

K-5th

Large Group

September — Week 1

# 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

## Moses

Burning Bush, Plagues, Red Sea  
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

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, hey, adventurers! Welcome! Are you ready to move today? (WAIT FOR CHEERS.) Awesome! On our big life adventure with God, sometimes we feel super-brave and ready to charge ahead, right? But other times . . . maybe we feel a little unsure, a little hesitant, maybe even like taking a step back. And guess what? That’s okay!

“This month we’re talking about all about COURAGE! (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)

SLIDE → Theme Slide

“Courage is when God helps you to be brave enough to do hard things. And sometimes we face things in our life that we just don’t feel big enough for, but He is! And thankfully, our good God goes with us through all things. So when we trust in Him, we’ll find the courage to do hard things!

“Like we mentioned before, a lot of times in life we may feel a little unsure, a little hesitant about taking steps forward, and that’s okay. That’s something we’re going to see play out in today’s game! Today’s game is all about moving forward, even when we feel unsure. It’s called: ‘Step Forward, Step Back!’

SLIDE → Step Forward, Step Back

“Everyone find a spot behind this starting line! (GESTURE TO THE LINE.)

- Direct the kids whom you have decided to compete in the game to line up behind the start line. (EITHER A SMALL GROUP OR ALL OF THE KIDS, DEPENDING ON YOUR GROUP SIZE.)
- Optional: Use the suggested sound effects, or ones you like, after certain moves.

“This game is pretty simple! When I give a command, you follow the move! The goal is to make it all the way to the finish line over there! (GESTURE TO THE FINISH LINE.) So listen carefully!

“Alright travelers, here is your first command: take a Courageous Step Forward!

20 MINUTES

# Story

10 MINUTES

# Worship

→ Watch as kids take a big step.

“Nice! Take another Courageous Step Forward!

→ Watch as kids step again.

“Uh oh . . . you’re Feeling Unsure . . . take a Small Step Back!

→ Watch as kids take tiny step back.

“Okay, shake it off! Trust God—take a Giant Leap!

→ Watch as the kids take a big leap forward.

“Whoa! Freeze!

→ Watch as the kids freeze.

SFX -> Record scratch (OPTIONAL)

“Okay, let’s keep moving! Courageous Hop Forward!

→ Watch as the kids hop.

SFX -> Boing . . . boing (OPTIONAL)

“Feeling Unsure . . . Small Step Back!

→ Watch as the kids step back.

“Brave Spin!

→ Watch as the kids spin.

“Courageous Skip Forward!

→ Watch as the kids skip.

“Trust God—Giant Leap!

→ Continue calling out commands—mix forward and backward steps, add fun movements like hops, skips, a “Brave Spin!” or a quick “Freeze!” Adjust calls to allow kids to eventually reach the finish line.

→ Optional: Use sound effects after certain moves.

“You made it! Amazing job, everyone! You kept moving forward even when you had to take a step back sometimes! That takes courage! Sometimes in life, we feel like Moses in our Bible Story today—maybe not quite ready for the big thing ahead. But we’re learning that even then . . .

“God can give you courage when you don’t feel ready. Say it loud!”

20 MINUTES

# Story

10 MINUTES

# Worship

KIDS: “God can give you courage when you don’t feel ready!”

HOST: “He sure can! Let’s stand tall and get ready to worship the God who goes with us through everything and gives us courage!”

## ② Worship

→ Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Video → ALIVE - HILLSONG Y&F

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 when we’re afraid . . . that takes courage. And knowing He is our hope makes all the difference. He gives us the strength to face anything. Let’s declare that together as we sing ‘You Are My Hope!’”

Video -> MY LIGHTHOUSE - REND COLLECTIVE

“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 -&gt; Theme Background

→ Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

### INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: “Hello, friends! If you were here for the last few weeks, you’ll remember that we’re doing something awesome this year! We’re going through the key stories in the entire Bible!

“We’re journeying through the key stories of the Bible, cover to cover.

“Why are we going to look at the story of the entire Bible? Well, part of the reason why God gave us the Bible is so we can know who He is and what He is like. He wants us to learn about Him! So hopefully as we go through the story of the Bible, we’ll learn about God.

### GOD’S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

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

SLIDE -&gt; God’s Big Story

“Each week, we’ll explore a key story in God’s Big Story, and we’ll add a picture to our timeline here. (GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)

“But before we jump into this week’s story, let’s look at where we have been and where we are in God’s Big Story!

“Last month we saw how in the very beginning, God made everything! He made the heavens, the Earth, and everything on it—animals, people . . . everything!

“Two of the most important things God made in the beginning were two people, named Adam and Eve. They were meant to be His close friends. But sadly, God gave them one rule, and they chose not to follow it. They disobeyed God and sinned. And their sin pulled them away from God. Sadly, everyone who came after them had a sin-filled heart that pulled them away from God. People couldn’t be as close to God as He wanted them to be.

“Sin also did something else terrible and awful. It brought sickness, pain, suffering, and death into the world.

“But God loves us! He didn’t want to leave things that way! So He started His great rescue plan. A key part of this rescue plan was to bring people back to being His close friends, which is what He has always wanted us to be.

“God started this great rescue plan through a family! So God chose a man named Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. Abraham’s family included Abraham, Isaac, Jacob . . . and

20 MINUTES

# Story

10 MINUTES

# Worship

Jacob's son, Joseph. Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt. But he rose to become second in command of the whole country! Years later, Joseph invited his family to come to Egypt, where they were saved from famine. But hundreds of years passed, and a new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn't know about Joseph.

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story! God's people were in Egypt.

## SETTING UP THE STORY

"Last month, we started going through the Bible right at the beginning, in the book of Genesis. Genesis is the very first book in the Bible! (HOLD UP BIBLE.)

"Today we're continuing right along in the Bible in a story from the book of Exodus—the second book of the Bible! (HOLD UP BIBLE.) This amazing story is about God's people, a leader named Moses, and how Moses helped get God's people out of Egypt.

## MOSES' BACKSTORY

STORYTELLER: "Let me tell you a little about Moses' backstory. It's amazing!

"God said He would make His people into a great nation, and He had! He had grown and grown and grown His people until there were so many of them.

"But Pharaoh, the king of Egypt where God's people were, didn't like that at all. So he said this:

→ Open the Bible to Exodus 1:9-10 (NIRV) and read.

"Look," he said to his people. "The Israelites are far too many for us. Come. We must deal with them carefully. If we don't, there will be even more of them. Then if war breaks out, they'll join our enemies. They'll fight against us and leave the country."

"Pharaoh was afraid of God's people and made them slaves. But the more he was mean to God's people, the more they grew and spread. So, to try to stop God's people from growing, Pharaoh made a terrible decree to kill the boys who were born. Things looked hopeless for God's people.

"They cried out to God for help! And God heard them and came to help them. Part of His rescue plan involved a man named Moses.

"Moses' family was brave. When he was a baby, they hid him in a basket by the river. And guess who found him? Pharaoh's own daughter! She raised Moses like her own son.

"But when Moses got older, he got into trouble trying to help his people. He had to run far away to a land called Midian. He lived there quietly for a long time as a shepherd, maybe thinking his story was over. But it was far from over!

20 MINUTES

# Story

10 MINUTES

# Worship

## GOD CALLS A SCARED MOSES

STORYTELLER: "One day, while Moses was watching sheep, he saw something unbelievable!

(STORYTELLER LOOKS AMAZED.) "A bush . . . was on FIRE!

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

SFX -> Crackling fire

"But the bush wasn't burning up! Then, God CALLED to Moses from the bush!

→ Open the Bible to Exodus 3:4-6 (NIRV) and read.

*"God spoke to him from inside the bush. He called out, "Moses! Moses!"*

*"Here I am," Moses said.*

*"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground." He continued, "I am the God of your father. I am the God of Abraham. I am the God of Isaac. And I am the God of Jacob." When Moses heard that, he turned his face away. He was afraid to look at God.*

"Was Moses excited? Ready to go? Not exactly! Moses was unsure and scared. But Moses spoke to God and said . . .

→ Open the Bible to Exodus 3:11 (NIRV) and read.

*"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" he said. "Who am I that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"*

"Moses thought that this was something too big for him. But God said something amazing.

→ Open the Bible to Exodus 3:12 (NIRV) and read.

*God said, "I will be with you."*

"God wanted to help Moses! He even gave Moses signs to perform to back up what he was saying when he talked to Pharaoh. God even told Moses that He would help him with exactly what to say!

"But Moses kept sharing over and over why he was afraid to talk to Pharaoh. But God never gave up on Moses, and He helped him. Even after Moses said he didn't speak well, God told Moses that he would send Moses' brother Aaron to help him speak.

"Finally, Moses did what God said. He went back to Egypt.

"Moses and his brother Aaron stood before Pharaoh. They said, 'The God of Israel says: "Let My people go!"' Did Pharaoh listen? Nope! He made

20 MINUTES

# Story

10 MINUTES

# Worship

God's people work even harder! Moses felt discouraged. But God was with Moses and His people!

## THE TEN PLAGUES

STORYTELLER: "So God showed His power and performed plagues so that the Pharaoh would let God's people go.

"First, God turned the river into blood.

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

SFX -> Water rushing

"There were . . . FROGS!

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

SFX -> Quick ribbit/croaking

"Then there was a plague of gnats, and a plague of flies.

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

SFX -> Buzzing flies

"Then God sent a plague that killed all of the Egyptian livestock and a plague where all of the Egyptians got painful boils.

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

SFX -> Crying baby

"But did Pharaoh let the people go? NO! Then God sent . . . HAIL!

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

→ SFX: Quick thunder/hail

"It rained down ice! But did Pharaoh let the people go? NO! Then God sent locusts—they ate any of the crops that were left behind from the hail!

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

SFX -> Quick swarm sound

"But did Pharaoh let the people go? NO! Then God sent . . . DARKNESS!

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

20 MINUTES

# Story

10 MINUTES

# Worship

SFX -&gt; Spooky wind

“Total darkness covered Egypt! But did Pharaoh let the people go? STILL NO!

“Then, sadly, God told Moses about the worst plague of all. Every firstborn male of Egypt was going to die.

“God instructed His people how to protect themselves from the awful plague that was coming. Through Moses, God instructed each family to kill a lamb. He gave them instructions to take the blood from the lamb and put it on the sides and tops of the frames of their doors. These were the directions God spoke to the people through Moses:

→ Open the Bible to Exodus 12:22-23 (NIRV) and read.

*None of you can go out of the door of your house until morning. The LORD will go through the land to strike down the Egyptians. He'll see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe. He will pass over that house. He won't let the destroying angel enter your homes to strike you down.*

“God provided a way for His people to be safe, and that very night, every eldest son in Egypt died except for the firstborn sons of God's people who had covered their doorways with the blood of lambs.

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

SFX -&gt; Sad/dramatic sound

“So FINALLY, Pharaoh shouted, ‘GO! GET OUT!’ So God's people quickly packed and moved out of Egypt.

“As God's people left Egypt, He led them. He led them with a giant cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night so they would know where to go.

“But that awful Pharaoh changed his mind AGAIN! He sent his army chasing after God's people! God's people were trapped between the Egyptian army and the huge Red Sea! They were terrified! But God was with them.

→ Open the Bible to Exodus 14:13-16 (NIRV) and read.

*Moses answered the people. He said, “Don't be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the LORD will save you today. Do you see those Egyptians? You will never see them again. The LORD will fight for you. Just be still.”*

*Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.”*

20 MINUTES

# Story

10 MINUTES

# Worship

"Moses obeyed! (STORYTELLER MIMES STRETCHING OUT A HAND.) And God sent a mighty wind!

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

SFX -> Whooshing wind

"The wind blew ALL NIGHT, pushing the waters apart, making a path of DRY LAND right through the middle of the sea! God's people walked through safely! But when the Egyptian army chased them into the path . . . Moses stretched out his hand again! (MIME STRETCHING HAND.) And the waters came CRASHING back down!

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

SFX -> Water crashing/splash

"God wiped out the entire army! His people were safe! They cheered and sang!

→ Storyteller dramatically presses the button.

SFX -> Cheering/triumphant sound

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Moses had been afraid. He didn't feel ready. But God told him how He would help, over and over and over. Finally, Moses chose to trust God, even though he was scared. God gave him courage when he didn't feel ready! And God rescued His people in an amazing way!

"Remember that Passover, when God saved His people? God asked His people to remember that event every year because that was a picture pointing forward to JESUS! Jesus is God's perfect Lamb. Jesus gave His life for us. He poured out His blood. And His blood pays for that awful sin that pulled us away from God. Because Jesus gave His life for us, we can be close friends with God! God was pointing to His rescue, all throughout His story.

"So when you are in a situation where you feel scared, or unsure what to do, God might not ask you to part a sea. But He will ask you to do things that take courage. And if He does, He will go through it with you every step of the way. Maybe it's something big like moving to a new place, or something smaller like being kind when it's hard. You might not feel ready, but guess what?

SLIDE -> Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] "God can give you courage when you don't feel ready.

20 MINUTES

# Story

10 MINUTES

# Worship

Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER and KIDS: [BOTTOM LINE] “God can give you courage when you don’t feel ready!”

→ Host enters.

SLIDE -> Theme  
Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE)-> Theme Loop

STORYTELLER: “Wow! What a story! Using sound effects really brought it to life! It’s amazing how Moses felt so unsure at the beginning. He had so many excuses. But God didn’t need Moses to feel ready. God just needed Moses to trust Him. And God promised to be with him every step of the way, and that would give him the courage he needed to face what was coming up in his life, the Pharaoh.

“And that’s the same for us with what we are facing! We don’t have to rely on our own feelings of bravery. When we face something new or scary or hard, and we don’t feel ready, we can remember that God is always, always with us.

“When we follow Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit to live inside us. The Holy Spirit helps us be brave and gives us the courage we need, right when we need it. God is always with us, He goes with us through everything, and He will help us! He is closer than close, and we go through everything with Him. We never go through anything alone.”

“So, this week, if you face something and you think: ‘Whoa, I don’t feel ready for this!’ remember that God is with you. Ask Him to assure you of His closeness, so you feel it in your heart, and ask God for the courage only He can give.”

### GOD’S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

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

SLIDE -> God’s Big Story

“This week, we’re up here in the part of this picture of God’s Big Story with Moses raising his hands while God parts the Red Sea to save His people. (GESTURE TO SLIDE.) That’s where we are in God’s Big Story!

“This week, we looked at the story of Moses. God had an important job for Moses, but Moses had lots of worries! For every single worry, God provided help. And God didn’t only take care of Moses, He also took care of His people. Every time they cried out to Him, He helped. God is always good. And by taking care of this family, God was also taking care of us. Because many, many, many years later, as we’ll see, Jesus, our great rescue, would come from this family. And Jesus would rescue us all!

20 MINUTES

# Story

10 MINUTES

# Worship

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

SLIDE -> Week 1 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 Moses!”

### WHAT’S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

STORYTELLER: “When we think about Moses, we can remember that in spite of his fears, God always promised to be with him. God gave Moses signs, He gave him his brother to help him speak—all of these things to help him. But most importantly, God gave Moses His presence. He promised that He would go with him.

“And the same is true about you. God is with you everywhere you go. He faces everything with you! So even when you face something tough, remember that God is always with you. You can trust Him even when you don’t feel like you can do what you’re facing alone. He will give you the ability to do it, even if you’re scared, and He will go with you every step of the way. Let’s pray and ask God for that courage right now.”

### ③ Prayer

HOST: “Dear God, thank You for the incredible story of Moses. Thank You that You are always with us and You never leave us—even when we’re scared. Teach us to trust You so we can be brave. Please give us the courage we need to face whatever we’re facing because we are facing it with You. 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

## PLANNING

# Getting Ready: Bible Story

## Optional Videos

*Available for purchase.*

- Theme Loop
- Virtue Transition to Theme

## Optional for God's Big Story

- Clothesline and clothespins for the

timeline in your room

- God's Big Story Slide
- Week 1 Timeline Image Slide
- We recommend that you create a

timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed timeline images in order, week by week. We'll provide a timeline image for each week of curriculum. The timeline image is listed as a slide, but can be printed. A [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

## What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Tech booth volunteer: Person ready to play specific Sound Effects (SFX) on cue
- Extra script for tech booth volunteer
- Non-working "Easy Button" or similar prop (The Storyteller will press this dramatically on stage to cue the tech booth. We suggest that you ensure clear communication/sightlines between Storyteller and tech booth.)

## Large Group Visuals

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Theme Slide

## Music and Sound Effects

- Sound Effects (SFX) List: (Prepare these audio files)
  - Crackling fire (for burning bush)
  - Water rushing
  - Ribbit/croaking (for frogs plague—brief)
  - Buzzing flies (for flies plague)
  - Crying baby (for painful boils plague)
  - Thunder/hail (for hail plague—brief)
  - Swarm sound (for locust plague—brief)
  - Spooky wind (for darkness plague—brief)
  - Sad/dramatic sound (for final plague)
  - Whooshing wind (for Red Sea parting)
  - Water crashing/splash (for Red Sea closing)
  - Cheering/triumphant sound (for God's people are safe)
- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

## What You Do:

- Prepare the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Before group time, we suggest preparing and testing all SFX files. We also suggest the Storyteller going through the script with the tech booth operator so they can practice the timing of hitting the prop button to cue the sound effects.
- Print out an additional copy of the script for the tech booth operator so they are aware of the SFX cues.
- If you do not have a system to be able to play music like this, you can use a smartphone or computer and play off of that instead of a button.