

3-5s

Small Group

August — Week 2

# Small Group Leader Guide

## Today's Suggested Schedule

### Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

## Small Group (15 minutes)

### Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Land or Water
2. Apple Picking
3. Plant and Pick

## Large Group (20 minutes)

### Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

### Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- "What God Made" and "All Good"
- Bible Story
- Prayer

## SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

### Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. It's Good!
2. Day Three Creations Ⓜ ALLERGY
3. Color-Changing Leaves Ⓜ ALLERGY
4. Move the Seas
5. Cherry Blossoms
6. Journal and Prayer

### Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Going Home
- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- Parent Cue App

THIS MONTH



## Today's Bible Story

### Land, Plants, and Sea Genesis 1:9-13

On day three, God made the land, plants, and sea.

### Key Question

## Who made everything?

### Bottom Line

## God made everything.

### Memory Verse

**"God saw everything he had made. And it was very good."**

**Genesis 1:31 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.

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SOCIAL 2/3

# Apple Picking

## What You Need

- "Apple Picking" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Apple erasers
- 3-ounce paper cups
- Large dice
- Optional: Red pom-poms in place of apple erasers*

USES MINIMAL SUPPLIES

MADE TO Play

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Copy "Apple Picking" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Place ten apple erasers in each cup, one cup per child.
3. *Optional: Place ten red pom-poms in each cup, one per child.*

### During the Activity

1. Give each child a paper and cup of apple erasers.
2. Encourage children to place one apple eraser on each spot on their tree.
3. Pair up children and give each pair a die.
4. Encourage children to take turns rolling their die. Whatever number is rolled is the number of apple erasers children should remove from their tree and place in their cups.
5. Continue until all the apple erasers are off the tree.
6. Celebrate when all the "apples" have been picked. Reset and repeat as desired.

### After the Activity

1. Introduce the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Friends! Come to the table, and let's play a game!"

### During the Activity

"This game is called Apple Picking! But first you need to fill your tree with apples. Put one apple eraser on each spot on the tree. (PAUSE.) Now every two friends will share a die. (HAND EACH PAIR A DIE.) Take turns rolling the die. (PAUSE.) You rolled a [number]! Pick [number] off your tree and put them in your cup. (HELP CHILDREN COUNT IF NEEDED.) Roll again! (MAKE SURE EACH CHILD IN THE PAIR GETS A TURN TO ROLL.) Wow! You rolled a [number] this time! Pick [number] more apples off your tree. (CONTINUE UNTIL ALL THE APPLES HAVE BEEN PICKED.) Hooray! You picked all the apples off your trees! Great job!"

### After the Activity

"Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear how God made trees like apple trees and lots of other wonderful things! Let's go hear all about it!"

**Transition** → Move to Worship and Story by pretending to pick apples as you walk.

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GROUPS 1/6

# It's Good!

## Memory Verse Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- "It's Good!" Activity Page, cardstock
- Construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Baby wipes
- Permanent marker

### Inclusive Optional Supplies

- Handprint die cut in place of construction paper, pencil, and scissors

### Note

You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Assist as needed.

For a sensory-friendly version, provide a handprint diecut.

If using this version, adjust wording in What You Say section below accordingly.

USES MINIMAL SUPPLIES

MADE TO Create

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Copy "It's Good!" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Write each child's name on their paper.
3. Trace each child's hand to their forearm and cut out.
4. Write each child's name on their hand cut out.
5. Say the Memory Verse and motions together with the children.

### During the Activity

1. Encourage children to rub glue over the palm and forearm of their cutout and paste to their paper.
2. Ask children to rub glue on the ends of every fingertip other than the thumb.
3. Help children bend the fingers in towards the palm and press down.
4. Clean hands as needed.

### After the Activity

1. Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand with me, and let's say our verse and do the motions. Ready? 'God (FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN) saw everything he had made. (BINOCULAR EYES.) And it was very good,' (TWO THUMBS-UP) Genesis 1:31. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.) Fantastic! Now sit down at the table."

### During the Activity

"Everyone show me your thumbs-up. (PAUSE.) We're going to turn the cutout of your hand into a thumbs-up! Rub glue on the arm and the palm (POINT) of your cutout. Turn it over and press it on your paper. (PAUSE.) Now put a little bit of glue on each of the fingertips, but not on the thumb. (POINT.) Bend each of the fingers to the palm and press them down, like this. (DEMONSTRATE.) Now you have a thumbs-up picture! Because everything that God made was good!"

### After the Activity

"The Bible teaches us that God made everything! God looked at all He had made, and God saw that it was good! [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything! And it was good! Who made everything? [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything!"

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GROUPS 6/6

# Journal and Prayer

MADE TO  
Reflect

## Prayer Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity  
Page from Week One in Bible
- A journal
- A fun-shaped pen.

### Note

You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group.
2. Place one card in your Bible at Genesis 1:31.  
*Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*
3. Encourage children to pretend they're picking flowers as you walk to your Small Group spot.
4. Sit down and gather the children around you.

### During the Activity

1. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions.
2. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of their favorite color flower.

### After the Activity

1. Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

## ② What You Say

Continued on the next page →

## GROUPS 6/6

# Journal and Prayer


 MADE TO  
↓  
Reflect

## Prayer Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity  
Page from Week One in Bible
- A journal
- A fun-shaped pen.

### Note

You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're picking flowers, while we walk to our Small Group spot. Are you ready to pick flowers with me? Let's go! (PRETEND YOU'RE REACHING LOW AND HIGH TO PICK FLOWERS AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.) Whew! That was fun! Now we're going to sit down so we can talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

### During the Activity

(OPEN THE BIBLE AND LAY IT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN.) "In our Bible Story today, we learned that God made land, plants, and seas on Day 3! Think about all of the mountains and deserts and forests . . . the plants, and flowers, and trees . . . and the seas! God made the big oceans and little ponds, rivers, and streams . . . God made all of it! And we know God made all of it, because [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything! Who made everything? [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything! Wow! (CLAP.) [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything!

"We're learning a new Bible verse that says: 'God (FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN) saw everything he had made. (BINOCULAR EYES.) And it was very good,' (TWO THUMBS-UP) Genesis 1:31. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.) That means when God saw the land, plants, and seas He made, it was very good! Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! 'God (FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN) saw everything he had made. (BINOCULAR EYES.) And it was very good,' (TWO THUMBS-UP) Genesis 1:31. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.)

"Way to go! (GIVE HIGH FIVES.) Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (OPEN JOURNAL.) Since God made all the plants, and flowers, and trees, let's make a list of our favorite colors of flowers. Maybe your favorite color flower is a yellow flower or maybe it's a blue flower. It can be any color, because God made flowers in so many colors! When we're done, we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me your favorite color flower, and I will write it in our journal. (REMEMBER TO PRINT AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)

### After the Activity

"Wow! Look at all of the colors! (HOLD UP JOURNAL.) Let's pray and thank God for making flowers in so many colors. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.) Dear God, You are so powerful and creative! Only You can make land, plants, and seas! Thank You for making (READ THE COLORS LISTED) flowers! They are so pretty! We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."