

Large Group Leader Guide

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 (10 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (30 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Small Group (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect 1. Bible Story

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

THIS MONTH



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"
Psalms 56:3



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

① Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.
 SLIDE → Theme
 Optional Video → Theme Loop

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown
 Optional Video → Theme Intro
 Optional Video → Theme Loop

HOST: “Hey movers! Welcome! I’m so glad you’re here today! Our theme is ‘On the Move,’ and we’re definitely going to do some moving today! Are you ready to travel? To be a mover?”

→ Pause for cheers.

“Awesome! Let’s start with a super-fun game called ‘Transportation Freeze Dance!’ I’m going to play some music, and when the music plays, I’ll call out different ways to travel, and you move like that! When the music stops, FREEZE! Got it?”

→ Quickly demonstrate moving like a car, then freezing.

“Okay, everybody, stand up! And then find some space to move! (PAUSE WHILE THE KIDS CREATE SPACE TO MOVE.)”

“Great! First up . . . let’s be AIRPLANES! Spread your wings!”

AUDIO → Play high-energy music

Start the music either with the coordination of the tech booth, or with a music player the Host controls.

(STOP THE MUSIC RANDOMLY AND ABRUPTLY.) “Okay, freeze! Great job, everyone! You are definitely ‘On the Move!’ This time, let’s be something different. Let’s be TRAINS! Everyone move on down the tracks!”

→ Lead the game for several rounds, calling out different modes of transportation: airplane, train, boat, car, walking fast, skipping, hopping, camel, maybe even rocketship! Encourage fun movements. Stop the music abruptly each time for the freeze.

(AFTER THE LAST FREEZE) “Fantastic freezing, everyone! That was some serious traveling! You know, God’s people in our Bible Story today did a LOT of traveling. They were definitely ‘On the Move!’ But sometimes, on a big journey, things can seem scary, but since God is always with us, we

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

can trust Him, and that can give us courage. He is the biggest! Now, let's keep standing and get ready to worship the God who goes with us and helps us be brave!"

② Worship

→ Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everybody! What's up? It's SO good to see all of you here today! That last game looked like a ton of fun—you guys were crushing it! Now, we get to switch gears just a little bit and do something super-important, something that helps us connect with God, the One who gives us strength and courage for all those challenges. That's worship! This is our time to sing, to shout, to focus on how amazing God is, and to tell Him how much He means to us. Are you ready to make some noise and give God your best today? Awesome! Let's get started!"

Video → ALIVE - Amazing Kids

"Awesome! Let's say our Memory Verse together. It's Psalm 56:3.

SLIDE -> Memory Verse

"Let's read it together:"

WORSHIP LEADER and KIDS: "When I'm afraid. I put my trust in you. — Psalm 56:3."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Trusting God! That's key. When we trust God, we can have confidence no matter what others say, because we know and believe that what He says about us is more true than what anyone else says! You are a child of a Father who loves you!"

Video → Who You Say I Am

"Wow, that was incredible worship, you guys! I love hearing your voices and seeing you connect with God like that. Now, let's get comfortable, find our seats, and get ready to dive into God's Word to hear an amazing true story from the Bible!"

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Bible Story

SLIDE -> Theme Background

→ Storyteller enters with prop box as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! I’m so glad you’re here! In case you missed it, this year we’re doing something amazing! We’re going through the entire story of the Bible!

“Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can get to know Him! So as we go through the stories of the Bible, we’ll get to know God!

GOD’S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

“We’re going to go through God’s Big Story! (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)

SLIDE -> God’s Big Story

“Each week, we’ll look at a story from God’s Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we’ve been in the Bible as we journey along. (GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)

“Adam and Eve were the first people God made. God made them to be His close friends! But they sinned, and it pulled them away from God. God wanted them to be close to Him, but they couldn’t anymore! God didn’t go away, but people’s hearts did. It was so sad. And everyone who was born after Adam and Eve was born with the same problem—they couldn’t be close friends with God either.

“And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

“But God didn’t want to leave things that way! So He started His great rescue plan. And this great rescue was going to come through a family! So God started His great rescue with a man named Abraham. God chose

Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family.

Abraham’s family grew and grew and grew—just like God had said—and became God’s people. Eventually, God’s people were enslaved in Egypt. But then God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt to freedom in the wilderness. God had brought His people to freedom! That’s where we are in God’s Big Story!

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Today, we’re moving right along in the Bible to the fourth book—Numbers. (HOLD UP BIBLE.)

“This book of the Bible is called Numbers because it talks about counting God’s people as they were traveling. They were traveling to the land God had promised to give them! The Promised Land!

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

“God’s people were free, but being free wasn’t always easy. Pretty quickly, the celebration stopped, and the complaining started. ‘We’re hungry!’ ‘We’re thirsty!’ God’s people said. They were afraid. But even when they complained, did God stop loving them? No way! God kept providing. He made water come out of a rock!

→ Pull out the full water bottle and pretend to drink out of it.

“God sent special bread called ‘manna’ from heaven every morning as they were traveling! It might not have been like this cereal, but we can pretend. The people said the manna tasted like wafers made with honey. So it was sweet! God delivered breakfast every morning!

→ Pull out the cereal box of sweet flakes.

“He also provided quail every day—I wonder if it tasted like chicken. When the people arrived at a special mountain on their journey, God came down to Moses and gave them His good rules, the Ten Commandments, to help them know ways they could love Him and ways they could live better. God always took care of His people.

TWELVE SPIES CHECK OUT THE PROMISED LAND

STORYTELLER: “After almost two years of traveling, they finally reached the edge of the Promised Land! God told Moses:

→ Open the Bible to Numbers 13:2 (NIRV) and read.

“Send some men to check out the land of Canaan. I am giving it to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of Israel’s tribes.”

→ Pull out binoculars and pretend to spy.

“So, twelve spies snuck into Canaan. For forty days, they traveled all around. They saw amazing things! The fruit was HUGE!

→ Show giant fruit prop (OR THE BUNCH OF PURPLE BALLOONS ON A STRING).

“The grapes were so big it took two men to carry one bunch on a pole between them! It was definitely a land with plenty of milk and honey! God had made the Promised Land so wonderful! BUT . . . the spies also saw that the people living there were really tall and strong—some really were giants! And their cities had huge walls!

“The twelve spies came back to camp. They gave Moses their report. They said:

→ Open the Bible to Numbers 13:27 (NIRV) and read.

“We went into the land you sent us to. It really does have plenty of milk and honey! Here’s some fruit from the land. But the people who live there are powerful. Their cities have high walls around them and are very large.”

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

“Then Caleb stopped the spies who were speaking to Moses. He knew God was with the people. So he gave a good report of what the people should do.

- Hold up the piece of bright, yellow construction paper—the “good report” prop—as you read what Caleb said.

“He said this:

- Open the Bible to Numbers 13:30 (NIRV) and read.

“We should go up and take the land. We can certainly do it.”

“Joshua, one of the other spies, agreed with Caleb. But the other ten spies spread a bad report among God’s people. This is what they said:

- Hold up the crumpled piece of black or brown construction paper—the “bad report” prop—as you read what the ten spies said.

- Open the Bible to Numbers 13:31-33 (NIRV) and read.

“We can’t attack those people. They are stronger than we are. The men spread a bad report about the land among the Israelites. They said, “The land we checked out destroys those who live in it. All the people we saw there are very big and tall. . . . We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes. And that’s also how we seemed to them.”

“Oh no! Ten of the spies were super-scared! Can you show me what you would do to show you were scared right now?”

- Storyteller models cowering, shaking, and looking afraid. Look out at the audience for their response.

“Yeah, those ten spies were focusing on the scary giants instead of the strong God who was with them!

“But Joshua and Caleb weren’t scared. They remembered that God was with them and that He had promised to give them the land! They said:

- Open the Bible to Numbers 14:7-9 (NIRV) and read.

“We passed through the land and checked it out. It’s very good. If the LORD is pleased with us, he’ll lead us into that land. It’s a land that has plenty of milk and honey. He’ll give it to us. But don’t refuse to obey him. And don’t be afraid of the people of the land. We will swallow them up. The LORD is with us. So nothing can save them. Don’t be afraid of them.”

“Joshua and Caleb chose to trust God and have courage! ‘God is with us!’ they said. Show me a brave pose!

- Storyteller models standing tall, maybe fist pumping or pointing up.

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

“Joshua and Caleb were focusing on God’s strength instead of on their fear!

“But did the people listen to Joshua and Caleb? No, they didn’t! They listened to the ten scared spies.

LETTING FEAR WIN

STORYTELLER: “Suddenly, God’s glory appeared! God was very hurt. His people didn’t trust Him—even though He kept showing them how good He is by taking care of them.

→ Hold up the sweet flakes cereal box and the bottle of water.

“Moses prayed and asked God to forgive them, and God did. This is what God said:

→ Open the Bible to Numbers 14:20-23 (NIRV) and read.

The LORD replied, “I have forgiven them, just as you asked. You can be sure that I live. You can be just as sure that my glory fills the whole earth. And here is what you can be just as sure of. Not one of these people will see the land I promised to give them. They have seen my glory. They have seen the signs I did in Egypt. And they have seen what I did in the desert. But they did not obey me. And they have tested me ten times. So not even one of them will ever see the land I promised to give to their people of long ago. The person who has not respected me will never see it.”

“The people were very sad. Even though God is bigger and stronger than anything, they had let fear be bigger than their view of Him. They let their fear win. Only Joshua and Caleb, who chose to trust God and chose courage even when everyone else was afraid, would get to move into the land God promised.

→ Storyteller does a slow “wandering” walk.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Wow. The people were really scared. God wanted them to go into the Promised Land and take it over. He had promised that He was giving it to them! Over and over, they had seen Him do strong and powerful things! God’s people knew He is strong and powerful. But they focused and focused on the tough things that were in front of them. And their fear got really big, while their view of God got really small.

“But that’s not what happened with Joshua and Caleb! Even though they were facing the same tough things as the other spies, they chose to focus on God. Their view of Him got bigger and bigger, and their fears got smaller and smaller. They trusted God, and He gave them the courage to face the tough things.

“Joshua and Caleb showed us something so important:

SLIDE -> Bottom Line

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

[BOTTOM LINE] “God can give you courage when others are afraid. Say that with me.”W

STORYTELLER and KIDS: [BOTTOM LINE] “God can give you courage when others are afraid.”

SLIDE -> Theme
Optional Video -> Theme Loop

HOST: “Wow, it’s tough when everyone around you is scared, but you know God wants you to remember He is bigger than anything, and that can help you be brave! Joshua and Caleb chose to focus on God and His strength and His promises instead of those scary giants and tall walls. That’s where their courage came from! Sometimes, being brave means being the first one to do the right thing, even if no one else is. Like maybe being the first one to say ‘hi’ to the new kid at school, or speaking up kindly if someone is being teased.

GOD’S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

“Let’s take a look at the progress we made in God’s Big Story this week!

SLIDE -> God’s Big Story

“In God’s Big Story, we’re a little bit after the picture of God working through Moses to part the Red Sea. We’re traveling on the path—we’re traveling, just like God’s people were! (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)

“This week we talked about Joshua and Caleb and the ten other spies who went to scope out the land God had promised to His people—the Promised Land! God, once again, took care of His people. Every need that came up on their journey, God met it. If they were thirsty, He got them water! If they were hungry, He delivered them food! Even the land that was going to be their future home that they spied into was awesome—the Promised Land. Every step of the way, God took care of this family. He took care of this family because He is good, but also, as we’ll see in God’s Big Story, because He was bringing His great rescue through this family. By taking care of this family, God was also taking care of us. Because Jesus, our great rescue, would come from this family!

“Let’s put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE -> Week 2 Timeline Image

If you’re making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today’s timeline image on the clothesline.

“This week we talked about Joshua and Caleb and the other spies!

WHAT’S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

STORYTELLER: “When we think about Joshua and Caleb and the other spies, we can remember that God is always, always bigger and stronger

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

than anything we face. And if we think and think and think about God's strength and His bigness and His power, our view of Him will grow bigger and bigger until the thing we're afraid of will get smaller and smaller in our minds! Other people might be scared, and that's okay! We can be brave because we know God is with us and He is bigger than anything! God is the biggest!

"And this is really awesome, but we don't have to try and work up courage all on our own. God was with Joshua and Caleb, and God is with us too. When we choose to follow Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit to live right inside us!

The Holy Spirit will help us remember God's bigness and will give us the courage we need, right when we need it. So we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us be brave at school, on the playground, at home . . . anywhere! He's always with us! Let's pray and ask God to help us trust that He is with us so we can be brave!"

③ Prayer

HOST: "Dear God, thank You for the story of Joshua and Caleb. Thank You for showing us that You give us courage, especially when others around us might be afraid. Help us to focus on You and how strong You are, instead of on the scary things. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to live inside us and help us be brave every single day. When we're afraid, remind us that You are with us and help us to put our trust in You. We want to go through our lives knowing You are with us, and You are the biggest. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO -> Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE -> Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop