

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. Spy Mission Escape
2. Courage-In-Action Chain
3. Verse Maze
4. Pray and Dismiss

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 Helps the Spies

Joshua 2

(Supporting: Joshua 6:22-25)

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

- Prepared Bag with nine Bingo Cards Inside
- "Brave Acts Bingo" Activity Page
- Pencils



Inclusive Pro Tips

- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- Be mindful of any kids who might not have had certain experiences yet. Affirm all responses!
- Allow kids to work in pairs if needed.

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 kids in your group and the unique ways He has made them! Recall a time God gave you the courage to help someone in need. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to guide you. Ask God to help you remind the kids that they don't have to be afraid to help others because God is always with them. Pray that the kids would understand that helping others is not about getting attention, but about sharing God's love with others. Ask God to help the kids recognize when He is leading them to take action.

1. Give every kid a "Brave Acts Bingo" Activity Page and a pencil.
2. Say, "We're going to play a game that helps us think about all the different ways people can be brave, even when they feel afraid."

Connect Together

1. Pull one Bingo card from the bag and read it aloud.
2. If a kid has done that act of bravery before, invite them to mark that square on their board.
3. Keep drawing cards until someone gets three in a row (across, up and down, or diagonally).
4. Pause and ask:
 - "What does it take to be brave in these situations?"
 - "How do you think God helps you be brave when you're helping someone else?"

② What You Say

"That was so fun! Guessing the challenges was tough, but you nailed it! **[TRANSITION]** That reminds me of our true story from the Bible today. We're going to hear about some really brave spies. They weren't brave because they were the strongest, but because they knew God was and He was with them. So they trusted God with their big, brave mission. Let's go!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 2/4

Courage- In-Action Chain



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Long Strips of Cardstock
- Tape or Stapler
- Markers
- Pencils



Inclusive Pro Tips

- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- Allow kids to draw instead of write.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a strip of cardstock and a pencil.
2. Instruct the kids to write a situation where they might need courage to help someone.
 - Some suggestions might include: seeing a new kid sitting alone at lunch, including someone who is being left out, standing up for someone being teased, assisting a friend who spills their lunch.
3. Set out the markers.
4. On the back of the strip of cardstock, instruct the kids to use the markers to write or draw how God can help them have courage in that situation.
5. When done, encourage kids to share what they wrote and/or drew.
6. End by linking the strips together with tape or a stapler to create a "Courage Chain" as a reminder that God gives us strength to help others.
7. Hold on to the chain to use during Prayer and Dismissal.

② What You Say

"Thank you for sharing situations where you feel you need courage to help someone in need. It took a lot of courage, and it probably felt a little risky to share what you wrote and drew. But helping someone in need is exactly what Jesus would do.

"Rahab showed incredible courage when she helped the spies. Even though she wasn't a member of God's family, she trusted the one true God and chose to take a huge risk to help them. She showed that she wanted to be on God's team!

"We can show people that we are on God's team too by loving them the way Jesus did! Jesus always helped people who needed help. Like if you're with a group of kids who are making fun of someone, you can be brave and say something kind to defend them. Jesus would be kind too! Or maybe, if you see someone who's alone, you can invite them to play and make them feel welcome. Jesus would make them feel welcome too!

"And you aren't on your own when you're kind like Jesus! When you decided to follow Jesus, God moved inside of you through His Holy Spirit. He is closer than close! And as you go throughout your day, you'll feel a nudge from Him to help and do something. And He will give you the strength and courage to do it! So just do what you feel Him nudging you to do. Jesus' very Spirit will lead you to be kind like He is!" **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage when others are afraid."

Make It Personal → Share about a time when you were brave and you did something to help someone. What did you do? Maybe it was holding the door for them, assisting with groceries, shoveling snow, or mowing a neighbor's lawn. How did they respond when you helped? How do you think the person you helped felt? We show people God's love when we're kind like He is!

GROUPS 3/4

Verse Maze



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Maze Template" Activity Page
- Paper Plates
- Glue Sticks
- Scotch Tape
- Marbles

Inclusive Pro Tips



- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid the pieces from the "Maze Template" Activity Page and paper plates.
2. Review the verse together on the circle of the "Maze Template" Activity Page by saying it out loud several times.
3. As you demonstrate the craft, instruct the kids to follow what you are doing.
4. Glue the Bible verse circle into the middle of the paper plate.
5. Place the paper strips into the shape of an asterisk around the Bible verse in the middle of the paper plate.
6. Tape down the outer edges of each paper strip.
7. Make an arch with each strip, and tape the other end of each paper strip down.
8. Glue the Start/Finish line to the paper plate.
9. Instruct the kids to place a marble at the start line, try to get it through each arch, and back to the finish line.

② What You Say

"Great job creating your paper maze! Just like you had to figure out how to guide your marble through the maze to the finish line, we also need to learn how Jesus can transform our fears into courage by trusting in Him. When we're afraid, it can feel like being stuck in a maze—lost, unsure of which way to go, and maybe even feeling alone. But here's the good news—just like there's always a way out of a maze, God provides a way through our fears. It is trusting that He is with us! Our verse reminds us that whenever we feel scared or uncertain, we can trust that God is right there with us! He will give us the courage we need!"

"When we feel afraid to step up and help someone in need. God doesn't want us to stay stuck in fear—He wants to transform those feelings into courage. He is with you and He is bigger and stronger than anything! So next time you feel nervous about helping someone, remember to ask God for courage to be kind like He is, because **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you the courage to help someone in need."

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Chain from "Courage-in-Action" Chain Activity



Inclusive Pro Tips

- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- Be mindful of kids who may not want to pray out loud. Assure them that God hears every prayer, even the ones that aren't spoken aloud!
- Provide adaptive seating and offer fidget tools to all kids.

① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Place the paper chain in the center.
3. Encourage the kids to think of what they drew or wrote on their strip of paper.
4. Give them a few seconds to silently ask God to give them the courage to help those in need based on what they drew or wrote.
5. Close in group prayer.

② What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for always being with us through Your Holy Spirit. Give us the courage to be kind like You are. Help us in the situations we've shared in this chain. Teach us to listen to Your Spirit so we can be courageous and kind as we go throughout our day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them the Courage-In-Action Chain and share today's **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage to help someone in need.