

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. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: True or False Flip
2. Application Activity: Tower of Impossibility
3. Memory Verse Activity: Fly Like an Eagle
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd grade guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:16-45

Bottom Line

God can do the impossible.

Memory Verse

Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.

Isaiah 40:31 (NirV)



Inclusive Pro 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.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- Offering container



Inclusive Pro Tips

Let kids choose which challenges to try. Relieve any pressure by saying, "Try it if you want to!" This helps kids with physical or social anxieties feel safe.

To adjust the mobility to meet the needs of your groups, offer other fun challenges like:

- "Can you blink really fast?"
- "Can you say your name in a silly voice?"

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time! Thank God that you have built your confidence on Him and not on yourself or others. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time when you trusted God even when things looked impossible. Thank God for always showing up! Ask God to help every kid learn how to live knowing He is with them, so they enter every situation with confidence in Him. Pray that even if a kid feels like the only one following God (like Elijah), they would know they're not alone, because the Holy Spirit is with them.

1. Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Lead the kids to try the following nearly impossible tasks:
 - Lick your elbow
 - Wiggle your ears
 - Raise your eyebrows—left, then right
 - Wiggle your nose
 - Snap your fingers
 - Hold a pencil between your nose and upper lip
 - Hold a pencil between your bottom lip and chin
 - Balance a pencil on your ear, nose, shoulder, or knee
 - Say the following tongue twisters five times in a row.
 - "Toy boat"
 - "Red leather, yellow leather"
 - "Fruit float"
 - "Bubble bobble"
 - "Selfish shellfish"
 - Gather the group to discuss.

② What You Say

"Some of these challenges were REALLY hard! Maybe you can say 'toy boat' five times fast, but you can't wiggle your ears. There are limits to what we can do because some things are just impossible for us.

"But today in our true story from the Bible, we're going to see that NOTHING is impossible or too hard for God. Let's go!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 2/4

Tower of Impossibility

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Blocks
- Masking tape
- Black, permanent marker

Inclusive Supplies

- Pre-labeled blocks



Inclusive Pro Tips

Pre-label a few blocks with ideas (like "Being brave," "Making friends," "Fixing big problems") to support non-verbal kids. Allow the kids to choose from these blocks instead of coming up with an idea of their own.

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together.
2. Ask, "Can you think of something that could feel difficult for you to do, but NOT for God?"
 - To prompt the kids' thinking, give examples like: Make the sun shine and the rain fall; help someone be brave when they're scared; forgive everyone, every time!
3. As kids' name ideas, write them on small pieces of masking tape and place them on a block.
4. Invite the kids to stack the blocks to build a tower.
5. Once the tower is built, point to the blocks and ask:
 - "Are these things too hard for God?"
 - "Is anyone more powerful, smarter, faster, kinder, more patient than God?"
 - "What's something you want to trust God with today?"

② What You Say

"Can God (NAME A FEW OF THE EXAMPLES FROM THE BLOCK TOWER)? YES—absolutely!

"The Bible is full of true stories where God does what seems totally impossible to us. That's because there is nothing that is too hard for God!

"God made everything. He knows everything. He's more loving, more patient, and more powerful than anyone else ever! THAT'S why we can put all of our confidence in Him.

"You don't have to just 'try really hard' to have confidence. When you choose to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live in you! You can ask God to give you confidence through the Holy Spirit—even when something seems impossible (LIKE PRAYING YOUR PARENTS STOP FIGHTING, OR STRUGGLING TO LEARN HOW TO READ).

"When you are facing something hard, since He's right there with you, you can pray, 'God, help me remember that You are strong, and You are with me. Help me be confident in You right now.' God loves you and He loves to help you!

"God never gets tired or worn out from listening to us. Pray to God when you feel stuck. Remember, we can put all our confidence and trust in God because God can do the impossible."

GROUPS 3/4

Fly Like an Eagle

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bibles marked at Isaiah 40:31
- "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

Inclusive Supplies

- Extra "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

Inclusive Pro Tips



Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.



① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of two.
2. Give each group a Bible marked at Isaiah 40:31.
3. Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips.
4. Repeat the verse together several times.
5. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

Move Together:

1. Use the "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to teach the kids motions to Isaiah 40:31.
2. Walk through the motions slowly, until the kids have learned them.
3. Repeat the verse with the motions for several rounds. For each round, call on two kids each time to perform the motions like:
 - Kids who like chocolate ice cream
 - Kids with a winter birthday
 - Kids who have a pet
 - Kids who are left-handed
 - Kids who wore sneakers today
4. Gather the group to discuss.

Finding verses with Kindergarteners

- ① Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page.
- ② Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud.
- ③ Guide them to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number.
- ④ Guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud.
- ⑤ Lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name.
- ③ When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter.
- ⑤ When they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 3/4

Fly Like an Eagle

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bibles marked at Isaiah 40:31
- "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

Inclusive Supplies

- Extra "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

Inclusive Pro Tips



Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.



② What You Say

"The Bible is one big book full of truth! It's got two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Our Memory Verse this month comes from the book of Isaiah, which is in the Old Testament! Isaiah was someone God chose to send a message from Him to His people. They were feeling really tired and weak. But Isaiah reminded them of this awesome truth: When you trust in God, He gives you new strength! And guess what? That promise is for us too!

"Whatever you're facing, God can give you strength. Maybe you've been doing the right thing over and over and over, like being kind to the new kid, and you're tired. Maybe you've been working really hard to learn how to read and write, and you're tired. Life is hard, and we can get tired! We need new strength!

"But God is the strongest! And when we trust that the strong God is with us, this verse promises that He will give us strength. If you are feeling all wimpy and tired, God is the strong One. You can pray to Him, and He can help you be stronger because He is strong. When you trust in Him, He will give you new strength so you can keep going and not get so tired! Keep practicing these motions at home and remember: God can do the impossible!"

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

Inclusive Supplies

- Index cards
- Pencils



Inclusive Pro Tips

Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.

① What You Do

1. Before you pray, ask the kids to answer a simple question like:
→ "What do you think you'll eat for lunch today?"
2. Explain that once you ask the question, you'll count to three, and then the kids will call out their answers at the same time.
3. Once they do, try to recall some of the answers. Then point out that even though you really tried, you couldn't hear every single answer at once. It's impossible for you!
4. Share with the kids that God CAN hear all their prayers, even when prayed at the same time, because God can do the impossible.
5. Give the kids a few moments to pray silently on their own.
6. Close in prayer.

② Prayer

"God, we love You and we believe that YOU can do the impossible. Thank You for listening to every prayer from my friends in this group. Thank You for hearing the prayers of all Your people, all over the world! Today we discovered that what might be completely impossible for us is possible for You. Help us to walk confidently knowing that You are with us in everything that we face. Thank You for loving us, God. We love You so much. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!"

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off the motions to Isaiah 40:31 from the Memory Verse Activity.