

# 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 Game
2. Paper Bag Puppet Theater
3. Right on Target!
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 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
- "Roadside Bingo" Activity Page
- "Bingo Cards" Activity Pages
- Bingo Chips or Paper Scraps



## Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Depending on your group's mobility needs, play in a seated circle or around a table.

Celebrate kids throughout the game, not just those who win!

Allow kids to raise their hand when they get bingo.

## 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. Welcome kids with a big smile and by name as they arrive.
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Say, "Today we're playing roadside bingo! Let's get started!"
4. Divide the kids into groups of two.
5. Give each kid a "Roadside Bingo" Activity Page and bingo chips (or paper scraps).
6. Shuffle the cards from the "Bingo Cards" Activity Page and set them face down in front of you.
7. How to play:
  - You will flip over a card, show it to the group, and say what it is out loud together.
  - The kids will check their card and cover that space with a chip when they see it!
  - Pairs can help each other at any time throughout the game.
  - The first kid with five in a row should yell, "BINGO!"
8. If time allows, have the kids swap their "Roadside Bingo" Activity Page cards and play again!

## ② What You Say

"That was fun! You know, it was so cool to see you all working together to fill your bingo cards. This might have seemed small, but sometimes helping someone takes a whole lot of courage. **[TRANSITION]** Today in our true story from the Bible, we'll hear how God gave Rahab the epic courage to help someone besides herself. AND, God is still doing this today! Come with me!"

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

## GROUPS 1/4

# Spy Game



## Bible Story Review

## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- "Story Adventure" Activity Page



## Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Make sure the cards are at a reachable level for all kids.

## ① What You Do

1. Before you begin, hide the "Story Adventure" Activity Page cards around your group space.
2. Gather the kids together.
3. Say, "Today we're going to go on an adventure as we review what happened with Rahab and the spies!"
4. Explain how to play:
  - Lead the kids to follow you to locate one of the cards. Show them what a card looks like!
  - On your go, kids will travel together around the room to locate the rest of the "Story Adventure" Activity Page cards—there are eight total.
  - As they get closer to finding each card, you can say things like, "You are getting closer!" Or: "You're far away!"
  - Once the kids find a card, instruct them to bring it back to you.
  - Play until all eight cards are collected!
5. Celebrate the kids for finding the images.
6. Work together with your group to place the cards in order.
7. Before reading each card, ask:
  - "What do you see happening in this picture?"
8. Once the cards are in order, read the cards aloud.

## ② What You Say

"WOW! Rahab saw that the one, true God is strong and good, and she chose to believe in Him even though the people in her city didn't. THAT'S where her courage came from. It wasn't just her being brave—it was God helping her to be brave!"

"Rahab knew the spies worshipped the one true God, and she wanted to be a part of God's team, His family, too! So she helped the spies when they needed help. Because of her courage, she and her family were saved when God's people entered Jericho! It was a BIG risk for sure. And guess what? God protected Rahab and her family just like the spies promised. And Rahab not only became an important member of God's family, God was so proud of her trust that He made her a great-great-many-times-great-grandmother of Jesus!"

"God can give you courage too! So when you see someone who needs help, on the playground, at school, or anywhere, **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage to help someone in need."

**Make It Personal** → Tell your few about an age-appropriate time you saw a need and God gave you the courage to help. Maybe you stood up for a friend. Or maybe you helped pack meals for the homeless. Or you helped someone who fell on the playground. Talk about how God helped give you courage to help!

## 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

- Paper Lunch Bags
- Construction Paper
- Glue Sticks
- Markers
- Safety Scissors
- Puppet Example



### Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Offer pre-cut shapes, stickers, and adaptive scissors.

Repeat the instructions one step at a time and offer frequent encouragement.

## ① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a circle.
  - This activity can be done on the floor or at a table—whichever works best for your group!
2. Give each kid a paper lunch bag.
3. Show the puppet example and demonstrate how to place their hands inside like a puppet!
4. Set out the markers, scissors, glue sticks, and construction paper.
5. Invite the kids to decorate their puppet however they'd like.
  - Kids can draw eyes on the flap (bottom of the bag) and a mouth under the flap.
  - They can cut and glue construction paper to make clothes or hair.
6. Divide the kids into groups of two. It's okay if there's a group of three.
7. Instruct the kids to face each other with their finished puppets.
8. Read the scenarios below, one at a time, and let the kids use the puppets to act out how they might respond to show courage and help in that situation.

### Scenarios:

1. **Scenario 1:** A kid in your class keeps getting left out by others. When you play a game at school, this kid is always picked last. How can you show courage and include them?
2. **Scenario 2:** A kid fell off the swings at the playground, and everyone around them won't stop laughing. You can tell the kid is hurt, but no one is doing anything.

## ② What You Say

"I love your puppets, friends! And, I love hearing you talk through what you might do in each of these scenarios! God is full of love and kindness. He sees EVERYONE! And He loves to give us the courage to be kind like He is! When we are kind like He is, we are showing people that God loves them 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. Maybe it's a classmate who's being left out, or a sibling who's struggling with something. They need help! And God will give you the courage and the strength to help! So just do what you feel Him nudging you to do. Jesus' very Spirit will lead you to be kind like He is!"

"I'm SO happy we don't have to be brave alone. God is always with us and wants to help us. This week, ask: 'God, please give me courage to help someone in need.' Because God will give you all the courage you need to help! He cares for you and for all the needs around you. He is kind and He loves people so much! Is there someone God is telling you to be brave and stand up for? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you 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

 No Supplies Needed

## ① What You Do

1. Sit in a circle with your group.
2. Explain to kids that prayer is a conversation we can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!
3. Say, "Let's think of someone who might need help this week. It could be someone at school, home, or someone you saw who needed something."
4. On the count of three, invite the kids to whisper the name of the person they thought of.
  - If kids don't want to whisper the name, allow them to draw a heart in the air to show they have someone in mind.
5. Give the kids one minute to talk to God about that person.
6. Close in prayer.

## ② What You Say

"God, thank You for always being with us. Thank You for loving us and sending Jesus to rescue us so that we can have a friendship with You—forever! Thank You for being so close to us through Your Holy Spirit. Teach us to listen to Him. And give us Your strength and courage when we see a need to so we can help! We love You so much, God. Thank You for loving us first. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**Transition** → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their paper bag puppets as they talk about how **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can give you courage to help someone in need.

### Inclusive Pro Tips



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

If a kid needs more space, allow them to sit outside the circle and still be included.

Offer adaptive seating or fidget tools to all kids.