

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
- Bottom Line
- What's Our Part in the Story?
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: Jacob's Wild Journey
2. Application Activity: Tough Stuff
3. Memory Verse Activity: Balancing Act
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 guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Joseph Genesis 37, 39-45

Bottom Line

You can trust God when things get tough.

Memory Verse

**Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of we do not see.
(Hebrews 11:1 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.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

MADE TO
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Create

What You Need

- ☐ "My Superhero Cape" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring Supplies

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive. → Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the true story of Joseph, a reminder that even when life feels tough or confusing, God is still at work! Reflect on a time you went through something tough and couldn't see how God was using it until later. Thank God for being faithful. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you communicate to kids they can trust God no matter what! Pray that your group would trust God with their big and small struggles. Pray that they would learn to look for how He is working even when life doesn't go as planned.

1. Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
 2. Hand out a "My Superhero Cape" Activity Page to every kid.
 3. Set the coloring supplies in the center of the group.
 4. Encourage the kids to create their own superhero name and write it on the line at the top.
- Help any pre-readers with spelling if needed.
5. Instruct the kids to write the first letter of their superhero name in the center of the cape.
 6. Let them decorate the cape with coloring supplies however they'd like.

② What You Say

"I love your superhero names AND your capes. They're so colorful!
[TRANSITION] Today, we'll hear about someone who received a colorful coat that started a crazy chain of events. Come with me!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Consider the needs of your group. Offering foam stickers could engage kids who enjoy tactile activities.

GROUPS 1/4

Joseph's Wild Journey



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Comic Book Instructions" Activity Page
- ☐ "Foldable Comic Book" Activity Page
- ☐ Safety Scissors
- ☐ Prepared Comic Book Example
- ☐ Coloring Supplies



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group. Take several breaks if any kids need to move around or have extra energy. Allow the kids to stand.

If folding or cutting the comic book is challenging for kids, assist them as needed.

Some kids might work better together for this activity. Pair the kids up with someone who can help guide them through the activity.

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. Show the prepared comic book example.
3. Give each kid a "Foldable Comic Book" Activity Page.
4. Set out the safety scissors.
5. Show the kids how to fold the book using the "Comic Book Instructions" Activity Page.

→ Assist the kids with this step as needed.

6. Once the pages are folded, help the kids make a cut along the dotted lines in the center of their comic book.
7. Place the coloring supplies in the center of the group.
8. As they kids color their books, guide them through the scenes and review the Bible Story:

→ Scene 1: Jacob gave Joseph a colorful coat.

→ Scene 2: Joseph's brothers were so jealous of him that they sold him off to traders who took him to Egypt.

→ Scene 3: Joseph went to work for Potiphar, but was accused of something he didn't do and was thrown in jail.

→ Scene 4: While he was in jail, Joseph rightly interpreted the dreams of the drink taster and baker.

→ Scene 5: Two years passed. Pharaoh had a dream he didn't understand. The drink taster remembered Joseph, and Joseph was brought before Pharaoh to explain Pharaoh's dream.

→ Scene 6: Pharaoh made Joseph second in command. Joseph oversaw the years of plenty, storing all the grain they could to prepare for seven years of famine. The famine brought Joseph's family to Egypt to ask for food. Joseph was able to forgive his brothers and save his family, bringing all of them to Egypt.

② What You Say

Continued on the next page →

GROUPS 1/4

Joseph's Wild Journey

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Imagine

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Comic Book Instructions" Activity Page
- ☐ "Foldable Comic Book" Activity Page
- ☐ Safety Scissors
- ☐ Prepared Comic Book Example
- ☐ Coloring Supplies



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group. Take several breaks if any kids need to move around or have extra energy. Allow the kids to stand.

If folding or cutting the comic book is challenging for kids, assist them as needed.

Some kids might work better together for this activity. Pair the kids up with someone who can help guide them through the activity.

② What You Say

"Joseph's life was FULL of ups and many, many downs. But through it all—especially when he thought that everyone had forgotten him—Joseph chose to trust God. His faith kept him going; through the pit, to working in Potiphar's house, to prison, and to the palace. God was faithful. He stayed with Joseph and made something GOOD come out of some really difficult times. Joseph learned that **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God when things get tough.

"Over and over in Joseph's story, the Bible says: 'God was with Joseph.' The same is true for you too. Not only that, but God promises that He is working for good in every situation in your life. God can bring good out of bad, friends. God loves you and He can be trusted with your fears, and worries, and disappointments. All of it! So this week, when you face something hard, like Joseph faced hard things, remember **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God when things get tough.

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Tell the kids an age-appropriate story about a time when you faced something tough. Maybe you had a frustrating morning before work or something bigger, like a friend or family member is sick. Talk to the kids about why you believe that **[Bottom Line]** you can trust God when things get tough. Share with the kids how you have seen God work tough things out for good in your life.

Tough Stuff

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Butcher Paper
- ☐ Marker

MADE TO
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Connect

① What You Do

1. Direct the kids to sit in a tight circle.
2. On the butcher paper, draw a wavy line with high peaks, like a roller coaster.
3. Ask the kids to share some awesome things that happened this week—their “highs.”
 - For example, kids could share a compliment they received, a fun playdate, or something they’re proud of.
4. As the kids share, write what they share down next to the peaks or high points of the wavy line.
5. Ask the kids to name some tough situations they faced this week—some of their “lows.”
 - For example, kids could share something like getting in trouble, having a hard time with a friend, or having a disagreement with a sibling.
6. As the kids share, write what they share down next to the valleys or low points of the wavy line.
7. Point out that we are all facing highs and lows.
8. Draw a thick line through the center of the wavy line with the marker.
9. Write “GOD” in large block letters on top of that line.

② What You Say

“Wow! We all experienced some awesome and not-so-awesome things this week. But guess what? Through your highest highs and your lowest lows, God has been with you. It might not always feel that way—especially when you face the tough stuff. Plus, when we trust God, it doesn’t mean that we’ll always understand why things happen, especially the hard things.

“Trusting God means that we put our confidence in the God who created the whole earth and everything in it—including us. The God who holds the whole world in His hands. The God who loves us so much and made us uniquely and wonderfully. The God whose love lasts FOREVER! I’m so glad to know that God is with me, through all the ups and especially the downs. This week, when you face something hard or something that doesn’t make sense, I want you to remember that **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God when things get tough.”



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of your group. If kids need more time to process the questions, be patient while they do so.

GROUPS 3/4

Balancing Act

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

What You Need

- ☐ Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1
- ☐ Floor Tape

MADE TO
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Move

① What You Do

1. Use the tape to create four separate tapelines.
 - Create one straight, one wavy, one zigzag, and one right angle
2. Choose a kid to open the Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1.
3. Read the verse out loud to the group.
4. Lead the kids to repeat the verse several times together.
5. Discuss any unfamiliar words from the verse.
6. Select four kids to stand at the end of each line.
7. Lead them to repeat the words of the Memory Verse as they walk along the lines.
8. Assist the kids with reciting the verse as needed.
9. Repeat with new kids until everyone has had a turn to walk down a path, reciting the Memory Verse.
10. Point to the different paths. Ask: "Which path was easiest to follow?"
 - Most kids should answer that the straight line was the easiest.
11. Gather the kids and discuss

② What You Say

"That was so fun! Great job reciting this month's Memory Verse! The straight path was the easiest to follow, wasn't it? I'm so glad to know that we can put all our trust in God, no matter what the path before us looks like. We might not be able to see everything, but we can be confident that God is with us through it all. Every straight path, every zigzag path with twists and turns—God is right there! We can have faith that we are not alone! Remember **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God when things get tough, friends!"



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of your group. If a kid prefers to sit down while reciting the verse instead of traveling the tape lines, let them do so.

If a kid needs assistance walking the tape lines, invite another kid to walk alongside them.

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

Social

Opening Activity

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Print "My Superhero Cape" Activity Page and cut apart, one cape for every kid
- ☐ Coloring supplies, enough for the Small Group to share

Groups

*Joseph's Wild Journey

- ☐ Print "Comic Book Instructions" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Print "Foldable Comic Book" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid
- ☐ Safety scissors, one pair for every kid
- ☐ Coloring supplies, enough for the Small Group to share
- ☐ *Before group time: Use the supplies to create a sample of the activity to show your group.*

*Tough Stuff

- ☐ Butcher paper or poster, one piece for each Small Group
- ☐ Marker, one for each Small Group

Balancing Act

- ☐ Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group

Pray and Dismiss

→ No supplies needed

*If you don't have time to do all, be sure to do the starred activity.

Home

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app** and **ParentCue.org**