

G2-3 | W1

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (3 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



Bible Story

Jesus at the Temple

Luke 2: 41-52

Bottom Line

Practice talking about God.

Monthly Memory Verse

Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.

• 1 Timothy 4:8 NIV

G2-3 | W1

Greeting & Prayer

MADE TO
Pray

What You Need

- ☐ A Spinning Wheel
- ☐ Prayer Chart

What You Do

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.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

What You Say

"Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation."

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

G2-3 | W1

ACTIVITY ONE

Move If True

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God	Pray to God
Talk about God	Live for God

What You Need

No supplies needed



What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to stand up and spread out.
- Explain that you will say something about the Bible Story.
- If what you say is true, encourage the kids to do a fun action. If it's not true, encourage the kids to sit down on the floor.

•Read the following statements and actions:

- *"Jesus and His family traveled a long way to go to a special party in Jerusalem. If this is true, march in place!" (true)*
- *"When it was time to go home, Jesus got lost playing basketball. If this is true, pretend to play basketball." (false)*
- *"Mary and Joseph looked for Jesus for three whole days! If this is true, hold up three fingers and look around." (true)*
- *"Mary and Joseph found Jesus at the temple, listening and talking with the teachers. If this is true, point to your ears and then your mouth." (true)*
- *"The teachers were angry that Jesus was at the temple. If this is true, show me an angry face." (False—the teachers were amazed!)*

What You Say:

"Great job remembering our story! Jesus was young, but He was already talking to the teachers about God. The teachers at the temple knew about God, and Jesus talked to them about Him. He asked them questions. Even when we are young, we can [Bottom Line] practice talking about God too!"

Inclusive Pro Tips



Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.

G2-3 | W1

ACTIVITY TWO

Shout It Out

What You Need

Soft ball
Index Cards
Pencils

Inclusive Pro Tips

Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.



What You Do:

- Ask the kids to think of questions they'd like to ask a friend who follows Jesus about their friendship with God. Have them write their questions on the [index card](#).

- Give a few examples to get the kids started thinking, such as:

"What is your favorite thing about God?"

"What do you talk to God about?"

"What is your favorite Bible verse?"

"Why do you like God so much?"

"What do you like most about Jesus?"

"When do you talk to God?"

"What's your favorite Bible story?"

"Who tells you stories about Jesus?"

"How do you feel when you pray?"

- instruct the kids to stand with you in a circle.
- Explain that you will toss the ball/beanbag to someone.
- Instruct the kid who catches the ball/beanbag to say one question they would ask a friend who knows Jesus about their friendship with God—they can refer to the list or come up with a new question!
- Start the game by tossing the ball to a kid.
- If a kid gets stuck, let them ask a friend for help or say "pass."
- Cheer and encourage any participation!
- Continue tossing the ball around the circle and encourage kids to ask more and more about God because there is so much to learn about being God's friend.

What You Say:

"Those are all great questions! You can ask your friends who know Jesus any question you have about being God's friend. We are all trying to get to know Him better! It might feel a little strange to talk about God with someone at first, and that's okay. The more you do it, the easier it gets. Let's all remember to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God** this week."

G2-3 | W1

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



What You Say

"Dear God, thank You that You want to be our friend. Thank You that there are lots of people who know You and who are Your friends too. Help us to talk with them about You so we can get to know You better. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today's Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is good news for everyone.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.