

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

September — 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. Roll and Hide
2. Mystery Building Bags
3. Hammering Leaves  ALLERGY

## 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)

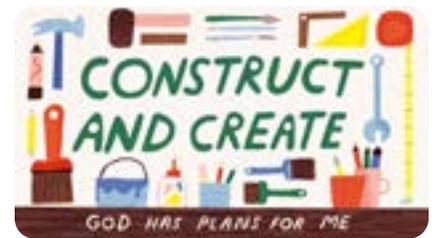
### Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Hidden Shapes
2. Pretend Play
3. Build a Basket
4. Who's Hiding?
5. In the Tall Grass
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

### Baby Moses

Exodus 2:1-10

I can trust God's plans.

## 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.

## SOCIAL 1/3

# Roll and Hide



## What You Need

- Table
- Green Crepe Paper Streamers
- Playground Ball
- Scissors
- Masking Tape

## Note

Keep table and streamers in place to use for the “Who’s Hiding?” Activity.



## Inclusive Pro Tips

Assist each child, as needed.

For a version with less movement, place the tree cutout on the floor or table and sit down around it. If using this version, adjust wording in What You Say section accordingly.

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Push the table against a wall.
2. Measure streamers from the top of the table to the floor and cut.
3. Tape each streamer along the edge of the front and sides of the table, creating a hedge effect.
4. Line children up a few feet from the table.

### During the Activity

1. Encourage children to take turns rolling the ball through the streamers to try and get it to stop under the table.
2. Retrieve the playground ball and continue with each child.
3. Repeat as desired.

### After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

“Friends, come over here and let’s stand in a line! I have a fun game for us to play with this playground ball!”

### During the Activity

“See that tall, tall grass over there? **(POINT.)** We’re going to take turns rolling the ball into the grass. We want to try and get the ball to stay in the grass. Are you ready to give it a try? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Great! **[CHILD’S NAME]**, roll the ball. **(PAUSE.)** Whoa, good try! **(COLLECT THE BALL AND GIVE IT TO THE CHILD TO PASS TO THE NEXT FRIEND IN LINE.)** **[CHILD’S NAME]** it’s your turn! **(CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.)** That was so much fun! Getting the ball to stay under the table was harder than it looked!”

### After the Activity

“In our Bible Story today, we’ll hear about a baby named Moses. Moses was put in a basket and hidden in some tall, tall grass. Come with me and let’s find out why.”

**Transition** → Move to Worship and Story by pretending to walk quietly through tall, tall grass.

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GROUPS 1/6

# Hidden Shapes



## Memory Verse Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- "Hidden Shapes" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Washable markers

### Notes

You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Pair children to do the activity together.

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Copy "Hidden Shapes" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Say the Memory Verse together as you do the motions.

### During the Activity

1. Identify each of the shapes in the "key" below the picture.
2. Encourage children to look in the picture to find each of the listed shapes.
3. When a shape is found, ask children to circle or color it in in both the picture and the key.
4. Assist as needed.

### After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

Continued on the next page →

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GROUPS 1/6

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### Inclusive Pro Tips

Pair children to do the activity together.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand with me, and let's say our Memory Verse as we do the motions. Ready? Here we go. "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) Wow! Great job everyone!"

### During the Activity

Come sit at the table with me. I have a picture for each of you. (GIVE EACH CHILD A PICTURE.) What a fun picture! Look down here at the bottom of the picture. See these shapes? Let's say what each shape is starting with this one. (POINT AT EACH SHAPE AS YOU SAY IT'S NAME.) Each of these shapes down here are hidden in the big picture. Let's look and try to find them. (PAUSE.) Yay! You found the [SHAPE]! Color it in or circle it in the picture and the key. Let's keep looking until we find all the shapes! (ASSIST AS NEEDED.) You did it! You followed the plan and found all the shapes! Let's say our verse together one more time as we do the motions. "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) Hooray!"

### After the Activity

"We looked for hidden shapes because in today's Bible Story, Moses' mother hid him in a basket in the tall grass. She trusted God and knew that God had plans for her and for Moses! And we know that God has plans for us! 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 4/6

# Who's Hiding?



## Application Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- Table with Green Streamers from the "Roll and Hide" Activity

### Optional Inclusive Supplies

- Green Scarf



### Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version with less movement, ask children to place the scarf over their head to hide them until the other children guess who's hiding.

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Gather with the children near the table with green streamers.
2. Encourage children to spread out then sit down on the floor.

### During the Activity

1. Explain that everyone will close their eyes and you will tap one friend on the shoulder. That child will quietly go hide under the table.
2. Once hidden, ask the rest of the children to open their eyes. Then say, "Who's Hiding?" and allow the children to guess which friend is hiding under the table.
3. Continue until each child has a turn.

### After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Friends, come over here near the table. Let's spread out a bit. Raise your arms out to the side like this and make sure you don't touch anyone around you. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** Great job! Now have a seat."

### During the Activity

"Let's play a game! When I say, 'close and cover your eyes,' I want everyone to close and cover your eyes like this. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** Once everyone's eyes are closed, I'll tap a friend on the shoulder, then you'll quietly go hid under the table. Then when I say, 'open your eyes!' you can open them to try to figure out who's hiding under the table! Are you ready to play? Okay! Close and cover your eyes. **(TAP ONE FRIEND AND HELP THEM GO UNDER THE TABLE.)** Open your eyes and guess who's hiding! **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Great guessing! **[CHILD'S NAME]** come out! **(CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.)** That was such a fun game!"

### After the Activity

"In our Bible Story today, we talked about how Moses' mother placed him in a basket and hid it in the tall grass by the river to keep him safe. Moses' sister Miriam watched to see what would happen. Then a princess found Moses and decided to keep him safe. Miriam told the princess she knew someone who could help take care of him! Do you remember who it was? **(PAUSE.)** That's right! Moses' mom! She trusted God and knew he had plans for her and for Moses. God had plans for Moses and God has plans for you 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 from Week One in Bible
- 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. 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 Jeremiah 29:11.  
→ Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.
3. Encourage the children to pretend they are walking through tall grass 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 write each child's name in the prayer journal and use it in this sentence when you pray: "[Child's name] can trust God's plan."

### 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

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### What You Need

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity  
Page from Week One in Bible
- Journal
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### 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 we are walking through tall grass when we go to our Small Group spot. Do what I do and follow me! (PRETEND TO WALK THROUGH TALL GRASS AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.) I see our spot! Let's sit down and 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, Moses' mom did everything she could do to keep Moses safe, and she trusted God's plans for her and for baby Moses. God had plans for Moses and Moses' mom. And God has plans for you and me too! That's why when I ask, who has plans for you, I want everyone to 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 learning 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.) Wow! God knows the plans He has for us! 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.)"

"Way to go! (TWO THUMBS UP) Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (OPEN JOURNAL.) When I say your name, stand up while I write your name in our journal. Then we can use the list when we pray. Okay, listen for your name and stand up when I say it. (AS YOU WRITE.) [CHILD'S NAME] can trust God's plans. You can sit down now." (REMEMBER TO PRINT, AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)

### After the Activity

"There! Everyone's name is in our journal. (HOLD UP JOURNAL.) Let's pray and talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.) Dear God, We believe You have plans for us. Please help (SAY EACH CHILD'S NAME) and me trust Your plans. We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."