

# Small Group Leader Guide

THIS MONTH



## 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: Courage Stick

Activity 2: Verse in Motion

### Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

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

### Today's Bible Story

## Moses

Exodus 3-6:12, 7-12:42; 13:17-14:31

### Bottom Line

**God can give you courage when you don't feel ready.**

### Memory Verse

**"When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you."  
Psalm 56:3**

### 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.



# 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 number 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

# MINI Courage Stick

MADE TO  
↓  
Create

## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- ☐ Dowels
- ☐ "Bible verses" Activity Page
- ☐ Pipe cleaners (3 per child)
- ☐ Washi Tape
- ☐ Scissors

## Inclusive Pro Tips



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

## ① What You Do

1. Before you begin, hang the three "Courage Trail Markers" Activity Pages in various areas of your group space.
2. Gather the kids in a circle.
3. Give each kid a mini wooden stick.
4. Set the coloring supplies and rows of stickers from the "Verse stickers" Activity page in the middle of the circle.

Talk Together:

1. "Today, we're making Courage Sticks! These sticks remind us that just like God was with Moses, God is with each of us no matter what! God goes with us every step of the way!"

Create Together:

- Invite the kids to decorate their mini courage walking stick using washi tape.
- Ask the kids to carefully cut out the Bible verses along the lines with scissors.
- Wrap one end of the stick with a pipe cleaner, then thread it through the holes of each Bible verse card and twist or tie it to secure.
- Let the kids decorate their mini courage stick with two more pipe cleaners in any style they like.

Play Together:

1. Lead the kids on a "Courage Walk" to each of the three 'Trail Markers.'
2. As you approach each sign:
  - Read the verse aloud.
  - Invite the kids to point out the verse on their stick.
  - Ask: "What do you think this verse is saying?"

## ② What You Say

"Look at these awesome courage sticks! These sticks were fun to make. And even better? They remind us of a BIG truth: we are never walking alone!"

"Have you ever had to do something that felt big and scary? (INVITE RESPONSES.) Yep, me too. That's totally normal. Even Moses felt that way. Whether we're preparing for a school project, moving to a new city, or preparing to apologize to a friend, God promises us He will be with us. ALWAYS!"

"When we choose to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live in us. To help us. To give us courage when we don't feel ready. To go with us every step of the way! That's why we made these Courage Sticks: to remind us that God's Spirit goes with us all of the time, every step of our lives."

"This week, pick one of the verses from today and look it up again at home. Write it down. Stick it somewhere you'll see it! Ask God to help you remember that He is with you, and because He is, you can take one brave step this week, whatever that looks like for you. [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"

## ACTIVITY TWO

# Verse in Motion

Memory Verse  
Activity



## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

☐ Bibles


## Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Cut and tape words on buttons so kids can push each button to recite the verse.

## ① What You Do

1. Give every kid a Bible.
2. Invite the kids to look up Psalm 56:3 using the Bible Navigation tips below.
3. Repeat the verse together several times.

## Move Together:

1. Demonstrate the verse motions.
  - The NlrV is:
    - When I'm afraid, (Make a frightened face.)
    - I put my trust (Cup hands together.)
    - in you. (Point both fingers to the sky.)
    - Psalm 56:3 (Hold hands like an open Bible.)
2. Try it slowly at first, then faster, then in a whisper voice to keep the kids engaged.

3. Gather to discuss.

## ② What You Say

"Amazing job, friends! I love reading the Bible with each of you. This verse comes from a time when King David was in REAL danger. He was afraid and didn't know what was going to happen next. But instead of giving up, he chose to trust God! You and I might not face the same things David did, but we do feel scared sometimes. And when we do, we can do what David did. We can remember that God is with us and trust Him!

"When you choose to follow Jesus, God gives you the Holy Spirit to live inside you. That means you're never facing hard things alone. And He can give you courage to face whatever is coming your way. [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don't feel ready."

## \*Finding verses with 2nd-3rd graders

①Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (HOLD UP A BIBLE OPENED TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS TO SHOW THE KIDS WHAT THE PAGE LOOKS LIKE.)

②When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list.

③When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.

④When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter.

⑤Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

# Pray and Dismiss

## Prayer Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God



### Inclusive Pro Tips

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

If any kids prefer to whisper to you instead of share aloud, allow them to do so. Let them hold a beanbag silently as a reminder that God hears their prayers!

Offer adaptive seating or fidget tools to all kids.

## What You Say

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus and giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for promising to always be with us. When we feel nervous, unready, or scared, please remind us that You’re right there! Please fill us with courage. And remind us that we can face anything with You. We pray these things in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them their walking sticks and share how just like a walking stick goes with us every step of the way, God does too