

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 5

# 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. Crown David
2. Thankful Game
3. What Do You Hear?

## 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. Silent Tambourine
2. Praise Cube
3. Raise Your Voice
4. David Danced
5. Thankful Book
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

### David Praises God

I can praise God.  
2 Samuel 6:12-15

### 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."**

Psalm 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 pro-tips. Check out the additional Special Needs resources included.

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SOCIAL 2/3

# Thankful Game



## What You Need

- "Thankful Game" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Toy cars
- Plastic container
- Painter's tape
- Scissors



## EveryChild Tips

Pair children up to do the activity.

For a version with less movement, allow children to place their car in the designated area instead of rolling it.

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Copy "Thankful Game" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
2. Arrange the pictures in a straight line on the table, going from one end to the other.
3. Secure the top and bottom of each picture with a line of tape that goes across the width of the table.
4. Place all the cars in the container.

### During the Activity

1. Encourage children to take turns selecting a car and standing at the end of the table facing the pictures.
2. Ask one child at a time to roll their car down the table to get to a certain picture.
3. Continue with each picture.

### After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Wow! Come join me at the end of the table. **(PAUSE.)** Do you see all the pictures on the table? I see family and friends, a picture of food, people who help me, and a big heart at the end."

### During the Activity

"Let's play a game! Pick a car, and when I call your name, try to roll your car so it lands in the family section. **(POINT.)** [CHILD'S NAME] pick your car and let it roll! **(PAUSE.)** Wow! Where did your car stop? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** That's a good spot to land on. Go get your car and get back in line and our next friend can have a turn. **(PAUSE.)** [CHILD'S NAME] pick your car and let it roll. Aim for the family section. **(CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.)** That was awesome! If your car made it to the family section, raise your hand. **(PAUSE.)** Great job, friends! We can thank God for family! This time, let's try to roll the cars to the friends section. **(POINT.)** [CHILD'S NAME] pick your car and let it roll! **(CONTINUE WITH EACH SECTION.)** Great job, everyone! All of the pictures you rolled your cars to are pictures of things we can thank God for. Put your cars back in the container, please."

### After the Activity

"I can't wait to hear today's true story from the Bible. It's about a king named David and how he was so thankful to God, he praised him with song and dance! Let's go hear all about it."

**Transition** → Move to Worship and Story by pretending to drive a car.

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GROUPS 2/6

# Praise Cube



## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- "Praise Cube" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Clear tape
- Square tissue box
- Music player
- Fun upbeat praise music

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Copy "Praise Cube" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
2. Tape one cutout to each side of the tissue box/cardboard cube.

### During the Activity

1. Guide the children as they take turns rolling the Praise Cube.
2. When the cube lands on "Dance," play praise music and dance together for a few seconds.
3. When the cube lands on "Thank You," lead the children in using ASL and their voices to tell God, "Thank You!"
4. When the cube lands on "Trumpet," use your hand horns to make music.
5. Talk about how David praised God, and we can too!

### After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Come here, everyone! We're going to play a fun game with this praise cube!" **(HOLD UP THE PRAISE CUBE.)**

### During the Activity:

"In our Bible Story, King David praised God. He danced **(TURN THE CUBE TO THE DANCE SIDE AND HOLD IT UP)** with all his might to praise God. **(DANCE IN PLACE.)** He used his voice **(TURN THE CUBE TO THE ASL SIDE AND HOLD IT UP)** to praise God. **(SHOUT AND USE ASL.)** Thank You, God! And he made music **(TURN THE CUBE TO THE MUSIC SIDE AND HOLD IT UP)** to praise God. **(PLAY HAND HORN.)**

"Now it's your turn to roll the cube, and whatever the cube lands on, that's how we will praise God together. Ready? **[CHILD'S NAME]** roll the cube! **(PAUSE.)** It landed on **[ACTION]**. Let's all **[ACTION]**! **(PAUSE.)** Great job! **[CHILD'S NAME]** roll the cube! **(CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.)** I love praising God with you! Praise is like a big THANK YOU to God!"

### After the Activity:

"We can praise God any time we want to tell God thank You for everything! And who can thank God for everything? **[BOTTOM LINE]** I can thank God for everything! Yes! You can thank God for everything, and **[BOTTOM LINE]** I can thank God for everything!"

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GROUPS 4/6

# David Danced



## Application Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- Music player
- Praise music

## ① What You Do

### Before the Activity

1. Ask children to spread out in an open area of the room.

### During the Activity

1. Encourage children to dance in different ways to the music.

### After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

## ② What You Say

### Before the Activity

"Come over here and spread out. Let's praise God and dance!"

### During the Activity

"I'll start some music, and you can dance however you want. Ready? Here we go! **(START THE MUSIC.)** Great dancing! **(PAUSE THE MUSIC.)** This time when the music plays, I want you to dance in slow-motion. **(START THE MUSIC.)** Wow! You are dancing so slow. **(PAUSE THE MUSIC.)** This time when the music plays, I want you to dance like a robot. **(START THE MUSIC.)** Wow! **(TALK IN A ROBOT VOICE.)** Look at all the robots! **(CONTINUE WITH THE DIFFERENT DANCE STYLES. REPEAT AS DESIRED.)** You all are so good at dancing."

### After the Activity

"In our true story from the Bible, we heard about King David who praised God in lots of different ways. He sang, he played instruments, and he danced. Whenever you want to praise God, you can dance too. We can praise God and thank Him for everything. Who can thank God for everything? **[BOTTOM LINE]** I can thank God for everything!"

### EveryChild Tips



Offer noise-canceling headphones for children with sound sensitivities.

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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
- Reward stickers or hand stamp



## 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.
3. Encourage children to dance with all their might 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 anything they want to tell God "THANK YOU" for.

**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 dance with all our might, like King David did while we go to our Small Group spot. Are you ready to dance? (PAUSE.) Yay, follow me! (DANCE AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.) We danced all the way to our way to our spot! Now let's sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

Continued on the next page. →

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
- Reward stickers or hand stamp



### During the Activity

(OPEN THE BIBLE AND LAY IT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN.) "In our Bible Story, King David praised God. Praise is like a big THANK YOU to God! Do you remember some of the ways David praised God? (PAUSE.) David danced with all his might. David used his voice. And David made music with instruments! Praising God is one way we can thank God for everything! [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything, and you can thank God for everything! Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!

"That's right! And the Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember that we can thank God for everything. 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! '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.)

"That was SO great! (TWO THUMBS UP.) I think you're ready to say that verse all by yourself. I want everyone to sit down, and we'll take turns saying it. Who wants to go first? I have my stickers/hand-stamp ready!

"Way to go, [CHILD'S NAME]! (GIVE TWO THUMBS UP.) Here is a sticker/stamp for you! (SAY AND DO THIS WITH EACH CHILD AS THEY TRY AND SAY THE BIBLE VERSE.) I am very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse. When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/stamp. One, two, three! (PAUSE TO LOOK.) Yay! (CLAP.)

"Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (OPEN JOURNAL.) Today, we're going to make a list of anything we want to tell God "thank you" for in our prayer journal. It really can be anything, because we can thank God for everything! So, when I say your name, tell me one thing you want to tell God thank you for, and I will write it in our journal. Then, we can use the list when we pray." (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 great list! (HOLD UP JOURNAL.) Let's pray and thank God for all these things. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.) Dear God, we praise You because You are the one true God, and You made everything! That's why we can thank YOU for EVERYTHING! [CHILD'S NAME] thanks You for [WHAT THEY LISTED]. [CHILD'S NAME] thanks You for... (SAY THIS WITH EACH CHILD'S NAME AND WHAT THEY LISTED). We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."