

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

October — 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. In the Cards
2. Crown Catch
3. Super Kids to the Rescue

Large Group (20 minutes)

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

- "Super Duper Kid" and "Be Brave"
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Memory Verse with Motions
2. Story Crown
3. Sparkly Crown
4. King May I
5. Bravery Badge
6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

I can pray and be brave.

Esther

Esther 2:2-8:17

Key Question

Who can help you be brave?

Bottom Line

God can help me be brave.

Memory Verse

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God goes with you."

Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

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SOCIAL 1/3

In the Cards

What You Need

- Deck of Cards



Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version with less movement, seat children in a circle. Call out simple movements that your children can do while seated.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Remove the Ace, Joker, and instruction cards and set aside.
2. Shuffle the remaining cards.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to draw a card. If child pulls a King or Queen card say "King/Queen, you're invited!"
2. Ask them to stand with you.
3. If child pulls a number card, say the number out loud and ask all the children to do a motion (jump, clap, wiggle, stomp, etc.) that number of times.
4. Call one child at a time.
5. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello, hello friends! It's great to see you today! I have a card game for us to play today!"

During the Activity

"When I call your name, I want you to come draw one card and then you'll either stand with me or we'll all do a motion together. Let's play! [CHILD'S NAME] come draw a card. (PAUSE.) You drew the [NUMBER] card. Everyone jump [NUMBER] times while I count. (PAUSE.) Great job! [CHILD'S NAME] come draw a card. (PAUSE.) You drew the king/queen card! King/Queen [CHILD'S NAME], you're invited! Come stand with me and draw another card. (PAUSE.) You drew the [NUMBER] card. Everyone clap [NUMBER] times while I count. (PAUSE.) Great job! Go back and stand in your spot. (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.) That was fun playing the card game with you today!"

After the Activity

"Today we are going to hear a Bible Story about a queen named Esther. She prayed and God helped her be brave! Let's go hear all about Queen Esther!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by calling out different numbers and movements. "Let's hop two times. (PAUSE.) Now let's wiggle four times." Continue with different numbered movements all the way to your designated area.

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GROUPS 1/6

Memory Verse with Motions



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

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



Inclusive Pro 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. 'Be strong and courageous. **(MUSCLE ARMS)** Do not be afraid . . . **(CROSS AND UNCROSS HANDS)** for the Lord your God **(FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN)** goes with you," **(MARCH IN PLACE)** Deuteronomy 31:6. **(OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.)**

Continued on the next page. →

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GROUPS 1/6

Memory Verse with Motions



Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

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What You Need

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Inclusive Optional Supplies

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- Cardstock
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Inclusive Pro 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: 'Be strong and courageous.' (MUSCLE ARMS.) Put both arms up and show me your muscles like this (BOTH ARMS OUT TO THE SIDE, BENT AT THE ELBOW AND FLEX) and say, 'Be strong and courageous.' (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'Do not be afraid . . .' (CROSS AND UNCROSS HANDS.) Put your arms out in front of you, elbows bent, and one arm over the other. (PAUSE.) Now move your arms out to the side like this (ARMS IN FRONT OF YOU, STACKED ONE OVER THE OTHER THEN SWIFTLY MOVE THEM OUT TO YOUR SIDE) and say, 'Do not be afraid . . .' (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Wonderful! Now let's put that together. 'Be strong and courageous. (MUSCLE ARMS) Do not be afraid . . . (CROSS AND UNCROSS HANDS) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'for the Lord your God.' (FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN.) Put one hand up straight in front of you with your thumb almost touching your forehead like this. (STRAIGHT, FLAT HAND WITH THUMB AT YOUR FOREHEAD.) Then you move hand straight down in front of you like this, (PULL DOWN) and say, 'for the Lord your God.' (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Nice job! Now let's put that together. 'Be strong and courageous. (MUSCLE ARMS) Do not be afraid . . . (CROSS AND UNCROSS HANDS) for the Lord your God.' (FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN.)

"The next part of our verse says: 'goes with you.' (MARCH IN PLACE.) March in place like this, (STAND IN ONE SPOT AND ALTERNATE LIFTING ONE KNEE UP AT A TIME) and say, 'goes with you.' (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Nice job! Now let's put that together. 'Be strong and courageous. (MUSCLE ARMS) Do not be afraid . . . (CROSS AND UNCROSS HANDS) for the Lord your God (FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN) goes with you," (MARCH IN PLACE)

"Now the last part is: Deuteronomy 31:6. (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: Deuteronomy 31:6. (REPEAT WITH CHILDREN.) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? 'Be strong and courageous. (MUSCLE ARMS) Do not be afraid . . . (CROSS AND UNCROSS HANDS) for the Lord your God (FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN) goes with you," (MARCH IN PLACE) Deuteronomy 31:6. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.) Nice job. Let's do it again!" (REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES.)

After the Activity

"The Bible teaches us that we don't need to be afraid, that we can be strong and courageous because God is with us! [BOTTOM LINE] God can help me be brave. Who can help you be brave? [BOTTOM LINE] God can help me be brave."

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GROUPS 4/6

King May I



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed



Inclusive Pro Tips

Simplify the movement for child's needs. Or allow children to sit and ask "King, May I" and move to them.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Ask children to line up along the wall on one side of the room and explain how to play the "King, May I" game.

During the Activity

1. Call children one at a time to ask "King, May I" and give them directions on how to move to you.
2. Continue until each child makes it to you. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"I am so excited to play this game with you. Everyone, come line up on this wall. This is where you'll stand when our game starts and I'll stand across the room. We're going to play a game called "King May I," and I am going to be the king. When it is your turn, you will ask me, "King, may I move?" and I will either say yes or no, and then I will give you instructions on how to move to me."

During the Activity

"Let's play! [CHILD'S NAME], you go first! Ask me, King, may I move? (PAUSE AND LET THE CHILD ASK.) Yes, you may take five big steps, then freeze. (PAUSE.) Great job! [CHILD'S NAME], your turn. Say, King, may I move? (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD OFFERING DIFFERENT MOVEMENTS SUCH AS ONE TINY STEP, THREE HOPS, ONE BIG LEAP, ETC. REPEAT AS DESIRED.) That was so much fun!"

After the Activity

"In today's true story from the Bible, we learned that you couldn't talk to the king unless you were invited! That's why Queen Esther had to be brave to talk to the king. She prayed with God's people and trusted that God could help her be brave. Queen Esther asked the king to keep God's people safe, and the king said yes! Hooray! Esther prayed, and God helped her be brave. That means you can pray, and God can help you be brave, too! Who can help you be brave? [BOTTOM LINE] God can help me be brave."

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GROUPS 5/6

Bravery Badge



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Bravery Badge" Activity Page,
- Cardstock
- Washable markers, dot markers or crayons
- Stickers
- Yarn
- Hole punch
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

Inclusive Pro Tips



Create an example.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Bravery Badge" on cardstock and cut one per child.
2. Write each child's name on their badge and punch a hole at the top.
3. Cut yarn into 36-inch lengths, one per child, and run through the hole of each badge.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to color their badges.
2. Ask them to put them on and wear them as you review the Bible Story. (Assist as needed.)

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come to the table with me. Today, we heard the story of how God helped Queen Esther be brave. I have a bravery badge for you to decorate and wear today."

During the Activity

"Your badge says, 'I am a Super Kid because **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help me be brave.' Use the markers, crayons, and stickers to decorate your badge. (PAUSE.) Wow! Great job, friends. Put your badges on and get ready to help me review today's Bible Story about brave Queen Esther."

After the Activity

"All right, my brave Super Kids! Today, our true story from the Bible begins with a beautiful queen named Esther. Esther knew she needed to be brave and talk to the king. She needed the king to help keep God's people safe! Esther asked God's people to pray and talk to God with her.

They prayed together for three days, and Esther trusted that God could help her be brave. So Esther went and asked the king to keep God's people safe, and the king said yes! Everyone celebrated. Let's celebrate too! "HOORAY!" Esther prayed, and God helped her be brave. You can pray and God can help you be brave, too! Who can help you be brave? **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help me be brave. That's right, Super Kids! God can help you be brave."

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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

- 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. Encourage children to make a super kid pose as you lead them to your Small Group spot.
2. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity

3. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of things they need to be brave to do.

After the Activity

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

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

- Bible
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen



② What You Say

During the Activity

(OPEN THE BIBLE AND LAY IT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN.) "In our Bible Story today, Queen Esther had to be brave to go talk to the king, so she asked God's people to do something for her. Do you remember what Queen Esther asked them to do? **(PAUSE.)** Queen Esther asked God's people to pray for her. And they did! Then brave Queen Esther went to the king and asked for his help, and God's people were saved! God helped Queen Esther be brave, and God can help you be brave, too. That's why when I ask you, who can help you be brave, everyone will say, **[BOTTOM LINE] God can help me be brave!** Stand up and make a super kid pose and let me hear you say it! Who can help you be brave? **[BOTTOM LINE] God can help me be brave!** That was SUPER! You can sit back down now.

"Another word for brave is courageous. Can you say, 'courageous?'" **(WITH CHILDREN.)** Courageous! Yes! Courageous! God helped Queen Esther be strong and courageous, just like it says in the new Bible verse we are learning today! It says, 'Be strong and courageous. **(MUSCLE ARMS)** Do not be afraid . . . **(CROSS AND UNCROSS HANDS)** for the Lord your God **(FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN)** goes with you," **(MARCH IN PLACE)** Deuteronomy 31:6. **(OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.)** Let's stand up again and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! 'Be strong and courageous. **(MUSCLE ARMS)** Do not be afraid . . . **(CROSS AND UNCROSS HANDS)** for the Lord your God **(FLAT HAND WITH THUMB TO FOREHEAD, PULL DOWN)** goes with you," **(MARCH IN PLACE)** Deuteronomy 31:6. **(OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.)**

"You did it! **(FIST BUMPS)** Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. **(OPEN JOURNAL.)** When Queen Esther needed to be brave to talk to the king, she asked her family to pray. We all need help being brave. Let's make a list of things we need to be brave to do in our prayer journal. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one thing you need to be brave to do, and I will write it in our journal. **(SUGGESTIONS: GO TO THE DENTIST/DOCTOR; WALK IN A CLASSROOM; MAKE A NEW FRIEND; RIDE A BIKE; SLEEP BY YOURSELF. REMEMBER TO PRINT, AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)**"

After the Activity

"Look at our list. **(HOLD UP JOURNAL.)** We all need help being brave. Let's pray, like Queen Esther and God's people did, and ask God to help us be brave. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? **(GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.)** Dear God, no one is more powerful than You! We pray to You because only You can help us be brave. Please help **[CHILD'S NAME]** be brave and **(SAY WHAT THEY LISTED)**. Please help **[CHILD'S NAME]** be brave and **(SAY WHAT THEY LISTED)**. Please help... **(READ EACH CHILD'S NAME AND WHAT THEY LISTED)**. You are the best, God, and we love You! In Jesus' name. Amen."