

K-1st

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. 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: A Promise Kept
2. Application Activity: Superheroes, ASSEMBLE!
3. Memory Verse Activity: Superhero Vision
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

### Noah Genesis 6-9

#### Bottom Line

**You can trust God even when you don't understand.**

#### 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

- "Animal Memory Cards" Activity Page

MADE TO  
↓  
Play



### Inclusive Pro Tips

If a full grid of cards feels overwhelming for your group, start with fewer pairs and add more as kids gain confidence in the game.

Some kids might need additional support to understand the game. Be patient and use simple words or visual cues like pointing or demonstrating with two cards, to explain how to play.

## 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 in a seated circle.
2. Shuffle the cards from the "Animal Memory Cards" Activity Page.
3. Lay the cards face down in grid pattern on the floor (five columns and four rows).
4. Lead the kids in a game of memory match!
  - Select a kid to turn over two cards.
  - If a match is made, the kid keeps the match and takes another turn.
  - If no match is made, set the two cards back in place. The kid to their left goes next.
5. Encourage the kids to pay attention when other kids turn over cards, so they can remember where they are.
6. Once all matches have been made, celebrate the kids for playing!
7. Lay out all the cards and ask the kids, "What do all of these cards have in common?" (They're all animals.)

## ② What You Say

"You found all the animal matches! Great job, friends! Well, **[TRANSITION]** today in our true story from the Bible, we'll hear about a man who trusted God to lead him through an EPIC assignment. HINT . . . this story includes animals too! Let's go find out what happened."

**Transition** → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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GROUPS 2/4

# Superheroes, ASSEMBLE!

Category

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No Supplies Needed



## Inclusive Pro-Tips

Reassure the kids that there is no "wrong" superhero pose, and encourage them to have fun!

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

## ① What You Do

1. Direct the kids to stand and spread their arms out to make space.
2. Say, "I'm going to say something that might not make sense. Then, you'll strike a superhero pose and say: 'You can trust God even when you don't understand!'" (This is the Bottom Line.)
  - Before you begin, select a scenario to demonstrate to the kids. Pose with your arms crossed like a shield, or with your hands on hips)
3. Read the scenarios below, pausing each time for the kids to pose and say the Bottom Line.
4. Encourage the kids to get creative with their poses each time!
5. Gather the group to discuss.

### Scenarios

"When you're really tired, but it's a school day . . .

(Kids pose and say, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God even when you don't understand.)

"When you get in trouble . . .

(Kids pose and say, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God even when you don't understand.)

"When you fall and skin your knee . . .

(Kids pose and say, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God even when you don't understand.)

"When you don't understand the math worksheet . . .

(Kids pose and say, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God even when you don't understand.)

"When you forget your snack at school . . .

(Kids pose and say, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God even when you don't understand.)

"When someone you thought was a friend says something unkind . . .

(Kids pose and say, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God even when you don't understand.)

## ② What You Say

"Great job, superheroes! With God's help, we can face all kinds of situations that are hard or don't make sense to us. Just like with Noah, God is with us in everything we face. He promises! And God will see us through what we're facing. Noah's story reminds us that God is with us every step of the way. God was with Noah as he built the boat. God was with Noah as all the animals came. God was with Noah as it rained and rained. God was with Noah when it took so long for the wavy water to go down. God faced every new and difficult thing with Noah. And God promises to face everything with you, even if it is new or different. So, remember: **[BOTTOM LINE]** You can trust God even when you don't understand."

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GROUPS 3/4

# Superhero Vision

Category

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
- "Memory Masks" Activity Page
- Prepared Mask Example
- Elastic String
- Stapler
- Scissors
- Coloring Supplies



## ① What You Do

1. Call on an older kid to read Hebrews 11:1 from the marked Bible.
2. Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
3. Repeat the verse together several times.
4. Share with kids:
  - "Faith is all about trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see."
  - "While we can't see God with our eyes, we can see all the wonderful things God made and remember all the wonderful things God has done."
5. Give each kid a mask from the "Memory Mask" Activity Pages.
6. Show the kids your mask example.
7. Point out the Memory Verse on the mask and lead the kids to repeat it again.
8. Invite the kids to use the coloring supplies to decorate their masks.
9. Use the scissors to cut the elastic string to fit each kid's head and staple it to the mask.

NOTE: Staple with the flat side facing in (so it doesn't scratch their heads).
10. Once everyone is finished, invite the kids to put on their masks!
11. Repeat the verse together again.

## ② What You Say

"I love your masks! They're unique and special—just like you!"

"The Bible is God's Word and when we memorize it, it helps us remember what's true. This verse from the Bible is all about faith. What are some things you can't 'see' but you know are there? Think about air or the wind. We can't see them, but we know they're there when we see the trees blowing, or when we take a breath.

"God is with us, friends. We may not 'see' God, but we can look at all the things God made and trust that God is near! We can also remember the wonderful things He has done, and that can help us trust Him too! God has always, always been good. Keep practicing this verse at home with a grown-up. For a real twist, practice saying it with your eyes closed. Remember: **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God even when you don't understand."



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Be mindful of any sensory needs. Some of your kids may prefer to hold the mask instead of wear it. That's okay!

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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 Optional

- Memory Masks from the Memory Verse Activity



### Inclusive Pro-Tips

If kids don't want to share, allow them to pass without pressure.

Be patient with any kids who need more time to think. Let them know that you will come back to them.

## ① What You Do

- Gather the kids in a seated circle.
- Share with kids that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!  
Optional: If you made the Memory Masks, invite the kids to continue wearing them as you lead prayer.
- Ask, "Is there anything that feels hard for you to understand right now?"
- Provide examples:
  - "Maybe math is really tough."
  - "Maybe a friend is being unkind."
  - "Maybe your family just moved."
- Encourage the kids no matter what happens, [Bottom Line] you can trust God even when you don't understand.
- Close in prayer.

## ② What You Say

"Dear God, we love You! Thanks for reminding us today that You are always with us and that we can trust You no matter what. Thank You for the story of Noah, and so many other true stories in Your Word that remind us You are faithful to keep Your promises. When we face things that just don't make sense, help us to trust You more because You have always been good. Thank You for loving us so much—we want to trust You. 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 Memory Masks with the Memory Verse and share the truth we learned this week that **[BOTTOM LINE] you can trust God even when you don't understand!**