

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

October — 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. Make it Brave
2. Emoji Match
3. What's Hiding?

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. Gideon Says
2. Act Like Gideon
3. Superhero Launchers
4. Tip Toe Time
5. Brave Gideon
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 be brave even when I'm afraid.

Gideon

Judges 6 and 7

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 2/3

Emoji Match

What You Need

- "Emoji Match" Activity Page
- Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent
- 8-ounce paper cups



Inclusive Pro Tips

Pair children up to do the activity together.

Start with the cups sticker side up and play the game by stacking the matches on top of each other.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Emoji Match" on label paper, two sets per Small Group.
2. Place one sticker at the bottom of each cup.
3. Arrange cups in a square formation, bottom side down, on the table.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to turn over two cups at a time to try to make a match.
2. Identify the emotion on each cup.
3. When matches are made, stack them together and move them to the side.
4. Review each emotion once all the cups have been matched.
5. Reset and repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come to the table and let's play a matching game. On the bottom of each of these cups is an emotion sticker. **(TURN A CUP OVER AND SHOW THEM.)** We'll take turns, and you'll get to flip two cups over at a time to try to make a match."

During the Activity

"Let's get started. **[CHILD'S NAME]** flip over two cups. **(PAUSE.)** Great job! This is a **[EMOTION]** face, and this is a **[EMOTION]** face. Are they a match? **(IF THEY ARE A MATCH, YOU CAN STACK THE CUPS AND SET THEM TO THE SIDE. IF NOT, FLIP THE CUPS OVER.)** **[CHILD'S NAME]**, your turn. **(CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD UNTIL ALL THE EMOTIONS ARE MATCHED. RESET AND REPEAT UNTIL ALL THE CHILDREN HAVE A TURN.)** We made all the matches! Let's look at all the emotions. **(HOLD UP AND IDENTIFY EACH EMOTION.)** Great job!"

After the Activity

"In our Bible Story today, we'll hear about someone who was afraid. **(HOLD UP THE AFRAID FACE CUP.)** His name is Gideon. Let's go hear all about it!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by calling a child and asking them to show you an emotion on their face. **"[CHILD'S NAME], can you make a happy face?"**

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GROUPS 2/6

Act Like Gideon



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Sit together on the floor with children.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to act out the story with you.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Come sit with me, super friends, and let's act out our Bible Story!"

During the Activity

"Our true story begins with a man named Gideon. Gideon was afraid. When the Midianites would come, Gideon and the rest of the Israelites would hide in holes in the mountain. Let's all pretend to hide in a hole. Get really small and cover your head and your arm. **(PAUSE.)** Gideon was hiding from the Midianites. They were really big. Very strong. And they were mean. Make a mean face. **(PAUSE.)** Oh, those were mean faces. One day, God sent an angel to tell Gideon, 'The LORD is with you, mighty warrior!' Everyone does a super pose with their hands on their hips like this. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** Great job! God wanted Gideon to lead an army to defeat the Midianites. Gideon was still afraid, but he did what God said and led God's army.

"Gideon gave the army ... **(TOOT A PRETEND HORN)** trumpets. Hold your hand up to your mouth and pretend to toot your horn. **(PAUSE.)** They had jars. Hold your arms out like you are giving a hug. And they had torches. Make a fist with one hand and hold it up in the air. Gideon and the army quietly walked to where the Midianites were, then made a really loud noise by blowing their trumpets and smashing their jars! Then they shouted: 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' Let's say that together. **(WITH CHILDREN.)** 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' And just like that, the Midianites were so afraid that they ran away! Great job acting out our Bible Story today!"

After the Activity

"When Gideon was afraid, God helped him be brave. 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 4/6

Tip Toe Time



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Party Horns
- Permanent Marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- Noise-cancelling headphones



Inclusive Pro Tips

For children with sensitivities to noise, provide them with headphones.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Write each child's name on a party horn.
2. Give each child their party horn.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to tiptoe quietly around the room and blow their horn when you say, "Make a loud noise."
2. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Let's pretend to be Gideon's army. I'll pretend to be Gideon and you'll be the army. I'll give you a party horn to use as a trumpet. But don't blow it yet."

During the Activity

"Okay everyone, we're going to be really quiet and tiptoe around the room. When I say, "Make a loud noise," I want you to blow your horns really loud. Ready? Tiptoe with me. (PAUSE.) Shhhh, be super quiet and keep tiptoeing. (PAUSE.) Make a loud noise! (PAUSE.) Wow, great job! The Midianite army was so scared that they ran away. Let's play again! (REPEAT AS DESIRED.) That was so much fun."

After the Activity

"God was with Gideon and helped him be brave. Gideon led God's army with trumpets, jars, and torches, and told the army to follow him quietly. Gideon told the army to blow their trumpets, smash their jars, and shout 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' And just like that, the Midianites were afraid and ran away. God helped Gideon be brave! 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 6/6

Journal and Prayer



Application 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 the children to make a different super kid pose each week as you lead them to your Small Group spot.
2. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity

1. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of things some people are afraid of.

Note → Do not give suggestions of what people can be afraid of. Let the children generate their own answers.

After the Activity

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

Before the Activity

"It's Small Group time, which means it's time to make a super kid pose while we walk to our Small Group spot! Do what I do and hold both arms up, like this, and flex your bicep muscles. **(DEMONSTRATE.)** Woah! Look at those muscles! Keep making your super kid pose and follow me! **(MAKE THE SUPER KID POSE AS YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN TO YOUR SMALL GROUP SPOT.)** We're here! We can stop making our super kid pose now. It's time to 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



Application Activity

Faith Skills

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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, Gideon was hiding because he was afraid. Do you remember where Gideon was hiding? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)** Yes! Gideon was hiding in a hole! God sent an angel to tell Gideon that God was with him. When Gideon heard that God was with him, he got out of the hole and did what God said. God helped Gideon be brave when he was afraid, and God can help you be brave too! So, tell me, who can help you be brave? **[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! Wonderful! **(CLAP.)** You can sit back down now.

"Strong and courageous are other words we use when we talk about being brave, like in the Bible verse we are learning. 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.)** Knowing God was with him helped Gideon be brave, and knowing God is with us can help us be brave too! Let's stand up again, and say that Bible verse in our bravest voice! 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 sound so...BRAVE! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. **(OPEN JOURNAL.)** Gideon was afraid of a big army, but God helped Gideon be brave! Let's make a list of things people can be afraid of in our prayer journal. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one thing people can be afraid of, and I will write it in our journal. **(NOTE: DON'T GIVE SUGGESTIONS OF WHAT PEOPLE CAN BE AFRAID OF. LET THE CHILDREN GENERATE THEIR OWN ANSWERS. REMEMBER TO PRINT, AS YOU WRITE IN THE JOURNAL, SO THE CHILDREN CAN RECOGNIZE THEIR NAMES AND THE LETTERS.)**

After the Activity

"Thank you for helping me make this list. **(HOLD UP JOURNAL.)** Would anyone like to pray before I pray? **(GIVE EACH CHILD WHO WANTS TO PRAY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.)** Dear God, sometimes people are afraid of things like **(READ THE LIST THE CHILDREN MADE)**. That's why every person needs You to help them be brave, like You helped Gideon be brave when he was afraid. Please help me and my friends **(SAY EACH CHILD'S NAME)** be brave when we are afraid. We love You! In Jesus' name. Amen."