

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

Nehemiah

Nehemiah 1-4; 6:1-15

Bottom Line

God can help you do big things.

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

The Blueprint

Application Review

MADE TO
↓
Create

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Blueprint Stickers" Activity Page
- ☐ 11 x 8 1/2" blueprint paper (like this: bit.ly/4nywy3i)
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Rulers



Inclusive Pro Tips

Complete this activity in pairs if it works better for your group.

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together around a flat surface.
2. Give every kid a piece of blueprint paper.
3. Set out the pencils, coloring supplies, and rulers.
4. Say, "Today, you're going to design a confidence blueprint! Nehemiah didn't know how to build walls, but God gave him what he needed.
Let's imagine what big things God might help you to do!"
5. Say, "What's something big in your life that you want to do—but you know you'll need God's help with? It could be something that feels hard, scary, or way bigger than you."
→ Share examples like forgiving someone, making new friends, or talking about Jesus at school.
6. Encourage the kids to quietly think or whisper a prayer to God about it.
7. Invite the kids to use the supplies to sketch what they're asking for God's help with.
→ They can draw symbols, words, or various scenes.
8. Invite the kids to write a simple faith declaration on their blueprint.
→ "God is my strength."
→ "God can help me do big things."
→ "I can do this with God's help!"

Make It Personal -> Share an age-appropriate time when you had to trust God with something big. How did God help you through it? What did you ask Him for at each step?

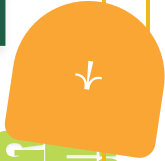
② What You Say

"I love each of your blueprints! Nehemiah didn't know how to build walls. BUT he spent time pouring his heart out to God and asking for help—and God gave him what he needed. That's what confidence in God looks like. It's not about knowing how everything will work. It's about trusting that God is with you, that He is bigger than anything you are facing, and He will help you do what He's put on your heart to do.

"But here's something even more amazing: When you choose to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live in you! That means you never have to face anything alone. You and God's very Spirit face whatever your life brings together every day. And He will help You! God can help you do big things.

"If you've already chosen to follow Jesus, that means God is already building something great in your life. And if you haven't made that decision yet but you're curious or have questions, you can always talk to a trusted adult or me. Saying yes to Jesus is the biggest, most important decision you'll ever make!"

MONTLY BIBLE VERSE CHALLENGE



What You Do

- Have all the kids recite the memory verse out loud together several times.
- Explain that this practice helps everyone learn and feel more confident.
- Ask the kids to raise their hands if they want to try saying the verse on their own.
- Invite one child at a time to come up to the Memory Verse Challenge Spot.
- When a child recites the verse, let them choose a prize from the prize box!
- Please tell the kids if they're not ready this time, that's okay---you can always try again next month!

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 NIRV

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

Prayer

"God, thank You for being good and powerful! You were with Nehemiah, and we are so thankful You are with us too! You've made each of us SO uniquely, and we are so grateful. We want to live for You, God, so help us to do the big things You call us to do. YOU are strong when we feel weak, You are wise when we feel unsure—so remind us of those truths when we don't feel confident. Help us to trust You and take the next brave step You ask us to do. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

②