

# 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.

### Today's Bible Story

## The Kings

1 & 2 Kings

### Bottom Line

**Be wise because your choices matter.**

### 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

# Kings and the Kingdom

## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need:

#### For leaders:

☐ "Map of Israel" Activity

#### Page

☐ Prepared Craft Sticks

☐ Black Marker

#### For kids:

☐ Maps

☐ Ziplock bags

☐ 8 labels with the kings names on

☐ Black sharpies

☐ Markers


### Inclusive Pro Tips

Repeat each king's name slowly and clearly, and point to the craft stick or the map when referencing them. This helps visual and auditory learners stay engaged.

## ① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together around a table or in a circle on the floor.
2. Lay the map of Israel in the center.
3. Say, "This is Israel, the land God promised to His people! It's where the kings ruled, and where big choices were made."
4. Use the craft sticks to walk through the Kings' Recap from the Bible Story, holding up the matching king's name as you go.  
→ NOTE: Call on kids in your group to help you hold the tongue depressors.

### Kings' Recap

- Solomon ruled with wisdom at first. But later, he made unwise choices. (HOLD UP SOLOMON.)
- His son Rehoboam didn't listen to wise advice and was very harsh with the people. (HOLD UP REHOBOAM. ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO GIVE YOU A THUMBS-DOWN.)
- The kingdom split! (RIP THE MAP IN HALF! USE THE BLACK MARKER TO LABEL "N" FOR "ISRAEL" AND "S" FOR "JUDAH.")
- In the north, kings like Jeroboam and Ahab led the people away from God. (HOLD UP JEROBOAM AND AHAB. ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO COVER THEIR EARS!)
- In the south, Asa, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah made wise choices and led people closer to God. (HOLD THE CRAFT STICKS UP ONE BY ONE. ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO CLAP AND CELEBRATE EACH ONE!)
- But after Josiah, the people stopped following God again. (ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO GIVE YOU A THUMBS-DOWN.)

5. Kids will make a Take-Home Kit to tell the story of the kings and the kingdoms to their family.

- Give each child a map, 8 craft sticks, name labels, a "King's Recap" activity page, and a ziplock bag.
- Ask the kids to draw each king's face on the craft sticks and color them with markers.
- Peel off the name labels and stick them onto the craft sticks.
- Put them nicely into the ziplock bag and take it home with you.
- Don't forget to share this story with your family when you take your kit home.

## ACTIVITY ONE

# Kings and the Kingdom

## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ "Map of Israel" Activity Page
- ☐ Prepared Craft Sticks
- ☐ Black Marker



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Repeat each king's name slowly and clearly, and point to the craft stick or the map when referencing them. This helps visual and auditory learners stay engaged.

## What You Say

"Whoa, what a rollercoaster of choices these kings chose to make. Some kings followed God, and the people were blessed. Other kings chose to ignore God, and it hurt everyone! Yikes.

"Each of the kings had a big choice to make: Would they follow their own way, or follow God's way? You might not wear a crown like these kings did, but we all have this same choice each day. We get to make a choice every day: Will I follow my own way, or will I follow God's way?

"Friends, our choices matter. That's why I'm so glad we don't have to make daily choices on our own! When we choose to follow Jesus, He came to move inside of us through the Holy Spirit to help us make the wise choice. The Holy Spirit reminds us of what's true. He helps us remember God's Word. He helps us love others, even when it's hard. He helps us WANT to make the wise choice, even when others around us don't! I hope today reminds you that whether the choice feels big or small, you can be wise because your choices matter."

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Make It Personal ->Share an age-appropriate time you had to make a big decision, and the Holy Spirit gave you wisdom. Maybe a friend wanted you to join them in talking badly about someone else. Was it a verse you remembered? Share how seeking God first changed your thoughts.

# 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!



## GROUPS 4/4

# Pray and Dismiss

Bible Story Review



Pray to God

Live for God

## What You Say

"God, we're so thankful that You hear every prayer we say. Thank You for loving us and sharing your wisdom with us. Please help my friends here trust You and follow Your way. Even when it seems like no one around us is following You, God, please give us the boldness and wisdom to follow Your way no matter what! We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

②

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show the coins they colored with the Memory Verse as they talk about how to trust God to help us be wise because our choices matter.

### Inclusive Pro Tips



If it works best for your group not to partner up, consider allowing kids to spread out to pray independently.

## ACTIVITY ONE

# Show It with Scarves

Bible Story Review



## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- ☐ Scarves or Bandanas
- ☐ "Story Movements" Activity Page

## Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow kids to sit while performing the motions with their scarves.

## ① What You Do

1. Instruct the kids to stand up and spread out in your small group area.
2. Direct the kids to stretch their arms out wide like a star to ensure they have enough space.
3. Give each kid a scarf or bandana.
4. Say, "We're going to use our scarves to help us remember the amazing story of Moses and the courage God gave him, even when he didn't feel ready!"
5. Explain how to play:
  - When you move your scarf, the kids are to move their scarves in the same way as you recap the Bible Story.
  - Encourage the kids to imagine being in the story as they follow along!
6. Read through the story recap and movements using the "Story Movements" Activity Page.
7. Gather the kids to discuss.

## ② What You Say

"Wow! We covered a LOT of events in the life of Moses today! By God's power, the waters of the Red Sea parted, and God's people were saved. It took SO much courage to stand in front of Pharaoh and to lead a whole nation of people! But . . . God was with Moses every step of the way. And guess what? God is with YOU too!"

"You will face some things you don't feel ready for—like starting kindergarten, riding the bus for the first time, or trying to read new words. It might feel really scary to introduce yourself to a new friend or to make a mistake and not know how to fix it. What are some things that you might need courage for? (INVITE RESPONSES.) Thank you for sharing! Friends, God is with us every step of our lives—even in the hard things! He is stronger and bigger than anything we face! The God who is stronger than everything is with you, and [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"

Make It Personal -> Tell your few about an age-appropriate time when you faced something hard —especially something new—that you didn't feel ready for. Maybe you signed up to play a new sport, or you got a brand-new job. Maybe you moved to a new city. Talk about how remembering God was with you helped you have courage when you did the new thing. Maybe God reminded you of His presence through the people He sent to cheer you on, or you carried a Scripture along the way that reminded you of what's true.

## ACTIVITY TWO

# Courage Scenarios

Application Activity



## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- ☐ "Courage Scenarios" Activity Pages
- ☐ Floor Tape



## Inclusive Pro Tips

Give kids the option to sit instead of standing on the line.

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## What You Do

1. Show the picture cards from the "Courage Scenario" Activity Page one at a time.
2. Briefly discuss what's happening in the pictures.
3. Show one picture at a time, then let the kids answer:
  - "How do you think the kid in this picture feels?"
  - "What could help them have courage?"
4. Invite the entire group to stand along the line. (The line will be prepared in advance.)
5. Explain how to play:
  - You will hold up each scenario one at a time, and the kids will share what they could do in that situation to help them have courage, even if they don't feel ready.
  - After allowing a few kids to answer each scenario, lead the whole group to take one step forward.
  - Before moving on to the next picture, remind the kids: [Bottom Line] **God can give you courage when you don't feel ready."**
8. Continue until all pictures are reviewed and every group gets to share their answers.

②

## What You Say

"Wow, some of those situations seemed really hard, huh? Starting a new school? Making new friends? Speaking in front of your whole class? These can all feel scary. And you know what? It's okay to feel that way. But you don't ever have to go through those hard things alone. You aren't going through any of those hard things alone! God is ALWAYS with you! The same God who made the oceans, the stars, and YOU is right there in it with you! He is stronger and bigger than anything, and He will always be with you. The next time you feel nervous or not ready, stop and pray to God. You can say something like, 'God, remind me that You are with me. Please help me be brave!'"

"When we follow Jesus, God gives us the best helper ever—the Holy Spirit! God is closer than close! God's Spirit lives in us and goes with us everywhere! School, in the car, at home, at basketball practice, you name it! The Holy Spirit helps and guides as we go through our every day. Remember God is with you and [BOTTOM LINE] **God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"**

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# Pray and Dismiss



## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

☐ No Supplies Needed

## ② What You Say

"God, You are SO amazing! Thank You for helping Moses when he didn't feel ready. Thank You that You reminded him that You were with him, and that gave him courage. Help us remember that You are the biggest, and You are with us in all things! This week, when we're feeling scared or nervous, may Your Holy Spirit help us to know that You are with us, to trust You, and to take brave steps even when it's hard. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share Psalm 56:3 with verse motions. Encourage the kids that this week, [BOTTOM LINE] "God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"

## Inclusive Pro Tips



Demonstrate how to draw a heart in the air. Have kids repeat the motion.

When you pray, use simple and clear words so the kids can understand. Offer an opportunity for the kids to respond "Amen" with you at the end.

“Joseph was taken to Egypt, but God helped him rise to power!” (*Stretch your scarf high like you’re lifting someone up.*)

“Later, Joseph’s family, God’s people, moved to Egypt, and God’s people grew.” (*Wave your scarf wide, like a growing crowd.*)

“A new Pharaoh was scared of God’s people since there were so many. He made them work so hard!” (*Pretend to push heavy things with your scarf.*)

“Pharaoh wanted to hurt baby boys, but one brave family hid baby Moses.” (*Crumple your scarf like a blanket and pretend to place it into a basket.*)

“The princess found baby Moses and took care of him like he was her own son!” (*Make a heart shape with your scarf.*)

“When Moses grew up, he tried to protect some of God’s people, but he made trouble instead. So, Moses ran away and lived a quiet life until . . .”

“God called to Moses through a bush that burned but didn’t burn up!” (*Wave your scarf quickly like a flickering flame.*)

“God had heard the cries of His people and wanted Moses to lead the rescue mission to help them!”

God told Moses: “I will be with you.” (*Wrap your scarf around your shoulders like a hug.*)

“Moses didn’t feel ready! He was nervous to speak.” (*Cover your face with the scarf, like you are afraid.*)

“But, God gave Moses lots of things to help him! God also told Moses that his brother Aaron would help him speak.” (*Hand your scarf to a friend.*)

“Finally, Moses trusted God and went. Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, ‘Let God’s people go!’” (*Stomp your foot and swing your scarf.*)

“Pharaoh said no. So God sent plagues to show His power. Rivers to blood, frogs, bugs, darkness—SO many signs! Pharaoh still refused to let God’s people go! Then there was one final, terrible plague. God gave Moses special instructions to protect His people from the awful plague that was coming.” (*Place the scarf over your head as if you are shielding yourself.*)

“God told the people to mark their doors with lamb’s blood, and that night, God protected them.” (*Pretend to wipe your forehead with your scarf.*)

“Everything happened as God had said. Egyptians were devastated, and Pharaoh let God’s people go! They packed quickly and followed God.” (*Hold your scarf over your back like a backpack.*)

“But the Pharaoh changed his mind again! God’s people were stuck between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea. It was so scary!” (*Freeze your scarf like it’s frozen in fear.*)

“The sea was in front of God’s people, but God made a way for His people to make it across!” (*Push your scarf out to the sides like parting water.*)

“God saved His people and they praised God!” (*Throw your scarf up in celebration!*)

“Just like the lamb’s blood saved God’s people, Jesus gave His life to save us.” (*Pretend your scarf is the cross and hug it tight.*)



**What to Do:**  
Print on cardstock, one set for each Small Group.  
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**"Courage Scenarios" Activity Page**  
September 2025, Week 1, Small Group K-1  
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