

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. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
- Bottom Line
- What's Our Part in the Story?
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: Go Fish with a TWIST!
2. Application Activity: YOU Can Trust God
3. Memory Verse Activity: Work It Out Verse
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Creation and the Fall Genesis 1–2:3, 3 Romans 5:8

Bottom Line

You can trust God no matter what.

Memory Verse

**Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of we do not see.
(Hebrews 11:1 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.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- Uno cards (without 5-9)

MADE TO
Move



Inclusive Pro Tips

Pair kids up with a friend to brainstorm things God made together.

Some kids may require extra time to think. Offer them suggestions or inform them that you will return to them if necessary.

Encourage and celebrate participation for all responses, even if they don't perfectly match the kid's color or card number.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on a time when God gave you courage when you faced a fear. Ask God to strengthen the kids in your group with courage when they face their own fears. Pray they will remember that God is bigger than anything that makes them afraid! Ask God to give them faith like Joshua and Caleb, even when others around them doubt.

1. Gather the kids together
2. Shuffle the remaining Uno cards (only numbers 1-4) and review the numbers with the kids.
3. Deal out one card to every kid.
4. Review all possible colors of the cards with the kids (red, yellow, green, and blue).
5. Ask the kids, "What color card do you have?"
6. Explain that each kid will name that amount of things God created that match the card's color. (For example, a kid with a yellow 4 might say, "duck, sun, flower, and leaf.")
7. Demonstrate the activity for the kids by drawing a card and naming that many things that match the card's color.
8. Give kids a few moments to look at their cards and think. If needed, encourage them with hints or examples.
9. Go around the circle and let each kid share their answers.
10. If time allows, collect cards, shuffle, and play another round.

② What You Say

"Great job, friends! You all pointed out SO many amazing things God created! But, did you know the most AMAZING thing God created was people like you and me? Yes, it's true!"

[TRANSITION] In today's true story from the Bible, we're going to hear how God made the heavens and the Earth and everything in them—including people. It was wonderful! And . . . we'll hear about the first two people God made chose not to listen to God, and that made everything not-so-wonderful. But don't worry, there's GOOD NEWS! Let's go find out more!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/4

Go Fish with a TWIST!

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bible marked at Romans 5:8
- "Creation Playing Cards" Activity Page
- 2 cones or floor tape
- 2 buckets

Note

Look for opportunities to have conversations about what it means to make a decision to follow Jesus! (If you need help with what to say, ask your ministry leader.)



① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into two teams.
2. Place cones or floor tape on the floor to mark the starting lines for each team.
3. Scatter one set of the "Creation Playing Cards" Activity Page at the opposite end of your group space across from each team.
4. Place a bucket next to each team's starting line.

Explain the card relay:

1. One at a time, a kid from each team will run to pick up one card and run it back to their team's bucket.
2. Continue the relay until all the cards are collected. It's okay if some kids have to go twice.
3. After all the cards are collected, each kid will grab one.

Explain how to play Go Fish with a Twist!:

1. Instead of sitting, the kids will walk up to another kid on the opposing team and ask for a match by saying, "Do you have an animals card?"
2. If they have a match, the pair can sit down together.
3. If not, they must draw another card from their team's bucket and ask again.
4. Keep going until every kid has a match.

Talk Together

1. Gather the kids together and invite them to show their matching cards to the group.
2. Discuss each image and how it relates to today's Bible Story. (If there are any remaining cards in the buckets, grab those to discuss as well.)
3. Read Romans 5:8 from the Bible aloud to the group.
4. Share with the kids that even when people turned away from God, God never left us alone! God sent Jesus and anyone who chooses to follow Him will live with God forever!

② What You Say

Continued on the next page →

Inclusive Pro Tips



Repeat the instructions several times and pause to demonstrate each step if needed to ensure every kid understands.

For any kids who might need help with mobility, pair them with another kid to help them retrieve a card and find a matching buddy.

GROUPS 1/4

Go Fish with a TWIST!

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

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Live for God

What You Need

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Inclusive Pro Tips



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For any kids who might need help with mobility, pair them with another kid to help them retrieve a card and find a matching buddy.

② What You Say

"Of all the incredible things God made, people (that's you and me!) are God's favorite! We are the only creations God made in His image! That means that we were created to show each other what God is like. God is good, so we should be good like He is! God is kind, so we should be kind like He is! God is fair, so we should be fair like He is! And He made us to be His friends."

"But sadly, the people God made sinned and ushered in a curse. The curse infected Adam and Eve's heart with sin, and every person who would live after them would have an infected heart too. Their curse of sin would pull them away from God and they couldn't have a relationship with Him."

"Only God could fix it. But it would take a big plan. Sin is all the things God is NOT. God is good, sin is not. God is kind, sin is not. God is fair, sin is not. Sin is when we choose our way instead of God's way. Sin pulls us away from God. It keeps us from being close to Him like He wanted. But God didn't give up—not for a second. God loves us so much and His love IS bigger and stronger than sin!"

"So God had a plan to make things right. Jesus came, gave His life, and paid for sin for all time. Now, when we choose to follow Jesus, we can have a relationship with God again!"

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Tell the group about how you don't always make good choices, but God's love is always bigger. God never gives up on you. He loves you very, very much.

"When you make a bad choice, you can trust that God loves you too!

[BOTTOM LINE] You can trust God no matter what!"



GROUPS 3/4

Work It Out Verse



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bible Marked at Hebrews 11:1

*Exercises

- Arm curls: bend both arms up and down
- Squats: lower your hips from a standing position, and then stand back up
- Leg balance: lift one leg out to the side
- Arm circles: stretch both arms out to the side and rotate arms in a circle
- Hops: jump up and down in place
- Planks: hold up your body in a push-up position

Inclusive Pro-Tips



For versions with less movement, allow kids to sit while performing the motions.

① What You Do

1. Invite kids to form groups of two.
2. Give each group a Bible.
3. Use the Bible Navigation tips below to lead the kids to look up Hebrews 11:1 together.
4. Repeat the verse together several times.
5. Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
6. Point out the first part of the verse:
For NIV: "Faith is being sure of what we hope for."
For NIV: "Faith is confidence in what we hope for."
7. Explain to the kids that while we can't see God with our eyes, we can be sure (or have confidence) that God is with us because we have "seen" the wonderful things He has done.
8. Instruct the kids to stand up and spread out.
9. Share with kids that they will perform superhero exercises to get in shape while reciting this month's Memory Verse.
10. Call out various exercises* based on your group's ability, and encourage the kids to recite the Memory Verse with you as they perform the movement.
11. Before each movement, demonstrate it for the kids.

② What You Say

Continued on the next page →

*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.

*Finding verses with 1st graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.)
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name.
- ③ When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter.
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K-1st

Small Group

August — Week 1

GROUPS 3/4

Work It Out Verse



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

Bible Marked at Hebrews 11:1

*Exercises

- Arm curls: bend both arms up and down
- Squats: lower your hips from a standing position, and then stand back up
- Leg balance: lift one leg out to the side
- Arm circles: stretch both arms out to the side and rotate arms in a circle
- Hops: jump up and down in place
- Planks: hold up your body in a push-up position

Inclusive Pro-Tips



For versions with less movement, allow kids to sit while performing the motions.

② What You Say

"Awesome job, friends! I love our Memory Verse this month. Why do you think we memorize verses from the Bible? **(INVITE RESPONSES.)** That's right! The Bible is God's Word and it reminds us of what's true. When we remember verses from the Bible, we can carry the truth with us no matter where we are—at school, at a soccer game, or on the playground. We could be facing a tough situation and Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that faith is being sure of what we hope for! We can be reminded that God is with us because we can see all that God has made and all that He has done! And because of all God has done, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God no matter what."

K-1st

Small Group

August — Week 1

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Handheld mirror

Inclusive Pro-Tips



If any kid is shy or hesitant to participate, invite them to observe first and join in when they feel ready.

If a kid has trouble pointing to themselves or holding the mirror, offer assistance or suggest saying the Bottom Line out loud without holding the mirror.

① What You Do

1. Gather kids to sit in a circle.
2. Say the Bottom Line: **[BOTTOM LINE]** You can trust God no matter what.
3. Repeat the Bottom Line again, then invite the kids to say it with you.
4. Demonstrate how to hold the mirror in front of you, point to yourself and say: **[BOTTOM LINE]** "I can trust God no matter what!"
5. Pass the mirror around the circle, encouraging each kid to repeat the Bottom Line to themselves.
6. Close in prayer.

② What You Say

"God, we love You. Thank You for the wonderful world You made and for creating each one of us in Your image. Thank You for loving us so much! When we make a bad choice, help us to remember that Your love for us is always bigger and we can trust You no matter what! Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin so we could be close to You. Teach us to be Your friends so we are close with You our entire lives. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their "Trust God Frames" as they tell their grown-ups that **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God no matter what.