

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 3

# 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. Tossing Bread
2. Find the Food
3. Picnic Food  ALLERGY

## 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 Hop
2. Sandy Story
3. Pass the Food
4. Thankful Heart  ALLERGY
5. Picnic Story
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

## Manna and Quail

I can thank God for food.  
Exodus 16

### 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.

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 3

SOCIAL 1/3

# Tossing Bread

## What You Need

- Umbrella
- Pom-poms



## EveryChild Tips

For a version with less movement, sit with children around the umbrella and toss the pom-poms in.

Pair children up to do the activity.

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Scatter pom-poms on the floor in an open area of your room.

### During the Activity

1. Open the umbrella and place it upside down on the floor in the middle of your area.
2. Ask the children to collect as many pom-poms as they can and throw them into the umbrella.
3. Once all the pom-poms have been collected and thrown into the umbrella, encourage the children to stand closely around you.
4. Then lift the umbrella over everyone's head and let the manna fall out.
5. Repeat as desired.

### After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand over here with me. I have something super-fun for us to do today! See all the pom-poms on the floor? Let's pretend they are pieces of bread. When I say, 'bread,' I want you to collect as many as you can and put them in the umbrella."

### During the Activity

"Ready? (OPEN THE UMBRELLA AND PLACE IT ON THE FLOOR UPSIDE DOWN.) Bread! When you have a pom-pom, throw it in the umbrella. (PAUSE.) Keep going until all the bread is collected and thrown into the umbrella. (PAUSE.) Okay, friends, come in close. (CAREFULLY LIFT THE UMBRELLA THEN TURN IT OVER ABOVE EVERYONE.) Whoa! Look at all the bread! That was so much fun!"

### After the Activity

"Today in our true Bible Story, we're going to hear about a time when the Israelites were hungry and God gave them food to eat, bread in the morning and meat in the evening. Let's go hear all about it!"

**Transition** → Move to Worship and Story by asking children to pretend to pick up and toss the pom-poms.

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 3

SOCIAL 2/3

# Find the Food

## What You Need

- Butcher paper
- Toy food
- Washable markers
- Little People® figures
- Masking tape



## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Lay the butcher paper on the table and tape to secure.
2. Set six pieces of food across the top of the butcher paper and six Little People figures along the bottom.
3. Use different colored markers to create a line tangle connecting each figure to a piece of toy food along the top of the page.
4. Lines can swirl and run into each other.
5. Gather the children around the table.

### During the Activity

1. Encourage children to take turns moving the figures along each path to find their food at the top of the page.
2. Make sure each friend has a turn.

### After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Friends, gather around the table."

### During the Activity

"Do you see the people along the bottom of the page? They are SO hungry! Let's help them travel along each path to find food. Follow the line that the people start on. **(PAUSE.)** Wow! What food did your person walk to? **(PAUSE.)** Yum! What about this person? What food did they walk to? **(REPEAT AS DESIRED.)** You helped all the friends find food. Great job!"

### After the Activity

"Today, we're going to hear a story about a time when God's people, the Israelites, were hungry and God gave them food to eat. Let's go hear all about it!"

**Transition** → Move to Worship and Story by talking about everyone's favorite foods.

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 3

GROUPS 1/6

# Memory Verse Hop

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Heart cutouts
- Painter's tape



## 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. Space out the heart cutouts on the floor in a line and secure them with tape.
2. Make sure to have at least one heart per child and leader.
3. Say the verse as you do the motions with the children.

**During the Activity**

1. Ask children to jump onto their hearts when you say the word heart in the verse.
2. Repeat as desired.

**After the Activity**

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

**Before the Activity**

"Hey friends, look at all the hearts on the floor. Hearts make us think of love! Everyone, go stand behind a heart and let's say our verse together as we do the motions. (PAUSE.) Ready? '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.) Great job!"

**During the Activity**

"Now let's just say the words of our verse and when you hear the word heart, jump on your heart. Here we go! 'I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart.' Everyone jump! (JUMP ONTO YOUR HEART.) Psalm 111:1. (REPEAT AS DESIRED.) You did such a great job saying the Memory Verse and jumping onto the heart."

**After the Activity**

"We can thank God for everything with our whole heart! Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!"

EveryChild Tips



Instead of jumping onto the heart, point to the heart when you say, "heart."

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 3

GROUPS 4/6

# Pass the Food



## Application Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- Paper plates
- Toy food
- Picnic basket
- Picnic blanket



### EveryChild Tips

Allow children to pass the plate from friend to friend instead of passing the food from plate to plate.

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Spread out the picnic blanket in an open area of the room.
2. Put the food in the picnic basket.
3. Sit in a circle on the picnic blanket with the children.
4. Give each child a plate.

### During the Activity

1. Put one piece of food on your plate. Pass the food from plate to plate around the circle.
2. When the food gets back to you put the food back in the picnic basket.

### After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit in a circle with me on this picnic blanket. I have a game for us to play with these plates (**GIVE EACH CHILD A PLATE**) this picnic basket, and this food." (**PULL OUT A PIECE OF FOOD FROM THE BASKET.**)

### During the Activity

"I'm going to put this [**FOOD**] on my plate and pass it to my friend [**CHILD'S NAME**]. (**TURN TO THE CHILD TO THE LEFT OF YOU AND TILT YOUR PLATE TO LET YOUR FOOD ROLL ONTO THE CHILD'S PLATE.**) Okay now [**CHILD'S NAME**] pass the [**FOOD**] from your plate to the friend's plate next to you. (**CONTINUE DIRECTING THE MOVEMENT AROUND THE CIRCLE.**) Wow! Great job! We passed the [**FOOD**] all the way around the circle from plate to plate! (**PUT THAT PIECE OF FOOD IN THE PICNIC BASKET.**) Let's pass another piece of food. (**REPEAT AS DESIRED.**) That was so much fun passing the food to each other!"

### After the Activity

"In today's true story from the Bible, God knew that the Israelites were hungry and needed food to eat. God told Moses that He would send meat at night and bread in the morning. And that's what God did! Every day, God made sure the people had food to eat in the morning and at night. God is so good! Thank You, God, for food. Thank You, God, for everything. Who can thank God for everything? [**BOTTOM LINE**] I can thank God for everything."

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 3

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 the children to pretend they are walking through a hot desert 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 foods.

### 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! Let's pretend we are walking through a hot desert, like Moses and the Israelites did in our Bible Story. (PRETEND YOU ARE WALKING THROUGH A HOT DESERT AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.) Whew! We finally made it! 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. →

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 3

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, God's people, the Israelites, were walking through a desert and they didn't have any food to eat! God loved the Israelites, and He knew they needed food. God told Moses that He was going to send meat every night and bread every morning for the Israelites to eat. And that's what God did!

"The Israelites were so happy for the food! We can thank God for food because we can thank God for EVERYTHING! That's why when I ask you, who can thank God for everything, we all say, [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything! Let's say it together! Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!

"Let's thank God right now with our whole heart and say the Bible verse we are learning. 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 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.)

"I love hearing you say that! (MAKE A HEART WITH YOUR HANDS AND HOLD IT UP.) 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 food in our prayer journal. Yum! It can be any food you want to thank God for! Listen for your name, and when I say it, tell me the food you want me to write 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 list is making me hungry! (HOLD UP JOURNAL.) Let's pray and thank God for all these foods! 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 making so many kinds of foods for us to eat. Thank You for yummy foods like (READ THE LIST THE CHILDREN MADE). Please help us remember to thank You for the food we eat, because we can thank You for everything! We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."