

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. Kings and the Kingdom
2. Wise or Not So Wise
3. Coin Flip Memory Verse
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

The Kings

1 & 2 Kings

Bottom Line

Be wise because your choices matter.

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



Inclusive Pro Tips

If it is better for the group, play the game sitting down, and as a kid loses, have them move their seat back.

If kids want more time to think before voting, give them time to do so.

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 reminding you that even kids make choices that matter. Ask God to help your group see how their words, actions, and even their attitudes can lead them closer to You. Pray that your small group environment is a space where kids feel safe to learn, make mistakes, and grow in wisdom. Ask God to give you gentle words and creative ways to help them understand that being wise starts right now!

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.

Play Together:

1. Gather the kids together and explain how to play "Rock, Paper, Scissors."
 - Rock - Rock crushes scissors.
 - Paper - Scissors cut paper.
 - Scissors - Paper covers rock.
2. Divide the kids into groups of two and pick a group to go first.
3. Chant together: "Rock, paper, scissors, go!" On "go," encourage the kids to show one of the three signs.
4. If it's a tie, instruct the kids to play again.
5. If a kid loses, have them sit down and cheer for others!
6. Continue until there is only one kid left standing.

② What You Say

"That was so fun to watch! Each of you had to think fast and choose carefully. Every day we make choices—some that are small, and some that are really big! Wisdom from God is what we need to make the right choice! Instead of just guessing like we did in 'Rock, Paper, Scissors,' we don't have to guess the wisdom God has given us.

"Today in our true story from the Bible, we'll hear about some kings who made some BIG choices and why it's so important to be wise because your choices matter. Let's go!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/4

Kings and the Kingdom

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Map of Israel" Activity Page
- Prepared Craft Sticks
- Black Marker



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together around a table or in a circle on the floor.
2. Lay the map of Israel in the center.
3. Say, "This is Israel, the land God promised to His people! It's where the kings ruled, and where big choices were made."
4. Use the craft sticks to walk through the Kings' Recap from the Bible Story, holding up the matching king's name as you go.
 - NOTE: Call on kids in your group to help you hold the tongue depressors.

Kings' Recap

1. **Solomon** ruled with wisdom at first. But later, he made unwise choices. (HOLD UP SOLOMON.)
2. His son **Rehoboam** didn't listen to wise advice and was very harsh with the people. (HOLD UP REHOBOAM. ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO GIVE YOU A THUMBS-DOWN.)
3. The kingdom split! (RIP THE MAP IN HALF! USE THE BLACK MARKER TO LABEL "N" FOR "ISRAEL" AND "S" FOR "JUDAH.")
4. In the north, kings like **Jeroboam** and **Ahab** led the people away from God. (HOLD UP JEROBOAM AND AHAB. ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO COVER THEIR EARS!)
5. In the south, **Asa**, **Joash**, **Hezekiah**, and **Josiah** made wise choices and led people closer to God. (HOLD THE CRAFT STICKS UP ONE BY ONE. ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO CLAP AND CELEBRATE EACH ONE!)
6. But after Josiah, the people stopped following God again. (ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO GIVE YOU A THUMBS-DOWN.)

Inclusive Pro Tips



Repeat each king's name slowly and clearly, and point to the craft stick or the map when referencing them. This helps visual and auditory learners stay engaged.

GROUPS 1/4

Kings and the Kingdom

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

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What You Need

- "Map of Israel" Activity Page
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- Black Marker



② What You Say

"Whoa, what a rollercoaster of choices these kings chose to make. Some kings followed God, and the people were blessed. Other kings chose to ignore God, and it hurt everyone! Yikes.

"Each of the kings had a big choice to make: Would they follow their own way, or follow God's way? You might not wear a crown like these kings did, but we all have this same choice each day. We get to make a choice every day: Will I follow my own way, or will I follow God's way?"

"Friends, our choices matter. That's why I'm so glad we don't have to make daily choices on our own! When we choose to follow Jesus, He came to move inside of us through the Holy Spirit to help us make the wise choice. The Holy Spirit reminds us of what's true. He helps us remember God's Word. He helps us love others, even when it's hard. He helps us WANT to make the wise choice, even when others around us don't! I hope today reminds you that whether the choice feels big or small, you can be wise because your choices matter."

Make It Personal → Share an age-appropriate time you had to make a big decision, and the Holy Spirit gave you wisdom. Maybe a friend wanted you to join them in talking badly about someone else. Was it a verse you remembered? Share how seeking God first changed your thoughts.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Repeat each king's name slowly and clearly, and point to the craft stick or the map when referencing them. This helps visual and auditory learners stay engaged.

GROUPS 2/4

Wise or Not So Wise



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Wisdom Choice Cards" Activity Page
- Marker
- Prepared construction paper half sheets



Inclusive Pro Tips

Complete this activity in pairs if it works better for your group.

① What You Do

1. Before you begin, lay the construction paper in a winding pattern to create a life-sized game board.
2. Use a marker to label the first card "Start" and the last card "Finish."
3. Shuffle the "Wisdom Choice Cards" Activity Page cards and place them face down near the start.

Play Together:

4. Divide your group into 3-4 teams.
5. Direct each team to choose one kid to be their "game piece."
6. Instruct all of the "game pieces" to line up at the start.
7. Choose a team to go first, a team to go second, a team to go third, and a team to go fourth (if necessary).
8. Say: "You all started the game off by making a wise decision! So you all will start on the second space."
9. Instruct the first "game piece" from the first team to stand on the second space.
10. Draw and read a card to the team going first.
11. Prompt the team's "game piece" to move as indicated on the card.
 - If it's a wise choice, move forward 2 spaces.
 - If it's an unwise choice, move backward 2 spaces.
12. Continue play in the same way with each team (with each game piece for each team starting on the second space on the game board).
13. The first team to reach the finish wins!
14. You can also play until all the cards are out.

② What You Say

"Wow! We brought a whole board game to life—that was SO fun! I noticed when you landed on a choice that was not wise, it wasn't so fun to go backward, was it? The truth is that when we make unwise choices, it can hurt us or others. But when we make wise choices, we move in a way that honors God and produces good things!

"I'm so glad God doesn't leave us to figure out wisdom on our own. If you ever wonder what the wise choice is, you can ask God, talk to a grown-up who follows Jesus, or open up the Bible to see what God says.

"Now, maybe you've already made the big choice to follow Jesus. **(IF YOU HAVE, THAT'S AMAZING!)** And if you haven't, you can always talk to me or a trusted grown-up about that. But once you do follow Jesus, guess what? You get the gift of the Holy Spirit! Every day, the Holy Spirit helps you want to do the right thing, even when it's hard. The Holy Spirit reminds you of what's true from God's Word. And, the Holy Spirit gives you the power to choose God's way instead of your own!

"The next time you have a choice to make, like how to treat a friend, what to say when you're mad, or how to be kind when it's not easy, ask God to help you be wise because your choices matter!"

K-1st Grade

Small Group

October — Week 4

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

① What You Do

1. Pair kids up!
→ It's okay if there's a group of three.
2. Say, "Today, let's talk to God about the friend we're paired with. Pray that God would help them make wise choices this week! You can choose to pray for them aloud or silently."
3. Give the kids a minute to pray for each other.
4. Close in prayer.

② What You Say

"God, we're so thankful that You hear every prayer we say. Thank You for loving us and sharing your wisdom with us. Please help my friends here trust You and follow Your way. Even when it seems like no one around us is following You, God, please give us the boldness and wisdom to follow Your way no matter what! We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show the coins they colored with the Memory Verse as they talk about how to trust God to help us be wise because our choices matter.

Inclusive Pro Tips



If it works best for your group not to partner up, consider allowing kids to spread out to pray independently.