

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 5

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

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Conversation Starter
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

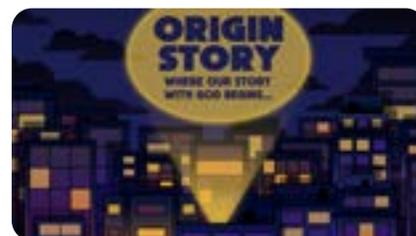
1. Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

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

Joseph Genesis 37; 39-45

Conversation Starter

When has something bad turned into something good?

Bottom Line

You can trust God when things get tough.

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.

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

 Crayons


① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Select one kid to go first.
3. Instruct them to place a crayon between each of the fingers of their right hand, with the crayons pointing up.
4. Explain how to play:
 - The kid going first turns to the kid next to them and says, "My name is _____, and I can trust God when . . ."
 - The kids are to shake hands in a way that transfers the crayons from the fingers of the first kid to the fingers of the second kid.
 - Continue sharing about trusting God and passing the crayons around the circle. If a crayon falls, the kid is to pick it up and keep going.
 - The goal is for the crayon to make it around the circle.
5. To make it a race, split the kids into two teams and see which team can pass the crayons around their circle first.
6. Join the groups together (if needed), and expand the conversation by asking:
 - Why should those who know Jesus view tough times differently than those who don't?
 - When has God used something tough in your life to accomplish something good?

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Share an age-appropriate story about a time when God surprisingly used something hard in your life to accomplish something good.



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group. If holding multiple crayons is difficult, adjust the number of crayons they pass.

If kids in your group have sensory sensitivities, consider passing a small ball instead. Some kids might not like the feeling of crayon rubbing between their fingers.

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GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed

① What You Do

Ask

- When has God used something bad in your life to accomplish something good?
- Jesus trusted God's plan (Garden of Gethsemane) even when things were really hard. What can you do to remember you can trust God?
- What does it tell others about who God is when we trust God no matter what?



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Be sensitive to kids needing extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bibles
- Foil Balls
- Floor Tape



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Some kids might need extra time to think before answering the questions. Be patient and allow them to process!

For any kids who would prefer not to play the game, let them be the scorekeeper.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a Bible.
2. Direct them to look up Romans 8:28, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
3. Say the verse together several times.
4. Point out any unfamiliar words and explain them.
5. Use the floor tape to create a line down the middle of your space.
6. Divide the group into two teams.
7. Direct each team to stand on opposite sides of the tape line.
8. Toss an equal amount of foil balls on both sides of the tape line.
9. Explain the game:

- At your signal, teams are to roll foil balls across the line into the other team's space.
- The goal is to have the fewest foil balls on your team's side when the game stops.
- You will stop the game at a random point. (You can turn around so it's obvious you can't see which side has more foil balls on it when you end the round.)
- The team with the most foil balls is to recite Romans 8:28. Assist the kids as needed if they don't remember all the words.

10. Repeat several rounds.

11. Read Romans 8:28 twice before allowing kids to respond to the following questions.

- What do you think God is telling us in Romans 8:28?
- When might it be hard to believe the promise of Romans 8:28?
- Does this verse mean that everything eventually works out the way we want it to? Explain

12. Help kids understand that God doesn't promise that life will be easy, but God does promise that He will always be with us. Even when things are messy or hard, God is at work, and one day God will make everything right through Jesus. We may not always understand when hard things happen, but we can trust that God is using it for good.

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

GROUPS 5/5

Make It Personal with Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Whiteboard
- Dry-Erase Marker

Inclusive Supplies

- Index Cards
- Pens



Inclusive Pro-Tips

If kids prefer not to speak aloud, encourage them to use index cards and a pen to write down their statement or draw a picture that represents it.

Write prayer examples on a dry-erase board that kids can reference or copy onto their paper.

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. Review the Bottom Lines from this month. See if any kids can recite them.
 - You can trust God no matter what.
 - You can trust God even when you don't understand.
 - You can trust that God has a plan.
 - You can trust that God is with you.
 - You can trust God when things get tough.
3. Write the following prompt on the whiteboard with a dry-erase marker:
 - "I can trust God because _____."
4. Invite each kid to repeat the sentence and fill in the blank. Encourage them to think about what they discovered this month and what they know about who God is.
5. Demonstrate by going first.
 - I can trust God because He is good.
 - I can trust God because God has a plan.
 - I can trust God because God does what He says He will.
 - I can trust God because God knows everything.
6. As you close, ask if any kids would like to pray for the group.
7. Close in prayer.