

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

September — Week 4

# 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. All the Stars
2. Lots and Lots
3. Waiting for the Surprise!  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)

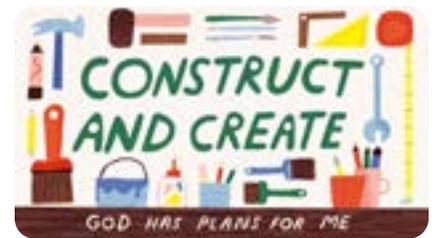
### Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Star Walk
2. Count the Stars
3. Follow the Plan  ALLERGY
4. Balancing Stars
5. Paint the Stars
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

### I can wait for God's plan.

## Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 12:1-3; 15:5-6; 18:1-14; 21:1-7

## 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 2/3

# Lots and Lots



## What You Need

- Butcher paper
- Chisel-tip Permanent Marker
- Washable Markers
- Masking Tape

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Cover the table with butcher paper and tape to secure.
2. Draw outlines of different size and shape people all around the table with the permanent marker.
3. Place the markers in the middle of the table.

### During the Activity

4. Encourage children to decorate and design all the different people shapes on the table.
5. Walk around and look at all the different people and count them as you go.

### After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Hello, hello friends! It's great to see you today! Come join me at the table."

### During the Activity

"Look at all the people shapes on the table! (PAUSE.) Will you help me color and decorate each one? (PAUSE FOR ANSWERS.) Great! Thank you! (PAUSE.) You've done such a great job making sure every person shape is colored in! Let's stand up and walk around the table so we can look at each one. (PAUSE.) Ready? Let's count them as we go. One, two, three... (CONTINUE COUNTING EACH PEOPLE SHAPE AS YOU WALK AROUND THE TABLE.) Wow! We counted [NUMBER] people! That's a lot of people!"

### After the Activity

"Today we're going to hear a true story from the Bible when God told a man named Abraham and his wife Sarah that they would have a big, big family with lots of people! Let's go hear all about it!"

**Transition** → Move to Worship and Story by asking children to line up by the color they are wearing and as you walk, ask children wearing a specific color **Who has plans for you?** Repeat as desired until you reach your designated area.

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GROUPS 1/6

# Star Walk



## Memory Verse Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- "Star Walk" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's Tape

### Inclusive Optional Supplies

- Little People



### Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version with less movement, seat children at a table or in a circle on the floor.

Tape stars to the table or floor.

Give each child a Little People toy to use instead of moving themselves.

Children will move their toy along the Star Walk. Adjust the wording in "What You Say" to match this version.

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.

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Copy "Star Walk" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
2. Line the stars up in order on the floor and tape to secure.
3. Say and do the motions to the Memory Verse.

### During the Activity

1. Invite children to move from star to star, stepping or hopping on them as say the verse together.
2. Repeat several times, adding excitement and movement.

### After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Come stand near the stars with me! Today, we're going to go on a star walk as we say our Memory Verse. But before we start, let's do the motions as we say our verse. "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

"Okay! Let's walk from star to star and we'll say the verse together. Ready? Here we go! (STEP OR HOP TO EACH STAR AS YOU SAY EACH PART!) 'For I know.' Let's do the next part! 'The plans.' (PAUSE.) I have for you.' (PAUSE.) 'Says the Lord.' (PAUSE.) Jeremiah 29:11. Wow! You did it! You completed our Memory Verse Star Walk! Way to go! Let's do it again!" (REPEAT AS DESIRED.)

### After the Activity

"Waiting can be hard, but just like Abraham and Sarah learned, God always keeps His promises. And just like the stars in the sky, God's plans for us are BIG! Who has plans for you? [BOTTOM LINE] God has plans for me!"

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GROUPS 2/6

# Count the Stars



## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- "Abraham and Sarah" and "Baby Isaac" Activity Pages
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Star Stickers or Self-inking Star Stamps

### Inclusive Optional Supplies

- Adaptive Scissors

### Inclusive Pro Tips



- Provide adaptive scissors.

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Copy "Abraham and Sarah" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Copy "Baby Isaac" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.

### During the Activity

1. As you review the Bible Story, give each child a copy of "Abraham and Sarah."
2. Next, give each child star stickers or star stamps to put above Abraham and Sarah.
3. Go to each child as they work and count their stars with them.
4. End with giving each child a baby Isaac to glue to their page.

### After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Everyone, come sit at the table with me. We are going to make some story art that will help us remember today's Bible Story!"

### During the Activity

"This is a picture of Abraham and Sarah, (GIVE EACH CHILD AN ACTIVITY PAGE.) God had plans for them. God told them they would have as many people in their family as there are stars in the sky! Let's put stars in the sky above Abraham and Sarah. (GIVE EACH CHILD STAR STICKERS OR A SELF-INKING STAR STAMP) Oh...look at all the stars! Let's try and count the stars together. One, two, three..." (SAY THIS WITH EACH CHILD AS THEY WORK.) God's plans for Abraham and Sarah were for them to have more children than stars in the sky. They were so excited about God's plan, and they knew that God always keeps His promises. They waited, and waited, and waited until one day, they had the baby they had waited and waited for! Abraham and Sarah had a little boy, and they named him Isaac. Let's glue this picture of baby Isaac by Abraham and Sarah. (GIVE EACH CHILD A BABY ISAAC.) God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah, and their family grew... and grew... and grew! There were more people than stars in the sky!"

### After the Activity

"Wow! Your pictures look great! Now you can take them home to help you remember that God had plans for Abraham and Sarah, 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 children to pretend they're carrying a baby as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

### During the Activity

1. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of things we have to wait for.

### After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page →

## GROUPS 6/6

# Journal and Prayer



## Prayer Activity

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### Note

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## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"It's Small Group time! Today we are going to pretend we are carrying a baby, like this **(DEMONSTRATE)**, while we walk to our Small Group spot. Okay, everyone, hold your baby and follow me! **(PRETEND YOU ARE CARRYING A BABY IN YOUR ARMS AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.)** You did a great job holding your babies! We can stop pretending now because it's time to 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, we learned that God had plans for Abraham and Sarah's family to have as many people as there are **WHAT** in the sky? **(PAUSE.)** Yes! Stars! That's a lot of people! Abraham and Sarah waited for God's plans, and they finally had baby boy named Isaac, just like God said they would. God had plans for Abraham and Sarah, and God has plans for you and me too! So tell me, who has plans for you? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God has plans for me! One more time! Who has plans for you? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God has plans for me!

"Yay! **[BOTTOM LINE]** God has plans for me! And we have been learning a Bible verse that 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.)** Did you hear that? 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.)** You sound so good, I think you're ready to say that verse all by yourself. I want everyone to sit down, and we will take turns saying it. Who wants to go first? I have my stickers/star hand-stamp ready! Way to go, **[NAME OF CHILD]!** **(GIVE TWO THUMBS UP)** Here is a **(STICKER/STAMP)** for you! **(SAY AND DO THIS WITH EACH CHILD AS THEY TRY AND SAY THE BIBLE VERSE.)** I'm very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse. When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/stamp. One, two, three! **(PAUSE TO LOOK.)** Yay! **(CLAP.)**

"Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. **(OPEN JOURNAL.)** Today we're going to make a list of things we wait for in our prayer journal. We wait for our turn on the slide. We wait for dinner to be ready. We wait for our birthdays. We wait for all kinds of things! So when I say your name, I want you to tell me one thing you have waited for and I will write it in our journal. Then, we can use the list when we pray. **(REMEMBER TO PRINT, AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)**

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GROUPS 6/6

# Journal and Prayer



## Prayer Activity

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### What You Need

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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.

### After the Activity

"And I am going to add 'God's plans' to our list, because today we learned that we can wait for God's plans. (HOLD UP JOURNAL.) Let's pray and talk to God about it. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.) Dear God, sometimes we have to wait for things like (READ THE LIST THE CHILDREN MADE). Thank You for helping us learn that we can wait for Your plans too. We know Your plans for us are always best, so please help us wait for them. We love You! In Jesus' name. Amen."