

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. Moses' Journey
2. Courage Stick
3. Verse in Motion
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

Moses

Exodus 3-6:12, 7-12:42; 13:17-14:31

Bottom Line

God can give you courage when you don't feel ready.

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.

GROUPS 1/4

Show It with Scarves

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Scarves or Bandanas
- "Story Movements" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow kids to sit while performing the motions with their scarves.

① What You Do

1. Instruct the kids to stand up and spread out in your small group area.
2. Direct the kids to stretch their arms out wide like a star to ensure they have enough space.
3. Give each kid a scarf or bandana.
4. Say, "We're going to use our scarves to help us remember the amazing story of Moses and the courage God gave him, even when he didn't feel ready!"
5. Explain how to play:
 - When you move your scarf, the kids are to move their scarves in the same way as you recap the Bible Story.
 - Encourage the kids to imagine being in the story as they follow along!
6. Read through the story recap and movements using the "Story Movements" Activity Page.
7. Gather the kids to discuss.

"Wow! We covered a LOT of events in the life of Moses today! By God's power, the waters of the Red Sea parted, and God's people were saved. It took SO much courage to stand in front of Pharaoh and to lead a whole nation of people! But . . . God was with Moses every step of the way. And guess what? God is with YOU too!

"You will face some things you don't feel ready for—like starting kindergarten, riding the bus for the first time, or trying to read new words. It might feel really scary to introduce yourself to a new friend or to make a mistake and not know how to fix it. What are some things that you might need courage for? **(INVITE RESPONSES.)** Thank you for sharing! Friends, God is with us every step of our lives—even in the hard things! He is stronger and bigger than anything we face! The God who is stronger than everything is with you, and **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"

Make It Personal → Tell your few about an age-appropriate time when you faced something hard —especially something new—that you didn't feel ready for. Maybe you signed up to play a new sport, or you got a brand-new job. Maybe you moved to a new city. Talk about how remembering God was with you helped you have courage when you did the new thing. Maybe God reminded you of His presence through the people He sent to cheer you on, or you carried a Scripture along the way that reminded you of what's true.

GROUPS 3/4

Memory Verse Motions



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Prepared Walking Sticks
- "Courage Trail Markers" Activity Pages
- "Verse Stickers" Activity Page
- Tape



Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version with less movement, show the "Verse Motions" Activity Page and have them point to each motion instead of doing the motion physically.

① What You Do

1. Instruct the kids to get into pairs, and give every pair a Bible.
2. Use the Bible Navigation tips below to lead to the kids to look up Psalm 56:3 together.
3. If any kids struggle to find the verse, use the Bible marker to guide them.
4. Read the verse together several times.
5. Review any unfamiliar words.
6. Show the kids the "Verse Motions" Activity Page and use it to teach the kids motions to Psalm 56:3.
 - NIV: When I'm (point to self) afraid (make a scared face), I put my trust (make a cross with index fingers) in you (point up).
 - NIV: When I am (point to self) afraid (make a scared face), I put my trust (make a cross with index fingers) in you (point up).
7. Repeat the Memory Verse with the motions 3-5 times.
8. Let the kids take turns leading the motions!

Continued on the next page. →

*Finding verses with Kindergarteners

- ① Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page.
- ② Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud.
- ③ Guide them to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number.
- ④ Guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud.
- ⑤ Lead everyone to say the verse together.

*Finding verses with 1st graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. **(HOLD UP A BIBLE OPENED TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS TO SHOW THE KIDS WHAT THE PAGE LOOKS LIKE.)**
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name.
- ③ When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter.

GROUPS 3/4

Memory Verse Motions



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bibles marked at Psalm 56:3
- "Verse Motions" Activity Page

② What You Say

"Whoa! How awesome is the Bible?! It's not just any book—it's God's Word! It helps us discover who God is, and God speaks to us through it! When we memorize verses like Psalm 56:3, we can remember we are NEVER alone! Let's say it again together: When we're afraid, who can we put our trust in? **(PAUSE.)** God! That's right, friends! We're never alone. Whether we're at school, getting ready for bed, or nervous to try something new. He is the biggest, and He goes with us!

"Just like God was with Moses and gave him courage to face what he was facing, God is always with you too and will help you face whatever you are facing. He goes with you through everything, and He will give you the courage to speak up, to try something new, and to keep following Jesus even when it's hard. **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage when you don't feel ready."

Inclusive Pro Tips



For a version with less movement, show the "Verse Motions" Activity Page and have them point to each motion instead of doing the motion physically.

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

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

1. Help kids form groups of two. It's okay if there's a group of three.
2. Invite the kids to share their names with their buddy!
3. Explain to kids that prayer is a conversation we can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!
4. Say: "We're going to take a quiet moment to pray for our friend. You don't have to say your prayer out loud. You can talk to God quietly and ask Him to help them know that God is with them, and to give your friend courage this week!"
5. Once the groups have finished praying, invite them to look each other in the eyes and say, **[BOTTOM LINE]** "God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"
6. Close in prayer.

② What You Say

"God, You are SO amazing! Thank You for helping Moses when he didn't feel ready. Thank You that You reminded him that You were with him, and that gave him courage. Help us remember that You are the biggest, and You are with us in all things! This week, when we're feeling scared or nervous, may Your Holy Spirit help us to know that You are with us, to trust You, and to take brave steps even when it's hard. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share Psalm 56:3 with verse motions. Encourage the kids that this week, **[BOTTOM LINE]** "God can give you courage when you don't feel ready!"



Inclusive Pro Tips

Demonstrate how to draw a heart in the air. Have kids repeat the motion.

When you pray, use simple and clear words so the kids can understand. Offer an opportunity for the kids to respond "Amen" with you at the end.