

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

September — Week 1

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. Pick and Sort
2. Pattern Play
3. So Many Animals

Large Group (20 minutes)

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

- "The Plans" and "Really Awesome Plan"
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

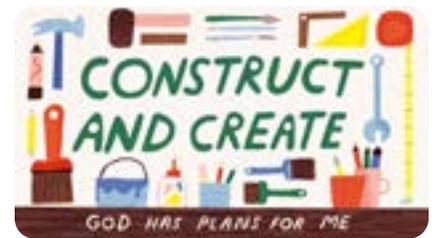
Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Memory Verse with Motions
2. Good Things
3. Build a Tree
4. Hungry Animals
5. Feed the Birds ⚠️ **ALLERGY**
6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Going Home
- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

God has good things for me to do.

Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:27-28; 2:15, 19-20

Key Question

Who has plans for you?

Bottom Line

God has plans for me.

Memory Verse

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord."

Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

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

Pattern Play



What You Need

- "Pattern Play" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Crayons
- Scissors



Inclusive Pro Tips

Model placing the matching crayons on the "Pattern Play" Activity Page

Give children two crayons at time.

Assist each child, as needed.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy the "Pattern Play" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.

During the Activity

1. Give each child a pattern card. Name the colors in the pattern.
2. Encourage the children to recreate the pattern using crayons.
3. Once they complete the pattern, provide a new card with a different sequence.
4. Guide and celebrate their efforts as they work through each pattern.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, today we are going to play a fun pattern game! Patterns are like plans that tell us what is next. Let's see if we can follow the plans on these cards using our crayons."

During the Activity

"Look at this pattern! It goes red, blue, red... what color comes next? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.)** That's right! Blue! Line up your crayons in the same pattern. **(PAUSE.)** You did it! Now, let's try another one. This one is yellow, yellow, green, yellow, yellow... what do you think comes next? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSE.)** Green! Great job! **(CONTINUE WITH EACH CARD.)** You did such an amazing job following the plan on these cards and making these colorful patterns!"

After the Activity

"Today we are going to hear a Bible Story about two people who had to follow God's plan! Are you ready to find out all about them? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Let's go!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by marching in a Pattern Parade—step, clap, step, clap—all the way to your designated area!

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GROUPS 1/6

Memory Verse with Motions



Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplie

- "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF
- Cardstock
- VELCRO® Dots
- Scissors



Inclusive Pro Tips

Invite children to say it with you or repeat words after you.

Set out the picture cutouts made from the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF for children to hold up or point to as an alternative to saying or repeating the verse out loud.

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

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. Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.
2. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

During the Activity

3. Teach the Memory Verse motions.
4. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

Continued on the next page →

GROUPS 1/6

Memory Verse with Motions



Memory Verse Review

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What You Need

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Inclusive Optional Supply

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 Cardstock
 VELCRO® Dots
 Scissors



Inclusive Pro Tips

Invite children to say it with you or repeat words after you.

Set out the picture cutouts made from the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF for children to hold up or point to as an alternative to saying or repeating the verse out loud.

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

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. "For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you,' (MARCH) says the Lord," (POINT UP) Jeremiah 29:11. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK)"

During the Activity

"Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'For I know.' (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS.) Put your hand up and tap the side of your head like this (TAP YOUR TEMPLE.) and say, 'For I know.' (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'The plans I have for you.' (MARCH.) March in place like this (MARCH) and say, 'The plans I have for you.' (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Wonderful! Now let's put that together. 'For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you.' (MARCH.) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'Says the Lord.' (POINT UP.) Put one finger up and point to the sky like this (POINT UP) and say, 'says the Lord.' (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Nice job! Now let's put that together. "For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you,' (MARCH) says the Lord.' (POINT UP.)

"Now the last part is: 'Jeremiah 29:11.' (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK) and say: Jeremiah 29:11. (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? 'For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you,' (MARCH) says the Lord," (POINT UP) Jeremiah 29:11. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK) Nice job. Let's do it again!" (REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES.)

After the Activity

"The Bible teaches us that God has plans for [CHILD'S NAME], and [CHILD'S NAME], and [CHILD'S NAME]... (SAY EACH CHILD'S NAME.) God has plans for you and [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me! Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me!"

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GROUPS 3/6

Build a Tree

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Green Craft Sticks
- Red, Yellow, Green, and Orange Pom-poms
- Small Craft Tubes

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- Hot Glue Gun
- Hot Glue Sticks



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Place a craft tube, three green craft sticks, and a few pom-poms in every color around the table, one set for every two children.
2. Explain that you will work together with a partner to build a tree.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to stand the tube up in between the two partners. Then, ask the partners to work together to place two craft sticks on the top of the tube to create an "x".
2. Once in place, encourage children to add one more craft stick on top to create the tree's canopy.
3. Encourage children to carefully add their red pom-poms on top to create an apple tree.
4. Once all the red pom-poms are added, encourage children to remove them and add green pom-poms to create a lime tree.
5. Repeat with the orange and yellow pom-poms.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page →



Inclusive Pro Tips

Assist each child, as needed.

Hot glue three green craft sticks together in an asterisk formation, one for every two children.

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GROUPS 3/6

Build a Tree



Application Activity

Faith Skills

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- Small Craft Tubes

Inclusive Optional Supplies

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Inclusive Pro Tips

Assist each child, as needed.

Hot glue three green craft sticks together in an asterisk formation, one for every two children.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit at the table! We're going to work together with a friend to build a tree with these objects!"

During the Activity

"Okay let's get started! Stand your tube up on the table like this.

(DEMONSTRATE.) Great job! This will be the trunk of your tree. Now, let's add the branches. Everyone pick up a green craft stick and lay them across the top of the trunk to make an "x" like this. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** It's starting to look like a tree! Let's add one more craft stick right across the middle of the "x" like this. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** Great job. Now it's time to add the fruit to your tree. Let's make a red apple tree. Can you place the red pom-poms on the branches? Be careful so the tree doesn't fall down! If it does though, that's okay. We'll just rebuild the tree! **(PAUSE.)** Your apple trees look great! Let's build a lime tree! What color are limes? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Green, that's right! Let's carefully take the red pom-poms off and add the green ones. **(PAUSE.)** Fantastic! **(CONTINUE WITH THE YELLOW AND ORANGE POM-POMS.)** That was so fun building the different fruit trees with you today!"

After the Activity

"God made Adam and Eve and put them in a beautiful garden. God loved Adam and Eve, and they loved God. God wanted Adam and Eve to take care of the garden and everything in it. That means take care of the land and the plants and the animals and grow food in the garden. God wanted Adam and Eve to take care of the things He made. God also asked Adam to name the animals! What a fun job! God gave Adam and Eve really good things to do, and God gives us good things to do too! God had plans for Adam and Eve, and God has plans for you and me too! Who has plans for you? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God has plans for me!"

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GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Bible
- Scissors
- Journal
- 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. Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group.
2. Place one card in your Bible at Jeremiah 29:11.
→ *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*
3. Encourage the children to pretend to be any animal they want as you lead them to your Small Group spot.
4. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity

5. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of good things they can do.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page →

GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page
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- Bible
- Scissors
- Journal
- 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 are going to pretend to be animals! Think of what kind of animal you want to be and pretend to be that animal while you follow me to our Small Group spot. I'm going to be a/an [ANIMAL NAME]! Come on, animal friends! Follow me! (PRETEND TO BE AN ANIMAL AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.) Here we are animal friends! You can be children now. 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 had good things for Adam and Eve to do. What were some of the good things Adam and Eve did? Let's see... they worked and cared for the garden. Oh! And Adam got to name all of the animals, like the (NAME SOME OF THE ANIMALS THE CHILDREN PRETENDED TO BE).

"God had plans for Adam and Eve, and God has plans for you and me too. That's why when I ask, who has plans for you, we'll say, [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me! Let me hear you say it! Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me! He sure does! And the Bible verse we are going to learn will help us remember that God has plans for us. It says, "'For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you,' (MARCH) says the Lord," (POINT UP) Jeremiah 29:11. (OPEN HANDS LIKE BOOK.) That is God talking to a man named Jeremiah. God knew the plans He had for Jeremiah, and God knows the plans He has for us too! Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! "'For I know (TOUCH HEAD WITH FINGERTIPS) the plans I have for you,' (MARCH) says the Lord," (POINT UP) Jeremiah 29:11. (OPEN HANDS LIKE BOOK.)

"Wow! You sound great! (CLAP HANDS.) Thank you for saying that with me. Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (OPEN JOURNAL.) There are a lot of good things God has for us to do. Let's make a list of some of them in our prayer journal. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one good thing God has for us to do, and I will write it in our journal.

(SUGGESTIONS: TALK TO GOD, SHARE WITH OTHERS, BE KIND, LOVE LIKE JESUS, CARE FOR ANIMALS, CARE FOR THE WORLD GOD MADE, ETC. 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 good things God has for us to do! (HOLD UP JOURNAL.) Let's pray and thank God for having plans for us. 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 having plans for (NAME EACH CHILD) and for me. Help us start with the good things You have planned for everyone to do, like (READ THE LIST THE CHILDREN MADE). You're the best, God. We love You! In Jesus' name. Amen."