

# 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

Activity 1: Moses's Journey

Activity 2: Courage Stick

### Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

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



THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

### Esther

Esther 1-10

Bottom Line

**God can help you stand up for others.**

Memory Verse

**Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.**

Isaiah 40:31 NIV



### Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro tips.



# Greeting & Prayer



## What You Need

- ☐ A Spinning Wheel
- ☐ Prayer Chart

①

## 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.

②

## 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

## ACTIVITY ONE

# For Such a Time as This

## Application Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Bible marked at Esther 4:14
- ☐ "Perfectly Placed" Activity Page
- ☐ Prepared poster board
- ☐ Two colors of sticky notes
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Masking tape

MADE TO  
↓  
Imagine

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Before you begin, provide a visual of what to do with the sticky notes by placing a sticky note on each side and explaining the color meanings.

## ① What You Do

1. Tape the prepared poster board on a wall or place it on the floor in your group area.
2. Gather the kids several feet away from the poster board.
3. Read Esther 4:14 aloud to the group.
4. Give every kid at least five sticky notes in each color and a pencil.
5. Encourage the kids to write their initials on their sticky notes.
6. Gesture to the prepared poster board and ask: "In today's Bible Story, Esther and her people were going to be killed. Esther's people were in danger! She could have done nothing, but she realized that God put her where she was to help. So she got involved and helped! She stood up for others."

### Imagine Together:

1. Say, "We're going to look at different situations we may face in our own lives where we face a choice too—we can either stand up for others, or we can choose not to get involved. On the left side of this poster board, we'll place sticky notes of one color for choices that show what it looks like not to get involved. On the right side, we'll put sticky notes of the other color that show that the hard thing was done and we stood up for others."
2. Read the "Perfectly Placed" Activity Page scenarios one at a time and ask:
3. "Does this show someone standing up for others or not?"
4. Invite every kid to respond by placing the corresponding sticky note color with their initials on the side they want to choose.
5. Continue until all of the scenarios have been read and voted on.

Make It Personal -> Share an age-appropriate example of a time God helped you stand up for others.

## ② What You Say

"You may not be standing in a palace or talking to a king, but you are just like Esther in that God has put you exactly in the time and place you are — in your family, in your class, on your team, in your church group. God wants you to go through your life and show His love, goodness, kindness, justice, and truthfulness!

"Maybe it's someone being made fun of. Or maybe it's someone who just needs to know they matter. Remember that you're not going through this alone. When you choose to follow Jesus, God's very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, moves inside of you. He will go with you throughout your life and say things to your heart like: 'Hey, do you see that kid over there who is all alone? He needs someone to be kind to him. Go do that!'

"You are not alone as you go and show God's heart to others. God can help you stand up for others!"

## ACTIVITY TWO

# Brick Prayers



## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- ☐ "Brick Prayers" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring supplies

## Inclusive Pro Tips



For an option with less movement, lay the butcher paper on a table and let your group place the "Verse Blocks" in order on it.

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## What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a seated circle.
2. Give every kid a prayer card (a brick) from the "Brick Prayers" Activity Page.
3. Set out the coloring supplies.
4. Say, "Esther showed real courage when she stood up for others."
5. Ask the kids to quietly think of a person they know who might need someone to look out for them.
  - Give examples like a new kid at school, someone who's been left out, or a friend going through a hard time.
6. On the prayer card, encourage kids to:
  - Write that person's name or draw a picture of them.
  - Write a short prayer for them.
7. If time allows, let the kids to decorate their prayer card.
8. Encourage them to take their prayer card home and continue praying to God about that person!

Continued on the next page. -&gt;

## GROUPS 4/4

# Pray and Dismiss

## Prayer Activity



## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

②

## Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for all of my friends here today! Thank You for reminding us through Esther's story that You put us in our worlds for such a time as this. Please help us listen to Your Spirit and see the people around us whom You are calling us to help. Remind us that You are always right there with us in everything You ask us to do! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to share their "Brick Prayers." Who did they choose to pray for today? Why? How is God calling them to look out for that person this week?

## Inclusive Pro Tips



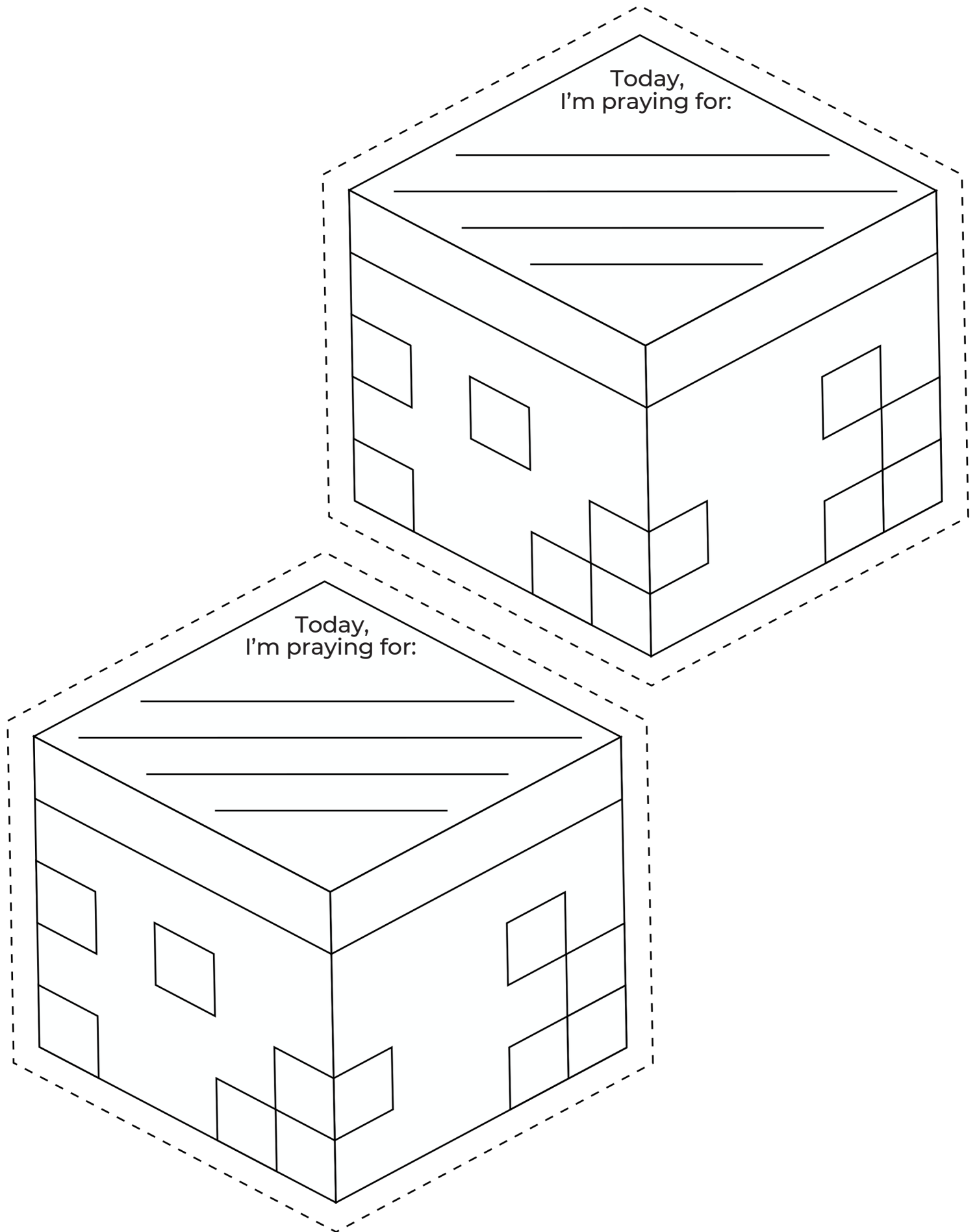
Give the kids various ways to complete their prayer card. Some kids may focus better while standing or lying on their stomachs.

# Scenarios

- I'm not kind to a kid in my class who is different from me because no one else is.
- I encouraged a kid who was really sad by telling them that God loves them.
- I invited the new kid to join me on the play-ground.
- I help out at my church's clothes drive every year to provide clothes for people who need them.
- I ignored someone who was being picked on because I didn't want to get involved.
- I told a friend I would pray for them when they were having a tough day.
- I chose to forgive someone because I know that's what Jesus would want me to do.
- I shared my lunch with a kid who didn't have one.

**STAYED QUIET!**

**STOOD UP FOR OTHERS!**



**What to Do:**  
Print on cardstock and cut out, one brick for every kid.