

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



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. The Source of ALL Wisdom
2. Ways to Focus on God
3. Focus and Follow
4. Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

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

Today's Bible Story

David and the Psalms

Psalms 1:1-4

Bottom Line

If you want to be wise, focus on God.

Memory Verse

"It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver."

Proverbs 16:16 NIRV



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.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- Offering container
- "This or That" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

As you play, give kids hints like, "Remember? That puppy card was in the second row!" Keep your tone light and playful.

Celebrate all efforts, and not just matches!

Reduce the number of cards used in the game.

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 for helping your group grow in wisdom together. Ask God to help the kids slow down, even just for a moment, to understand how much they need His Spirit every day. Ask God to give you the words to speak as you help kids see that true wisdom comes from focusing on God.

1. Welcome kids with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave as they arrive.
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Shuffle both sets of the "This or That" Activity Page cards.
4. Lay all of the cards face down in a grid pattern (4 × 6).
5. Gather the kids around the grid.

Play Together:

1. Say, "We're going to play a game called 'Memory!' The goal is for you to find the matching cards."
2. Allow the kids to take turns flipping over two cards to try and find a match.
 - **If a match is found:** That kid gets to keep the pair in front of them and flip two more cards.
 - **If no match is found:** That kid is to flip the cards back over, and it's the next kid's turn.
3. Encourage everyone to watch closely and try to remember where the cards are.
4. Continue playing until all matches have been found!

② What You Say

"Awesome job, everyone! You really had to focus and pay attention to what cards had already been flipped to find the best match! That reminds me of how sometimes we have to make sure we're focusing on the right things in life if we want to make wise choices.

"In our Bible Story today, we're going to discover WHO we should focus on when it comes to growing in wisdom. Let's go find out more, come with me!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/4

The Source of ALL Wisdom

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Bible Bookmarks" Activity Page
- Coloring supplies
- Yellow highlighters



① What You Do

1. Give every kid a bookmark from the "Bible Bookmarks" Activity Page and a yellow highlighter.
2. Set out the coloring supplies.
3. Read Psalm 1:1a, 2b (NirV) on the bookmarks together!

Create Together:

1. Assist the kids with writing their names on their bookmarks.
2. Invite them to color the flashlight with markers and use the yellow highlighters to color in the beam of light.
3. As they color, walk them through a recap of today's Bible Story about David and the Psalms.

Bible Story Recap:

1. David was still a boy when God chose him to be the king. He wasn't the tallest or the strongest, but God picked David because he had a heart that loved God!
2. As David grew older, he made some mistakes, but he always turned his heart back to God. David loved God so much that he wrote songs and prayers to Him.
3. God loved the songs David wrote so much that they're in a book of the Bible called Psalms! There are 150 psalms in the book of Psalms, and David wrote a lot of them! The book of Psalms is filled with songs of praise about God.
4. David probably didn't write the psalm that's on your bookmark, but he definitely knew the truth that the psalm teaches.
5. David spent his whole life getting to know God as his friend and following Him. David loved God. Why? This psalm on your bookmark tells us part of the reason why.
 - Read Psalm 1:1a from the bookmark and share, "Wise people do what God says!"
 - Read Psalm 1:2b from the bookmark and share, "Wise people focus on what God says!"
6. The writer of this psalm knew this, and so did David: God is good, and His ways are good. What God says to do is good. That's why David loved God so much. And if you follow God and His ways, you'll be wise!"

Continued on the next page. →

Inclusive Pro Tips



Use simple definitions for unfamiliar words, such as "obey" or "law." You might say something like, "God's law means the things He tells us to do, like sharing, being kind, and listening to our grown-ups."

GROUPS 1/4

The Source of ALL Wisdom



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Bible Bookmarks" Activity Page
- Coloring supplies
- Yellow highlighters



Inclusive Pro Tips

Use simple definitions for unfamiliar words, such as "obey" or "law." You might say something like, "God's law means the things He tells us to do, like sharing, being kind, and listening to our grown-ups."

② What You Say

"Awesome job, friends! Great job coloring your flashlights! What do flashlights do? (**PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.**) Right! They light up our way! They help us see better so we don't bump into things and get hurt!"

"You see, God is good, and His ways are good. That's why David loved God so much. And God wants to guide us through life well. That's part of the reason why He gave us the Bible, to guide us through life well. He wanted His wisdom to shine a light on the path of our lives."

"God is the wisest. And as God's friend, as you follow Him and His ways, He will guide you throughout your life to the best way to live. Take these bookmarks home and place them in your Bibles to remind you that if you want to be wise, focus on God!"

Make It Personal → Share a Scripture you cling to from the Bible. Why is it your favorite? What does this verse teach you about God? How does it guide you to the best way to live?

GROUPS 2/4

Focus on God



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Butcher paper or piece of poster board
- Markers



Inclusive Pro Tips

Be ready to offer ideas if a kid can't think of someone or something to share. (For example, you might say, "You know who I learn from? My pastor!")

① What You Do

1. Draw the outline of a large open Bible on the butcher paper (or piece of poster board).
2. Lay the butcher paper (or piece of poster board) flat on the floor or on a table where everyone can gather around it.

Connect Together:

1. Point to the drawing of the Bible on the paper.
2. Say: "One of the reasons God gave us the Bible, His Word, is to help us know what wisdom is. God is the wisest! And He wants us to be wise so we can live the best way because He loves us."
3. Ask, "Where do you hear God's Word?" (Encourage responses, like: when they read the Bible, watch a Bible Story video, attend church, talk to a grown-up, or listen to worship music in the car.)
4. As the kids answer, write the ideas around the outside edges of the paper.
5. Say, "Another way to grow in wisdom is to hang out with people who love God and make wise choices!"
6. Ask the kids to name people they know and trust who follow God (parents, Small Group Leaders, older siblings, teachers, coaches, etc.).
7. Write those names on the outside of the paper too.
8. Draw an arrow pointing to the Bible's center from each of the kids' answers.

② What You Say

"Wow, look at all the amazing ways we can discover more about God and grow in wisdom. Like when you watch a Bible Story video, listen to worship songs, or hear a grown-up you trust share about Jesus. Those words you hear? They're inspired by the truth—the Bible!

"God gave us all of these different ways to hear His Word and find wisdom because God wants us to live the best way!

"And guess what? You don't have to live out all of this wisdom that you hear by yourself! When you choose to follow Jesus, God's Holy Spirit moves inside of you. That means even when your Bible is closed, the Holy Spirit can remind you of what's true, and help you make wise choices! The wisest One lives inside of you, and He will help guide you to the best way to live!

"When you're in a tough moment—maybe you feel left out or you're not sure which decision is God's way—you can ask God for help and He will help you! He wants to help you live the best way! If you want to be wise, focus on God!"

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss



Bible Story Review

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 or adaptive writing tools



Inclusive Pro Tips

Give each kid an index card and a pencil or adaptive writing tools. This can be helpful for kids who may process better through writing or drawing!

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a seated circle.
2. Say, "Today we discovered if we want to be wise, focus on God! One way we can focus on God is by talking to Him through prayer. Prayer is a conversation we can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!"
3. Invite the kids to close their eyes.
4. Share several ideas out loud of things they can talk to God about quietly.

Prayer Prompts:

1. Tell God how much you love Him!
2. Thank God for giving you the Bible so you can learn what's wise.
3. Ask God to help you stay close to Him so you can keep growing in wisdom!
4. Thank God for someone you trust who follows Jesus and helps you grow closer to Him and live more like Him.

② What You Say

"Dear God, You are SO good. We love You! Thank You for the Bible. Thank You for the Holy Spirit. Thank You for the people in our lives who help us follow You! Help us to focus on You so we can grow wiser and go through life well, like You want us to! We know that wisdom comes from You—You are the wisest! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to show off their bookmarks and talk about today's truth: If you want to be wise, focus on God!