

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Rahab Helps the Spies

Joshua 2

(Supporting: Joshua 6:22-25)

Bottom Line

God can give you courage to help someone in need.

Memory Verse

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

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (5 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

1. Paper Bag Puppet Theater
2. Right on Target!

Pray & Dismiss (5 minutes)

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



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.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity



What You Need

- ☐ A Spinning Wheel
- ☐ Prayer Chart

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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.

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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

Paper Bag Puppet

MADE TO
↓
Create

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Paper Lunch Bags
- ☐ Construction Paper
- ☐ Glue Sticks
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Safety Scissors
- ☐ Puppet Example



Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Offer pre-cut shapes, stickers, and adaptive scissors.

Repeat the instructions one step at a time and offer frequent encouragement.

What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a circle.
2. Give each kid a paper lunch bag.
3. Show the puppet example and demonstrate how to place their hands inside like a puppet!
4. Set out the markers, scissors, glue sticks, and construction paper.
5. Invite the kids to decorate their puppet however they'd like.
→ Kids can draw eyes on the flap (bottom of the bag) and a mouth under the flap.
→ They can cut and glue construction paper to make clothes or hair.
6. Instruct the kids to face each other with their finished puppets.
7. Read the scenarios below, one at a time, and let the kids use the puppets to act out how they might respond to show courage and help in that situation.

Scenarios:

1. Scenario 1: A kid in your class keeps getting left out by others. When you play a game at school, this kid is always picked last. How can you show courage and include them?

2. Scenario 2: A kid fell off the swings at the playground, and everyone around them won't stop laughing. You can tell the kid is hurt, but now one is doing anything.

What You Say

"I love your puppets, friends! And, I love hearing you talk through what you might do in each of these scenarios! God is full of love and kindness. He sees EVERYONE! And He loves to give us the courage to be kind like He is! When we are kind like He is, we are showing people that God loves them too!

"And you aren't on your own when you're kind like Jesus! When you decided to follow Jesus, God moved inside of you through His Holy Spirit. He is closer than close! And as you go throughout your day, you'll feel a nudge from Him to help and do something. Maybe it's a classmate who's being left out, or a sibling who's struggling with something. They need help! And God will give you the courage and the strength to help! So just do what you feel Him nudging you to do. Jesus' very Spirit will lead you to be kind like He is!"

"I'm SO happy we don't have to be brave alone. God is always with us and wants to help us. This week, ask: 'God, please give me courage to help someone in need.' Because God will give you all the courage you need to help! He cares for you and for all the needs around you. He is kind and He loves people so much! Is there someone God is telling you to be brave and stand up for? [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage to help someone in need."

ACTIVITY TWO

Right on Target!



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible marked at Psalm 56:3
- ☐ Bullseye Target
- ☐ Floor Tape
- ☐ Toy Cars



Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Allow for extra processing time and repeat the verse several times.

Allow kids to roll the car from wherever is most comfortable (from their chair, wheelchair, or from the floor).

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What You Do

1. Read **Psalm 56:3** to the group from the marked Bible.
2. Lead the kids to repeat the Memory Verse together several times.
3. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
4. Place a bullseye target on the floor.
5. Tape a starting line just a few feet away from the target.
6. Give each kid a toy car. If you don't have a toy car for each kid, let them take turns.
7. Explain how to play:
 - Invite kids to line up, side-by-side, and take turns rolling their cars toward the target.
 - If a car lands inside the target, the group is to repeat the Memory Verse together aloud.
 - If a car lands in the center of the target, the leader is to say the verse with lots of energy!
8. Continue until every kid gets a turn.
9. Gather the kids to discuss..

What You Say

"That was super-fun! This verse is a BIG truth for us to remember. Who should we put our trust in? (INVITE RESPONSES.) God—that's right! We can put our trust in God. Why? Well, because of WHO God is! God is strong. God is kind. God always keeps His promises. And, God will never leave us alone. Friends, that's why we can put our trust in God. Before we do anything brave, before we face fears, and before we help anyone—we can say this truth out loud: 'When I'm afraid, I put my trust in You, God!' That's a promise we can all hold onto!"

"No matter how big or small the situation is, God is always with you. God gives you His courage, not just regular courage. The kind of courage that helps you do the right thing even when it's hard. He is with us and promises to give us all the courage we need! You can put your trust or confidence in God, because [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage to help someone in need."

GROUPS 4/4

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 a kid needs more space, allow them to sit outside the circle and still be included.

Offer adaptive seating or fidget tools to all kids.

What You Say

"God, thank You for always being with us. Thank You for loving us and sending Jesus to rescue us so that we can have a friendship with You—forever! Thank You for being so close to us through Your Holy Spirit. Teach us to listen to Him. And give us Your strength and courage when we see a need to so we can help! We love You so much, God. Thank You for loving us first. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their paper bag puppets as they talk about how **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage to help someone in need.

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