

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

Small 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 (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Grain Movers  ALLERGY
2. Family Portrait
3. Put it in the Basket

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Worship
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Memory Verse with Motions
2. Follow the Line
3. Pass the Thanks
4. Collecting Food
5. Thank God for Family  ALLERGY
6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Going Home
- Memory Verse Card
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz

I can thank God for family.
Ruth 1-2

Key Question

Who can thank God for everything?

Bottom Line

I can thank God for everything.

Memory Verse

"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart."

Psalms 111:1 ESV



EveryChild Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive prompts. Check out the additional Special Needs resources included.

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GROUPS 1/6

Memory Verse with Motions



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF
- Cardstock
- VELCRO® dots
- Scissors



EveryChild Tips

Invite children to say it with you or repeat words after you.

Set out the picture cutouts made from the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF for children to hold up or point to as an alternative to saying or repeating the verse out loud.

① What You Do

Note → You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

Before the Activity

1. Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

During the Activity

1. Teach the Memory Verse motions.
2. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. 'I will give thanks (**MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN**) to the LORD (**POINT UP**) with my whole heart,' (**TAP HEART TWICE**) Psalm 111:1.' (**OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.**)

Continued on the next page. →

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GROUPS 1/6

Memory Verse with Motions

USES MINIMAL SUPPLIES

MADE TO Move

Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

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- Cardstock
- VELCRO® dots
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EveryChild Tips

Invite children to say it with you or repeat words after you.

Set out the picture cutouts made from the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF for children to hold up or point to as an alternative to saying or repeating the verse out loud.

② What You Say (cont.)

During the Activity

"Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'I will give thanks.' (MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN.) Make your hand flat and put your fingertips on your chin like this. (PLACE YOUR RIGHT HAND UP TO YOUR FACE WITH YOUR FINGERTIPS RESTING ON YOUR CHIN.) Now bring your flat hand out from your face like this (MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN) and say, 'I will give thanks.' (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'To the LORD.' (POINT UP.) Put one finger up and stretch it up over your head like this (POINT UP) and say 'to the Lord.' (PAUSE.) Now let's put that together. 'I will give thanks (MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN) to the LORD.' (POINT UP.) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: "With my whole heart.' (TAP HEART TWICE.) Cross your right hand over your chest and tap your heart two times like this (REACH RIGHT HAND OVER CHEST AND TAP HEART TWICE) and say 'with my whole heart.' (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Nice job! Now let's put that together. 'I will give thanks (MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN) to the LORD (POINT UP) with my whole heart.' (TAP HEART TWICE.) Super!

"Now the last part is: Psalm 111:1. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK) and say: Psalm 111:1. (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? 'I will give thanks (MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN) to the LORD (POINT UP) with my whole heart,' (TAP HEART TWICE) Psalm 111:1. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.) Nice job. Let's do it again!" (REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES.)

After the Activity

"The Bible teaches us that we can thank God for everything with our whole heart! That means family, friends, food, and people who help us! We can thank God for everything! Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything."

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GROUPS 2/6

Follow the Line



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Follow the Line" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape in four different colors

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Follow the Line" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
2. Make four long tape paths, each in a different color.
3. Make the paths cross over one another to add an extra layer of fun.
4. Place a picture at the end of each path.

During the Activity

1. Place children in groups of two to three and assign each group a color line to move on.
2. Encourage each group to follow the line to the end, pick up the picture and bring it back.
3. When you have all four pictures, review the Bible Story together.
4. Repeat as time and interest allow.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page. →

EveryChild Tips



Keep lines simple to follow for better mobility.

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

GROUPS 2/6

Follow the Line



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

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Live for God

What You Need

- "Follow the Line" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape in four different colors

② What You Say (cont.)

Before the Activity

"Ooo...look at these colorful lines. I have a fun game we can play with them!"

During the Activity:

"First, everyone needs a game group. (CALL TWO TO THREE CHILDREN BY NAME.) Come stand on this [COLOR] line. (REPEAT FOR EACH COLOR LINE.) Everyone else, sit here (POINT) and watch what they do and cheer them on then you'll get to go next.

"Okay, when I say follow the line, walk down your line, pick up the story picture at the end of the line, and bring it back. Ready? Follow the line! (PAUSE.) Yay! You found all four pictures! Now let's look at the pictures together. Come sit with me. (HOLD UP NAOMI.) This is Naomi from our Bible Story. (LAY THE PICTURE OF NAOMI DOWN IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN AND HOLD UP THE PICTURE OF RUTH.) This is Ruth. Ruth chose to be Naomi's family and go to Naomi's hometown with her. (LAY THE PICTURE OF RUTH BESIDE NAOMI AND HOLD UP THE PICTURE OF THE GRAIN.) When Naomi and Ruth got there, Ruth picked up grain behind the workers in the field so she and Naomi would have food to eat. (LAY THE PICTURE OF THE GRAIN BESIDE RUTH AND HOLD UP THE PICTURE OF BOAZ.) The field where Ruth picked grain belonged to a man named Boaz. Boaz and Naomi were family. Boaz decided to make sure Ruth and Naomi always had food to eat. Yay! Let's do that again! (RESET THE PICTURES AND PAIR THE REMAINING CHILDREN INTO GROUPS OR LET GROUPS TRAVEL DOWN THE ANOTHER COLOR LINE.) Thank you friends for helping review our Bible Story today."

After the Activity:

"Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz thanked God for family. And guess what! We can thank God for family too, because we can thank God for everything! So, when I ask you, who can thank God for everything, we are going to say, [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything! Get ready! Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything. Yay! [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!"



EveryChild Tips

Keep lines simple to follow for better mobility.

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 1

GROUPS 3/6

Pass the Thanks



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

Alphabet Picture Book



EveryChild Tips

Use an alphabet picture book for ideas to help kids choose what to thank God for.

Repeat or model the phrase for children who may need language support.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Gather the children in a circle or seated side-by-side.
2. Explain that you're going to play a special game where they pass a thankful message quietly to one another.

During the Activity

1. Whisper to the child seated next to you, "I can thank God for... [something simple, like my family]," and have that child whisper it to the next child, and so on.
2. When it gets to the last child, encourage them to say the message out loud.
3. Celebrate if the message made it all the way around clearly or laugh together if it got a little silly!
4. Invite the next child in the circle to start a new thankful message, and repeat.
5. Talk about how it's fun to share what we're thankful for.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit with me on the floor in a circle. I have a fun game for us to play to help us practice saying thank you to God!"

During the Activity

"I'm going to whisper something I can thank God for into [CHILD'S NAME]'s ear, then they'll whisper it to the next friend, and we'll keep going around the circle until it gets to our friend [CHILD'S NAME ON YOUR OTHER SIDE]. Let's see if what I say makes it all the way around the circle! Ready? (WHISPER I CAN THANK GOD FOR FAMILY.) Did you get it? Okay turn and whisper it to the friend next to you. (CONTINUE UNTIL IT MAKES IT ALL THE WAY AROUND.) Okay, [CHILD'S NAME], tell us what the message was. (PAUSE FOR RESPONSE. THEN CELEBRATE IF CORRECT OR GIGGLE IF THE MESSAGE GOT SILLY.) That was fun! Now it's [CHILD'S NAME] to start the message. (CONTINUE UNTIL EACH CHILD HAS A TURN TO SHARE A MESSAGE.) That was fun and a little silly to share what we're thankful for in our game today!"

After the Activity

"Today we heard a true story from the Bible about Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz! We learned how they were family and helped each other. God gave Naomi someone to love her and help her. And you know what? God gives us people, too! We can thank God for everything and everyone He gives us. Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!"

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GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder
- Cardstock
- Bible
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen



① What You Do

Note → You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group.
2. Place one card in your Bible at Psalm 111:1. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*
3. Encourage children to pretend they are picking up grain as you lead them to your Small Group spot.
4. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity

1. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions.
2. Encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of people they call family.

After the Activity

Pray with children using the list you made in the journal.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"It's Small Group time! Today we are going to pretend we are walking in a field picking up grain, like Ruth did in our Bible Story. Follow me, and let's pick up some grain! (STOP A FEW TIMES, BEND DOWN, AND PRETEND TO PICK UP GRAIN AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.) Great work! Let's sit down and rest while we talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

Continued on the next page. →

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GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder
- Cardstock
- Bible
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen

During the Activity

(OPEN THE BIBLE AND LAY IT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN.) "In our Bible Story today, we heard a story about a family. First, Ruth chose to go with Naomi and be her family. Then, after Ruth and Naomi got to Naomi's hometown, Ruth picked grain for them to eat. Ruth picked grain from a field that belonged to man named Boaz. When he found out that Naomi was his family, he decided to make sure Naomi and Ruth had plenty of food to eat.

"Do you think Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz thanked God for family? **(PAUSE.)** Yes! Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz thanked God for family, and we can thank God for family too, because we can thank God for everything! That's why when I ask you, who can thank God for everything, everyone will say, **[BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!** Who can thank God for everything? **[BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!**

"Yes! There are SO many things we can thank God for! It's like the world is a GIGANTIC picnic, and everywhere we look we see amazing and wonderful things we can thank God for with our whole heart.

"Hey! That reminds me of the new Bible verse we are learning today! It says, 'I will give thanks **(MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN)** to the LORD **(POINT UP)** with my whole heart,' **(TAP HEART TWICE)** Psalm 111:1. **(OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.)** Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! 'I will give thanks **(MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN)** to the LORD **(POINT UP)** with my whole heart,' **(TAP HEART TWICE)** Psalm 111:1. **(OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.)** Yay! **(CLAP.)**

"Do you know what I want to thank God for right now? **(PAUSE.)** Thank You, God, that we can learn Bible verses together! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. **(OPEN JOURNAL.)** Since one of the many things we can thank God for is family, we are going to make a list of people we call family in our prayer journal. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one person you call family, and I will write it in our journal." **(REMEMBER TO PRINT, AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)**

After the Activity

"This is a list of very special people we call family. **(HOLD UP JOURNAL.)** Let's pray and thank God for them. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? **(GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.)** Dear God, Thank You for stories in the Bible that teach us about You and how we can thank You for everything. Today, we want to thank You for family. Thank You for **[CHILD'S NAME]'s [NAME OF PERSON THEY LISTED]**. Thank You for... **(SAY THIS WITH EACH CHILD'S NAME AND WHAT THEY LISTED)**. Please help us give thanks to You with our whole heart every day. We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."