

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 2

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. Move Like a Noodle
2. Dream Detectives
3. Friendship in a Bottle

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. Sliding Heart
2. Mirror Me
3. Friendship Sandwich
4. Friend Greeting
5. Daniel and Friends
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

Daniel's Friends Pray

I can thank God for friends.
Daniel 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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SOCIAL 1/3

Move Like a Noodle

What You Need

- Pool noodle



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Encourage children to join you in an open area of the room.

During the Activity

1. Move and bend the pool noodle and encourage children to mimic the movements.
2. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand over here with me and let's spread out. We're going to play a movement game with this pool noodle. I'll move the pool noodle and you'll move your body the same way."

During the Activity

"Let's get ready to move! Watch the noodle and do what it does. If I shake the noodle like this, **(SHAKE THE NOODLE BACK AND FORTH)** show me how shake your body. **(PAUSE.)** Great job! Everyone freeze and watch the noodle! **(BEND THE NOODLE.)** Can you bend your body like the noodle? **(PAUSE.)** Way to go! Okay and now freeze! **(CONTINUE WITH DIFFERENT MOVEMENTS.)** That was so much fun moving like the noodle!"

After the Activity

"Today in our true Bible Story, we are going to hear about a man named Daniel and his good friends that prayed and talked to God for him. Let's go hear all about Daniel and his friends!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by asking children to continue to move your body different ways.

EveryChild Tips



For a version with less movement, sit with children and do stationary movements.

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GROUPS 2/6

Mirror Me

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

Story Images



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Ask children to come and stand in front of you.

During the Activity

1. Encourage the children to mirror your actions as you retell the main points of the Bible Story.
2. Repeat as time and interest allow.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continued on the next page. →

EveryChild Tips



Display and point to Story Images as you retell the story.

3-5 Year-Olds

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GROUPS 2/6

Mirror Me



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

Story Images

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hey, everyone! Come stand in front of me! You are going to be my mirror!"

During the Activity:

"Watch me and do what I do. Then, when I look at you, it will be like I am looking in a mirror. Ready? Do what I do!"

"Daniel loved God. (HUG YOURSELF.)"

"Daniel's job was to help the king. (PUT A PRETEND CROWN ON YOUR HEAD.)"

"One night, the king had a dream. (PRETEND TO GO TO SLEEP.)"

"When the king woke up, he needed help. (WAKE UP AND STRETCH.)"

"The king got angry when no one could help him. (MAKE ANGRY FACE.)"

"Daniel went to his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. (WALK IN PLACE.)"

"Daniel asked his friends to pray, and they did. (PRAYING HANDS.)"

"God helped Daniel know how to help the king. (TAP YOUR POINTER FINGER TO YOUR TEMPLE.)"

"Daniel prayed and thanked God for helping him. (PRAYING HANDS.)"

"Then, Daniel ran to the king and helped him! (RUN IN PLACE.)"

"Yay, God! Yay, friends! (CLAP AND CHEER.)"

"Great job, everyone!" (REPEAT AS TIME AND INTEREST ALLOW.)"

After the Activity:

"God gave Daniel good friends, and God gives us friends too! We can thank God for our friends, because we can thank God for everything. Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!"



EveryChild Tips

Display and point to Story Images as you retell the story.

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GROUPS 3/6

Friendship Sandwich

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Butcher paper
- Washable markers
- Masking tape



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Place a piece of butcher paper on the table, and tape to secure.
2. Draw a large, bread-shaped outline at the bottom of the page.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to discuss what they think makes a good friend. As kids respond, write their answers stacked one on top of the other.
2. Once you've added all the layers, draw the second piece of bread on top.
3. Review the completed sandwich together.
4. Emphasize that just like Daniel had friends who prayed and helped him, God gives us friends too! We can be good friends and thank God for the people who love and help us.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit at the table with me. Today we heard about Daniel and how God gave him friends who prayed for him. We're going to think about what makes a really good friend, just like Daniel had!"

During the Activity

"Let's build a friendship sandwich! Look! There's a piece of bread on the paper, it's the start of our sandwich! What makes a good friend? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) How about love? Does God want us to love each other? Yes! That's an important part of friendship! Let's add it to our sandwich. (WRITE THE WORD LOVE RIGHT ABOVE THE PIECE OF BREAD.) What's something else that makes a good friend? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Praying for each other. Yes! Let's write a prayer down. (PAUSE.) Good friends can pray for each other. What's another thing that makes a good friend? (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.) Let's add the other piece of bread. (DRAW ANOTHER OUTLINE OF A PIECE OF BREAD AT THE TOP.) There are so many more layers we could add to our friendship sandwich, but this is a great start!"

After the Activity

"Our friendship sandwich looks really amazing. Good friends are a gift from God. We can thank God for our friends because 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 4/6

Friend Greeting



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Friend Greeting" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors



EveryChild Tips

Allow children to select the greeting they prefer from the pictures.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Friend Greeting" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

During the Activity

1. Hold up one card at a time and encourage children to go to several friends and greet them according to the card.
2. Continue with each card.
3. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand with me over here. I have a fun friend greeting game for us to play. On these cards are different ways you can greet each other. When I hold up the card, you can find a friend to greet that same way."

During the Activity

"Ready? Let's play! (HOLD UP THE FIST BUMP CARD.) Oh! This is the fist bump card! Go give someone a fist bump. (PAUSE.) Great! Go find another friend to give a fist bump to. (PAUSE.) Great job! Let's play another card. (HOLD UP THE SMILEY FACE CARD.) Oh! This is the smiley face card! Go give someone a smile. (PAUSE.) Find another friend to give a smile to. (CONTINUE WITH THE OTHER CARDS.) That was fun, greeting each other all those different ways. What was your favorite? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Wow, you are all such good friends to each other!"

After the Activity

"Today in our Bible Story we learned about a man named Daniel. God gave Daniel really good friends who prayed for him. God gives us friends, too. We can thank God for our friends because 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 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 Week One in 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. If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder 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 link arms or hold hands with a friend 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 children to help you make a list in the journal of their friends.

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 link arms/hold hands with one or two friends while we walk to our Small Group spot. Okay, everyone, find a friend and follow me! **(LINK ARMS OR HOLD HANDS WITH ONE OR TWO PRESCHOOL FRIENDS AS YOU LEAD THEM TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.)** We made it, friends! 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 Week One in 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 man named Daniel and his good friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When Daniel needed someone to pray for him, he went to his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego pray for their friend Daniel? **(PAUSE.)** Yes! They prayed for Daniel, and God showed Daniel how he could help the king!

"God gave Daniel good friends, and God gives us friends too. We can thank God for our friends, because we can thank God for everything! So, when I ask you, who can thank God for everything, I want to hear you say, **[BOTTOM LINE]** I can thank God for everything! Ready? Who can thank God for everything? **[BOTTOM LINE]** I can thank God for everything!

"And when we thank God for everything, we can thank God with our whole heart, just like it says in the Bible verse we are learning. '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.)**

"You sound wonderful! **(GIVE HIGH FIVES.)** Now let's sit down and write in our prayer journal. We can use what we write when we talk to God. **(OPEN JOURNAL.)** Today, we are going to make a list of our friends in our prayer journal. When I say your name, tell me the name of one of your friends, and I will write it down." **(REMEMBER TO PRINT, AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)**

After the Activity

"I love looking at our friends' names. **(HOLD UP JOURNAL.)** Let's pray and thank God for our friends. 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 our friends. Thank You for **[CHILD'S NAME]'s friend, [PERSON THEY LISTED]**. Thank You for **[CHILD'S NAME]'s friend, [PERSON THEY LISTED]**. Thank You for... **(SAY EACH CHILD'S NAME AND THE PERSON THEY LISTED)**. And thank You for giving us the best friend ever... Jesus! You're the best, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."