

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: VCourage 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

David and the Psalms

Psalms 1:1-4

Bottom Line

If you want to be wise, focus on God.

Memory Verse

"It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver."

Proverbs 16:16 NIV



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 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 Source of ALL Wisdom

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Bible Bookmarks" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Yellow highlighters
- ☐ Finger flashlights
- ☐ 3M double-sided tape

Inclusive Pro Tips



Use simple definitions for unfamiliar words, such as "obey" or "law." You might say something like, "God's law means the things He tells us to do, like sharing, being kind, and listening to our grown-ups."

What You Do

1. Give every kid a bookmark from the "Bible Bookmarks" Activity Page, a finger flashlight, and a yellow highlighter.
2. Set out the coloring supplies.
3. Read Psalm 1:1a, 2b (NIV) on the bookmarks together!

Create Together:

1. Help the kids write their names on their bookmarks.
2. Invite them to color the flashlight with markers, and use yellow highlighters to fill in the beam of light.
3. Have the kids attach the finger flashlight to the picture of the flashlight using the 3M adhesive tape.
4. As they color, guide them through a recap of today's Bible story about David and the Psalms.

Bible Story Recap:

1. David was still a boy when God chose him to be the king. He wasn't the tallest or the strongest, but God picked David because he had a heart that loved God!
2. As David grew older, he made some mistakes, but he always turned his heart back to God. David loved God so much that he wrote songs and prayers to Him.
3. God loved the songs David wrote so much that they're in a book of the Bible called Psalms! There are 150 psalms in the book of Psalms, and David wrote a lot of them! The book of Psalms is filled with songs of praise about God.
4. David probably didn't write the psalm that's on your bookmark, but he definitely knew the truth that the psalm teaches.
5. David spent his whole life getting to know God as his friend and following Him. David loved God. Why? This psalm on your bookmark tells us part of the reason why.
 - Read Psalm 1:1a from the bookmark and share, "Wise people do what God says!"
 - Read Psalm 1:2b from the bookmark and share, "Wise people focus on what God says!"
6. The writer of this psalm knew this, and so did David: God is good, and his ways are good. what God says to do is good. That's why David loved God so much. And if you follow God and His ways, you'll be wise!"

What You Say

"Awesome job, friends! Great job coloring your flashlights! What do flashlights **do**? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Right! They light up our way! They help us see better so we don't bump into things and get hurt!"

"You see, God is good, and His ways are good. That's why David loved God so much. And God wants to guide us through life well. That's part of the reason why He gave us the Bible, to guide us through life well. He wanted His wisdom to shine a light on the path of our lives.

"God is the wisest. And as God's friend, as you follow Him and His ways, He will guide you throughout your life to the best way to live. Take these bookmarks home and place them in your Bibles to remind you that if you want to be wise, focus on God!"

ACTIVITY TWO

Better Than Silver & Gold



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles marked at Proverbs 16:16
- ☐ Fake gold bar



Inclusive Pro Tips

If it works best for your group, say the Memory Verse together as the gold bar is passed to each kid.

What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit with you in a circle.
2. Give every kid a Bible.
3. Lead them to find Proverbs 16:16 using the Bible Navigation Tips.
4. Repeat the verse together several times and review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

Talk Together:

1. Lead a brief discussion on gold and silver. Ask:
 - "Gold and silver are known as 'precious metals.' What do you think that means?" (It means they're valuable! Gold and silver are used to make things like coins and jewelry.)
 - "In Proverbs 16:16, it says that wisdom is worth even more than gold and silver. Why do you think that's true?" (God's wisdom lasts forever. No one can take it away! And it is more precious and better than anything—even gold and silver!)

Explore Together

1. Hold up the fake gold bar for the kids to see.
2. Say, "We're going to pass this pretend gold bar around. When it comes to you, you'll recite the next word from Proverbs 16:16!"
3. Repeat as time and interest allow. Try going slow and faster!

What You Say

"What an amazing verse. God is the source of ALL wisdom. There isn't any question God can't answer, and there's no problem God can't solve. He is the wisest! And He wants to give us wisdom. He wants to give us something so precious, it's more precious than silver or gold!"

"So when we need help and guidance and wisdom, we can always count on God. Put your attention on God and His ways. Read the Bible, God's Word. Do what God teaches you to do. There are so many things that will try to steal your attention, but always remember where wisdom comes from—God. He wants to give you precious, precious wisdom! If you want to be wise, focus on God."

*Finding verses with Kindergarteners

① Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page.

② Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud.

③ Guide them to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number.

④ Guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number.
Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud.

⑤ Lead everyone to say the verse together.

Pray and Dismiss



What You Say

"Dear God, You are SO good. We love You! Thank You for the Bible. Thank You for the Holy Spirit. Thank You for the people in our lives who help us follow You! Help us to focus on You so we can grow wiser and go through life well, like You want us to! We know that wisdom comes from You—You are the wisest! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to show off their bookmarks and talk about today's truth: If you want to be wise, focus on God!

Inclusive Pro Tips



Give each kid an index card and a pencil or adaptive writing tools. This can be helpful for kids who may process better through writing or drawing!



—Psalm 1:1a; 1:2b (NIRV)

Blessed is the person who obeys the law of the LORD....

They think about his law day and night.



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