

3-5s

Small Group

August — Week 3

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. Star Power
2. Hidden in the Sky
3. Space Sensory Bin  ALLERGY

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. Pass the World
2. Spacewalk
3. Celestial Tic-Tac-Toe
4. God Made...
5. Sun, Moon, and Stars
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

Sun, Moon, and Stars Genesis 1:14-19

On day four, God made the sun, moon, and stars.

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.

3-5s

Small Group

August — Week 3

SOCIAL 1/3

Star Power

What You Need

No supplies needed



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Gather children in an open area of the room and spread out.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to act and move their bodies like the sun, moon, and stars.

After the Activity

1. Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit on the floor with me, and make sure you're not too close to your friends. We need some space to move around today!"

During the Activity

"I'm going to call out something we see in the sky, and then we can move and act like it. Okay, first, let's be a star up in the sky! Stand up really tall and spread your feet out. Now, put your arms in the air, and then move your fingers around like you are a sparkling star. **(PAUSE.)** Great! Now let's be a big, bright sun. **(PAUSE.)** Put your arms up over your head like a circle. The sun shines during the day—shine this way, and that way. **(PAUSE.)** Now let's be the moon. The moon shines brightly at night. The moon is a circle, and sometimes that's what it looks like to us—a great, big moon circle. Put your arms up over your head, and put your fingers together in a circle. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** And sometimes the moon looks like a crescent. Put one hand above your head, and put your fingers in the shape of a 'c,' like this. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** Great job! You were awesome at being the stars, sun, and moon!"

After the Activity

"In our true story from the Bible, we're going to learn about what God made on Day 4! I'm so excited! Let's go!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by encouraging children to continue moving like the stars, sun, and moon.

3-5s

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August — Week 3

GROUPS 1/6

Pass the World



Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Inflatable globe ball

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. Sit together in a circle with the children.
2. Place the globe ball in your lap.
3. Say the Memory Verse as you do the motions.

During the Activity

1. Pass the globe ball around the circle, from friend to friend, as you say the verse.
2. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

1. Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello, friends! Come sit in a circle with me. (PAUSE.) Let's say our verse together as we do the motions together. '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.) Great job, friends!"

During the Activity

(HOLD UP THE INFLATABLE GLOBE BALL.) "This ball represents our great big world. Look at all the colors! Do you see the land and water? Our Memory Verse reminds us that [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything—including everything on this world! (POINT TO THE GLOBE BALL.) Let's pass the ball around the circle as we say our verse. Ready? (PASS THE GLOBE BALL TO THE FIRST CHILD.) 'God saw everything.' [Child's name], say that with me. (WITH CHILD.) 'God saw everything.' Now pass the ball to the friend next to you. (PAUSE.) 'He had made.' [Child's name], say that with me. (WITH CHILD.) 'He had made.' Now pass the ball to the friend next to you. (PAUSE.) 'And it was very good.' [Child's name], say that with me. (WITH CHILD.) 'And it was very good.' Now pass the ball to the friend next to you. (PAUSE.) 'Genesis 1:31.' [Child's name], say that with me. (WITH CHILD.) 'Genesis 1:31.' Hooray! Let's keep going! (CONTINUE UNTIL EACH CHILD GETS A TURN TO HOLD THE BALL AND SAY THE VERSE.) That was so fun! We worked together, passed the world, and said our verse so many times! Let's clap for ourselves! Hooray!" (CLAP HANDS EXCITEDLY.)

After the Activity

"Our Memory Verse reminds us that [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything. Who made everything? [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything! Let's try that one more time. Who made everything? [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything!"

GROUPS 3/6

Celestial Tic-Tac-Toe

Category

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Celestial Tic-Tac-Toe" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Paper dessert plates
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Painter's tape

MADE TO
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Think

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Celestial Tic-Tac-Toe" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
2. Glue one cutout per plate.
3. Create a tic-tac-toe grid on a table with painter's tape, with spaces large enough to accommodate the dessert plates.
4. Divide your group into two teams. Have teams line up on opposite sides of the table.
5. Set the six "sun" plates in front of one team and the six "moon and stars" plates in front of the other.

During the Activity

1. Call a child on the "sun" team to place a plate on the board, then ask a child on the "moon and stars" team to place one of their plates on the board. Remind the children that to win the game a team needs to get three of their plates in a row.
2. Continue playing back and forth between teams until someone wins or the board is full. Celebrate each other.
3. Play as many rounds as time and interest allow.

After the Activity

1. Review the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Come gather here around the table! I need half of our friends on this side of the table, and half of our friends on the other. Do you see our game board here in the middle of the table? It's a tic-tac-toe game! One team will use the 'sun' plates and one will use the 'moon and stars' plates!

During the Activity

"Friends, on Day 4 (**HOLD UP FOUR FINGERS**), God made the sun, moon, and stars! What do you see on these plates? (**PAUSE.**) Yes! This team has the 'sun' plates, and this team has the 'moon and stars' plates! Let's take turns placing our plates on the board. Each team is trying to get three of your team's plates in a row. [Child's name on the 'sun' team], place one of your plates on the board. (**PAUSE.**) Awesome! Now, [child's name on the 'moon and stars' team], it's your turn to place a plate on the board. (**CONTINUE UNTIL A TEAM GETS THREE IN A ROW OR THE BOARD IS FILLED. REPEAT AS DESIRED.**) That was super-fun! Great job, friends."

After the Activity

"I'm so glad God created the sun, moon, and stars on Day 4! (**HOLD UP FOUR FINGERS.**) God is SO creative! When you look around at the great big world and see the sun, moon, and stars, you can say: 'Wow! **[BOTTOM LINE]** God made everything.' Who made everything? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God made everything!"

3-5s

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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. Show the children how to make a big circle with their arms by touching their fingertips together over their head.
4. Tell them to pretend the circle is the sun as you walk to your Small Group spot.
5. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity

1. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions.
2. Then, encourage children to help you make a list in the journal of things we do when the sun is shining.

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

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What You Need

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity
Page from Week One in Bible
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② What You Say

Before the Activity

"It's Small Group time! Today we're going to make a big sun with our arms, like this! (MAKE A CIRCLE WITH YOUR ARMS BY TOUCHING YOUR FINGERTIPS TOGETHER OVER YOUR HEAD.) Let me see your sun! (LOOK AROUND.) Yay! Okay, keep your sun shining all the way to our Small Group spot. Here we go! (KEEP YOUR 'SUN' UP AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.) Here we are! Our sun can go down now. And we can sit down too! It's time to 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 the sun, moon, and stars on Day 4! Think about that. God made the whole world and everything in it, and [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything way out in space! Wow! [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything! Who made everything? [BOTTOM LINE] God made everything!"

"The Bible verse we're learning 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 sun and the moon and the stars and all of the other things out in space, it was 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! You sound out of this world! (TWO THUMBS-UP.) Let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (OPEN JOURNAL.) Now that we know God made the sun and the moon and the stars, we're going to make a list of things we like to do when the sun is shining. Then, we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one thing you like to do when the sun is shining, 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

"Look at all of the wonderful things we can do when the sun is shining! (HOLD UP JOURNAL.) Let's pray and thank God for making the sun, moon, and stars. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.) Dear God, thank You for making the sun to shine in the day and the moon and stars to shine at night. We like doing things like (READ THE LIST THE CHILDREN MADE) when the sun is shining. And now we can remember that You made the sun when the sun is shining too! We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."