

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. Label It! Story Review
2. Courage or No Courage
3. I Trust in God!
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

Joshua and the Spies

Numbers 13-14

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

- Offering Container



Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Instead of open-ended guessing, say something like, "Is it red, yellow, or blue?"

Use real objects for kids to see the color and item.

Be flexible with how kids can participate.

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 already knowing each of their worries and the things they're facing. Whether they need courage at school, on the playground, or in their own homes—ask God to help the kids remember that God is with them, they're never alone, and He will help them face whatever they're facing. Thank God for moving into each of His followers. Ask God's Spirit to give the kids courage when they need it!

1. Greet each kid with a big smile and by name as they arrive!
2. Invite anyone who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Gather the kids in a circle.
4. Explain that you'll be playing a few games that you might play in the car on a road trip!
5. Explain how to play:
 - You will quietly pick a color and an item in your head and start describing it without sharing its color yet.
 - For example, you might say, "This fruit is pretty sour! It grows on a tree and is used to make a drink that many people love!" (answer: yellow, lemon)
 - Give the kids time to guess the item.
 - Once someone gets the item right, celebrate them and play another round with a new color and item.
6. Play as many rounds as time allows.

Item Suggestions

1. **Red:** roses, watermelon, a stop sign, a bird, a firetruck, a lobster, a heart
2. **Green:** an apple, a grape, a lime, a plant, broccoli, an avocado, a tractor, a frog, a leaf, money
3. **Yellow:** a banana, corn, a bumblebee, a sun, a lemon, cheese, a rubber duckie, a baby chick
4. **Orange:** a pumpkin, a basketball, a goldfish, a peach, a tiger, a carrot, a fox
5. **Blue:** a bird, the ocean, eyes, peacocks, a shark, jeans, blueberries
6. **Purple:** an eggplant, an octopus, a plum, cabbage, an iris, grapes, grape jelly

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K-1st Grade

Small Group

September — Week 2

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- Offering Container



② What You Say

"That was SUPER fun! You were like detectives figuring out all the items with the clues given to you! **[TRANSITION]** In today's true story from the Bible, 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 with them. He is the strongest! Let's go!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Inclusive Pro Tips



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

Instead of open-ended guessing, say something like, "Is it red, yellow, or blue?"

Use real objects for kids to see the color and item.

Be flexible with how kids can participate.

GROUPS 2/4

Courage or No Courage



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

 Floor Tape


Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Allow kids to point or give thumbs up/down instead of moving to either side of the tape line.

Allow additional time to process. Pause after each scenario and ask follow-up questions if necessary. For example, "Is that courage? What do you think?"

① What You Do

1. Use floor tape to mark a line down the center for your small group area.
2. On one side of the line, tape a big checkmark. (This means, "Yes, that's courage!")
3. On the other side, tape a big "X." (This means: "Nope, not courageous.")
4. Explain how to play:
 - You will read a scenario aloud to the group.
 - If someone thinks the kid is showing courage, they are to jump to the checkmark side.
 - If someone thinks the kid is not showing courage, they are to jump to the "X" side.
5. Read each scenario twice before allowing the kids to respond.
6. Continue in this way until all scenarios have been read.

Scenarios:

1. "Your friend dares you to walk along the top of the playground. It's not safe. She says you're afraid, but you ignore her."
2. "A kid sees someone getting picked on at lunch . . . and doesn't do anything to help."
3. "You find a cool purple pencil on the floor. Later, someone says they lost theirs, and you give it back, even though you're anxious."
4. "You don't want to go to P.E./gym because it's new and scary, so you tell your grown-up you won't try it."
5. "You're nervous to play piano at your recital, but you still do it, and it goes great!"
6. "Your friends are being silly when the teacher leaves the room. But you stay quiet and keep reading like the teacher asked."
7. "You're at the pool. Your grown-up is in the pool, ready to catch you. It's a big jump, but you go for it!"
8. "You forgot to bring back a book you borrowed. You tell the teacher the truth and apologize."
9. End by explaining how, when we ask God for courage, He gives us strength to face difficult things—just like the tape gave the beach ball strength.

Scenarios:

1. You are starting at a new school and don't know anyone. Do you ask God for courage to introduce yourself to new people, or do you stay afraid and keep to yourself?
2. Most kids at lunch are laughing at someone behind their backs. Do you ask God for courage and stand up for them, even when others aren't?
3. Everyone in your Small Group, including you, feels nervous about praying out loud. Do you ask God for courage to go first, or do you stay quiet?
4. Your team doesn't want to include the new kid at practice because they're different. Do you ask God for courage and invite them to join you, even if your teammates say no?

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GROUPS 2/4

Courage or No Courage



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

 Floor Tape

② What You Say

"Great job, friends! You jumped, you thought, and you used your courage muscles!"

"Here's something big I want you to remember: We all have chances every day to be brave. Sometimes being brave feels easy, and sometimes it's hard. And that's okay. You never have to be brave all on your own! When you choose to follow Jesus, God gives you a gift called the Holy Spirit to live inside you. That means God is ALWAYS with you. He is the biggest and can give you the strength and the courage to face whatever hard thing you're facing.

"Even when everyone around you is scared or isn't making the right choice—you can do things differently! So this week, when you face situations where you might be the only one choosing courage, ask the Holy Spirit to remind you that God, the biggest, is with you and ask Him to help you take that big, brave step! Nothing is too big for God, and He lives inside of you, so **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage when others are afraid!"

Inclusive Pro Tips



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

Allow kids to point or give thumbs up/down instead of moving to either side of the tape line.

Allow additional time to process. Pause after each scenario and ask follow-up questions if necessary. For example, "Is that courage? What do you think?"

GROUPS 3/4

I Trust in God!

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bible marked at Psalm 56:3



Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Play seated or standing, depending on the needs of your entire group.

Pair kids so they can participate together.

Try adding a rhythm or beat to help the kids stay focused.

① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to stand in a circle with you.
2. Encourage an older kid to open the Bible marked at Psalm 56:3 and read the Memory Verse. (Or read it yourself.)
3. Say the verse together several times.
4. Discuss any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
5. Explain and demonstrate how to play:
 - As the kids stand in a circle, one at a time, kids are to say one word from the verse.
 - You will start by saying "When," then the kid next to you says "I," and so on.
 - If someone says the wrong word, start the verse over.
 - The kid who says the Bible reference "Psalm 56:3" at the end must sit down. Cheer them on!
 - Continue repeating the verse around the circle until one kid is left standing.
6. Encourage the kids to stand back up and play another round!

② What You Say

"You all are getting so good at remembering this month's Memory Verse! Who can we put our trust in? **(PAUSE.)** God! That's right! Even when something feels scary, like a new school or trying something hard, God wants us to remember He is with us and He can help us face anything! God will give you all the courage you need to face any situation. And don't forget, **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage when others are afraid."

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

 No Supplies Needed

① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit with you in a tight circle.
2. Remind the kids that, [Bottom Line] "God can give you courage when others are afraid!"
3. Lead the kids in reciting the Bottom Line to themselves.
→ "God can give me courage when I'm afraid!"
4. Lead kids in a simple prayer below.
5. Add each kid's name, one at a time, as you pray.

② What You Say

"God, thank You for creating us, loving us, and caring for us no matter what!

"This week, when (KID'S NAME) is afraid, help (KID'S NAME) remember You are with them, You are the biggest, and You face everything with them! Help (KID'S NAME) be brave.

(REPEAT THE LINES ABOVE FOR EVERY KID AROUND THE CIRCLE.)

"We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share today's Bible Story and the truth that God, the biggest, goes with us to face everything. He can give us courage when others are afraid!

Inclusive Pro Tips



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.