

# 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

### Rahab / The Promised Land

Joshua 2

(Supporting: Joshua 6:22-25)

#### Conversation Starter

**How can you show someone you care?**

#### Bottom Line

**God can give you courage to help someone in need.**

#### 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

- Offering Container
- Device for Playing Upbeat Music



### Inclusive Pro Tips

This activity can be done sitting down or standing up. Have the kids participate in whatever way works best for the group.

Some kids might not enjoy the physical aspect of a handshake. Kids can create no-contact handshakes using fun movements like waves, snaps, or facial expressions.

## 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 the people in their lives who have helped them. Recall a time when someone showed up for you when you needed it most. Thank God for placing people in your life to help you. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom to know when and how to step in for others. Ask God to help the preteens understand that they don't have to be afraid to help others because He is always with them. Pray that they would understand that helping isn't about getting recognition but it's about showing God's love. Pray that the Holy Spirit would help them become more aware when someone is in need and have the courage to step up and take action!

1. Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Divide the kids into groups of two—it's okay if there's a group of three.
4. Encourage them to create a "secret handshake."
5. Suggest some of the following movements to include:
  - High five
  - Fist bump
  - Elbow tap
  - Spin
  - Finger wiggle
  - Clap behind the back
6. Play some upbeat music in the background to keep the energy high!
7. Gather the group together to discuss.

## ② What You Say

"It was so fun watching you all come up with 'secret handshakes!' Speaking of secrets, **[TRANSITION]** in today's true story from the Bible, we'll discover a woman named Rahab who took a huge risk to hide some spies from God's family and keep them a secret. God helped her make a brave choice to help others! Let's go find out what happened!"

**Transition** → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## 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

- Index Cards
- Pencils
- Timer



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Offer verbal examples for kids to imagine what to draw.

Allow kids to participate verbally.

Draw visual examples and allow kids to copy or point to the example they choose.

## ① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of three. It's okay if there's a group of two.
2. Give each group six index cards and one pencil.
3. Explain how to play:
  - "We're going to look for real ways to live for God by being brave and helping others."
  - "I'm going to read a scenario where someone needs help. You'll have 60 seconds to come up with a way to help, and one of you will draw it with your eyes closed!"
4. After reading each scenario (from the "Help Scenarios" listed below), start the timer for 60 seconds. The groups must quickly discuss it and choose one person to draw their response with their eyes closed.
5. Before reading the next scenario, invite groups to share their solutions and drawings!
  - *NOTE: This game is fun, fast, and not a drawing contest. Have fun with it and make sure there isn't any pressure on how kids draw!*
6. Continue until all the scenarios have been drawn.
7. **[MAKE IT PERSONAL]** Share an age-appropriate example of a time God gave you the courage to help someone. Maybe it was a time you spoke up for someone who was hurting. Or maybe you included someone new.
8. Explain to the kids that they don't have to be brave alone. God is always with them. And when someone chooses to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to help them! The Holy Spirit will nudge them throughout the day, sharing ways to be kind like He is, and then He'll give them the strength and courage to do it!
9. Encourage kids to pray to God and ask Him to help them be brave and show love to someone who needs help.

### Help Scenarios:

- A kid in your class is getting picked on at recess by another group of kids.
- You hear a rumor being shared about someone, and you know it's not true.
- A new kid at church or school doesn't know anyone and sits by themselves.
- You notice your teacher seems overwhelmed.
- Someone in your friend group gets left out of a game.
- Your sibling (or cousin) is really scared about something.

Preteen

Small Group

September — Week 3

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



## ① What You Do

Ask the following:

1. When has someone helped you?
2. If you were in Rahab's shoes, what would you have done?
3. Why do you think Rahab was willing to help the spies, even though it was dangerous?
4. What are some truths about God you can remember that can help you when you're scared to help?
5. What does this moment show us about who God is and what He can do through unlikely people?



**Inclusive Pro Tips**

Allow additional time for kids to process and respond.

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

Preteen

Small Group

September — Week 3

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

→ No Supplies Needed

### Inclusive Optional Supplies

- Index Cards
- Pencils

## ① What You Do

1. Invite kids to form groups of two or three.
2. Explain that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything.
3. Encourage the kids to ask each other:
  - Who can you be brave and help this week?
  - How can I pray for you?
4. Give the kids a few moments to pray for each other.
  - *NOTE: You can let them choose to pray silently or out loud.*
5. Close your group in prayer.

### Inclusive Pro Tips



If kids prefer not to pray out loud, invite them to whisper or pray silently.

Offer index cards and pencils to write or draw who they want to help before sharing.