ask: • What are some things that can blind us to God's surprises?

Say: One thing that can blind us to God's surprises is called skepticism. That's what it's called when we typically tend not to believe something, like when we doubt that God has done an amazing thing and look for a different explanation instead. When we don't want to believe God is surprising us, we might give the credit to something other than God. We might give credit to science, medicine, or "good vibes." But God is surprising. So let's take off our blinders and figure out how to watch for his surprises. Set the glasses aside.

Dig Deeper

Read Psalm 118:24.

Say: One way we can take off our blinders is to rejoice in every day, knowing that God made that day. On the count of three, let's all shout one exciting thing about today. One, two, three! Shout with the kids.

Read Isaiah 43:19.

Ask: • What have you seen God doing in your life?

Say: These verses ask, "Do you not see it?" If you're not watching for what God is doing, you might miss it! So keep an eye out! Let's look at one more way to take our blinders off.

Read Psalm 5:3.

Ask: • What do you normally do after you pray?

Say: This Bible verse talks about waiting expectantly after we pray. Sometimes we pray and then get busy with other things. But God wants us to pause, wait, and go through our day expecting big things from him. Peel the wax paper off the glasses as you say: God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises when we rejoice in every day, keep our eyes open for what God is doing, and wait expectantly for him to work. Let's take off our blinders and watch for God!

Life Application:

Pray in a Surprising Way

Say: God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises. Think of something surprising you can thank God for. We'll thank him in a surprising way! Let's do a popcorn prayer. Pause for kids to think.

- Have kids crouch down.
- Begin the prayer by praying: Thank you, God, for...
- Kids can randomly pop up and shout their thanks.
- Kids can crouch back down and pop up again as many times as they want.

Wrap Up

Pray: God, thank you that you're surprising! Help us pay attention and watch for your surprises. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

Activity Page with a Point:

Older Kids: Color a Coloring/Activity Page

Supplies Needed: Coloring Page, pencils, crayons

Say: God is surprising. He surprised Peter with a prison break! This board game will help us move Peter from prison to Mary's house—with surprises along the way!

Distribute the activity pages and supplies. Kids will use the corners of the page as playing pieces and use coins to determine how far to move. Each child can play with a partner, but make sure everyone gets a page and two coins to take home.

Ask: • Which surprise in this game was your favorite? Why?

• Tell about a nice surprise you've received.

Say: God is surprising, so we can watch for nice surprises like that from God! We can be ready to follow God like Peter did.