

Preteen

Small Group

September — Week 2

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



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 (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Verses to Take with You
4. Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd grade guide.

Today's Bible Story

Joshua and the Spies

Numbers 13-14

Conversation Starter

When is it hard to trust God?

Bottom Line

God can give you courage when others are afraid.

Memory Verse

**"When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you."
Psalm 56:3**



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

- ☐ Pieces of Floor Tape or Floor Dots



① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for each preteen in your group and for the ways He is working in their lives. Recall a time when you felt afraid but chose to trust God. Thank Him for giving you courage when you needed it most. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to help us be brave, even when others around us are afraid. Ask God to help you remind the preteens that they don't have to face fear on their own because He is always with them. Pray that they would learn to focus on God's presence and His promises instead of their fears! Pray that the Holy Spirit would give them the courage to do what's right, even when it feels scary.

1. Before you begin, mark small lines in your group space for each kid to stand on.
→ *NOTE: You can also use floor dots. The kids just need a marked place to stand.*
2. Instruct the kids to stand on a piece of floor tape or on a floor dot.
3. Say, "We're about to play a fun game, and listening is key! I'll call out several actions for you to do, and you are to move in that direction! If you make a wrong move, sit down until the next round!"
4. Challenge the kids by speeding up the actions you call out!
5. Reset and keep playing quick rounds so no one sits out too long.
6. Gather the group to discuss.

Actions to call out:

1. "Front"
2. "Back"
3. "Left"
4. "Right"
5. "JUMP!"
6. "Touch the ground."

② What You Say

"That was so fun! It took some serious focus to make the right move. Sometimes life feels like this—when we're unsure which way to go or wonder if we'll make the right choice. **[TRANSITION]** Well, today's true story from the Bible is about Joshua and some spies who went into an unknown land. Most of them focused on their fears, but two of them put their focus on God, and it made all the difference! Let's go hear the story!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Inclusive Pro Tips



To modify movements, allow the kids to choose how far or fast they move. Or, invite them to point instead of moving.

Keep the energy of this game pressure-free and fun!

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

- "My Journey" Activity Page
- Coloring Supplies
- Pencils
- Device for Playing Music



Inclusive Pro Tips

Some kids might not work well with soft music playing—that's okay! Opt out of playing music if this is the case.

Allow kids to keep their reflections private if they choose to do so.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a "My Journey" Activity Page and a pencil.
2. Set out the coloring supplies.
3. Use the device to play soft worship music in the background while kids work on the activity.
4. Walk through the page one prompt at a time.
 - Mountain: Think about a challenge you've faced that felt hard—something that felt too big to face alone. Write about it or draw a picture in this box.
 - Bridge: Think of a time you did something brave and knew God was with you and was helping you. Use this box to praise God for being with you and giving you courage!
 - River: What's something coming up where you need to ask God for courage? Maybe you're trying out for a new sport, or you want to stand up for a friend being picked on. Ask God for help in this box.
5. Fill out a "My Journey" Activity Page with the kids.
6. Give the kids time between each prompt to process and reflect.
7. Once everyone is finished, lead them to form groups of two or three to discuss their "My Journey" Activity Page together.
8. **[MAKE IT PERSONAL]** Share an age-appropriate time when you had to be brave and trusted the Holy Spirit to help you. Maybe you wanted to try out for a new sports team, or perhaps it was leading this Small Group!
9. **Point out 2 Timothy 1:7 on the Activity Page.**
 - **Ask: What do you think this verse is saying?**
 - **"Whenever you feel fear, that fear is not from God! It's like a shadow trying to dim your light. God Himself lives inside you through His Spirit, and He gives us power and love!"**
 - **"God's Spirit gives you power. The kind of strength you need to do what's right, even when it's hard."**
 - **God's Spirit gives you love. The kind of love you need to care about others and put others first.**
 - **God's Spirit gives you self-control. The kind of wisdom you need to know when to take the brave step, and when to wait."**
10. Explain that when someone chooses to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live in them, so they can be closer to God, and help them be more like Jesus.
11. Encourage kids that God knew life would be scary at times, but He is with them all of the time and can help them be brave, no matter what they're up against.

Note → Look for opportunities to have conversations about what it means to make a decision to follow Jesus! **(IF YOU NEED HELP WITH WHAT TO SAY, ASK YOUR MINISTRY LEADER.)**

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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

What You Need

No Supplies Needed



Inclusive Pro Tips

Be sensitive to kids who may need 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?"

① What You Do

Ask the following:

1. What are people afraid of?
2. Why do you think most of the spies were too afraid to move forward, even though God had promised them the land?
3. Can you recall a time you believed something was possible when others were afraid or unsure?
4. What's something you feel nervous about or unsure you can do?
5. How can remembering that God is the strongest help you face what you are facing?
6. When you choose to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you! What do you think it means to know that God is with you?

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GROUPS 5/5

Pray and Dismiss



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Compass Prayer" Activity Pages
- Clipboards
- Plain Paper
- Pencils

① What You Do

1. Before you begin, spread the four "Compass Prayer" Activity Pages out (North, South, East, West) so they visually form a compass around your group area.
2. Give each kid a clipboard, a piece of plain paper, and a pencil.
3. Instruct them to draw a compass shape on their page like this, "+"
4. Starting with "North," lead your group to travel to each "Compass Prayer" Activity Page, read the prompt, and respond to it on their paper.
5. Encourage them not to rush, this is a personal moment for reflection and connection with God!
6. Close in prayer.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Invite kids to draw instead of writing full sentences.