

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

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Conversation Starter
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

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

Conversation Starter

When has something bad turned into something good?

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

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Empty Water Bottle
- ☐ Hydrogen Peroxide
- ☐ Yeast
- ☐ Warm Water
- ☐ Food Coloring
- ☐ Liquid Dish Soap
- ☐ Small Bowl
- ☐ Cookie Sheet
- ☐ Funnel
- ☐ Plastic Tablecloth

MADE TO
↓
Explore

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. Cover the workspace with the plastic tablecloth.
2. Place all the supplies on the tablecloth.
3. Gather the kids around so that everyone can see.
4. Ask: "What do you think will happen if we mix these ingredients together?"
NOTE: Some kids may guess an explosion. Point out that none of these ingredients seem very powerful on their own.
5. Place the bottle on the cookie sheet. In a small bowl, mix the warm water and the yeast.
6. Use the funnel to pour hydrogen peroxide, dish soap, and 5-6 drops of food coloring into the bottle. Swirl it around to mix.
NOTE: Consider letting the kids help you with the steps.
7. Pour the yeast mixture into the bottle (using the funnel), then step back! Watch as foam overflows from the bottle.

② What You Say

"If you've never done that experiment before, you might have been a bit surprised at the way all of those ingredients reacted to each other. **[TRANSITION]** This reminds me of how life surprises us too. In today's Bible Story, we'll meet someone who faced a lot of tough surprises. But the biggest surprise was the way God used all of it for good! Let's go find out more."

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Some kids may prefer to pour, stir, or observe. Give them choices like: "Do you want to help pour or watch the reaction?"

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Crayons


① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Select one kid to go first.
3. Instruct them to place a crayon between each of the fingers of their right hand, with the crayons pointing up.
4. Explain how to play:
 - The kid going first turns to the kid next to them and says, "My name is _____, and I can trust God when . . ."
 - The kids are to shake hands in a way that transfers the crayons from the fingers of the first kid to the fingers of the second kid.
 - Continue sharing about trusting God and passing the crayons around the circle. If a crayon falls, the kid is to pick it up and keep going.
 - The goal is for the crayon to make it around the circle.
5. To make it a race, split the kids into two teams and see which team can pass the crayons around their circle first.
6. Join the groups together (if needed), and expand the conversation by asking:
 - Why should those who know Jesus view tough times differently than those who don't?
 - When has God used something tough in your life to accomplish something good?

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Share an age-appropriate story about a time when God surprisingly used something hard in your life to accomplish something good.



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group. If holding multiple crayons is difficult, adjust the number of crayons they pass.

If kids in your group have sensory sensitivities, consider passing a small ball instead. Some kids might not like the feeling of crayon rubbing between their fingers.

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

MADE TO
↓
Imagine

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Pens
- ☐ "Story Sound Effects" Activity Page
- ☐ "Joseph's Story" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro-Tips

If a kid prefers not to read aloud, allow them to hold up the sound effect signs for their team as the story is told.

Give the kids time to process and think as you ask the discussion questions.

Some kids focus better when they move! Consider letting the teams act out their part of the story while they read it!

① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into four teams.
2. Give each team one card from the "Joseph's Story" Activity Page and a set of six cards from the "Story Sound Effects" Activity Page.
3. Instruct each team to read through their "Joseph's Story" Activity Page card.
4. Direct the teams to use the "Story Sound Effects" Activity Page cards to write down six different sounds or short phrases to place in their part of the story wherever they like.
5. For example:
 - "Joseph's brothers were angry and jealous of him." (GRR!)
 - "Joseph went to jail for something he did not do." (SLAM!)
 - "Joseph forgave his brothers." (SAY WHAT??)
6. Once everyone is finished, invite the team with the first card to read their part of the story using the sound effects as they read.
7. Continue until all four parts have been read.
8. Ask:
 - What do you think was the toughest thing Joseph went through? Why?
 - Tell us about a tough time God used to accomplish something good.
 - How do difficult situations build our faith? How might they make us doubt?
 - What would you tell someone who's going through a tough time but really wants to trust God?
9. Remind kids that even when life is messy and hard, God is still with us! He never leaves us, even when things get tough. God wants us to come to Him when we are going through hard things.

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 5

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed



① What You Do

Ask

- When has God used something bad in your life to accomplish something good?
- Jesus trusted God's plan (Garden of Gethsemane) even when things were really hard. What can you do to remember you can trust God?
- What does it tell others about who God is when we trust God no matter what?



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Be sensitive to kids needing extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Foil Balls
- ☐ Floor Tape



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Some kids might need extra time to think before answering the questions. Be patient and allow them to process!

For any kids who would prefer not to play the game, let them be the scorekeeper.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a Bible.
2. Direct them to look up Romans 8:28, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
3. Say the verse together several times.
4. Point out any unfamiliar words and explain them.
5. Use the floor tape to create a line down the middle of your space.
6. Divide the group into two teams.
7. Direct each team to stand on opposite sides of the tape line.
8. Toss an equal amount of foil balls on both sides of the tape line.
9. Explain the game:

- At your signal, teams are to roll foil balls across the line into the other team's space.
- The goal is to have the fewest foil balls on your team's side when the game stops.
- You will stop the game at a random point. (You can turn around so it's obvious you can't see which side has more foil balls on it when you end the round.)
- The team with the most foil balls is to recite Romans 8:28. Assist the kids as needed if they don't remember all the words.

10. Repeat several rounds.

11. Read Romans 8:28 twice before allowing kids to respond to the following questions.

- What do you think God is telling us in Romans 8:28?
- When might it be hard to believe the promise of Romans 8:28?
- Does this verse mean that everything eventually works out the way we want it to? Explain

12. Help kids understand that God doesn't promise that life will be easy, but God does promise that He will always be with us. Even when things are messy or hard, God is at work, and one day God will make everything right through Jesus. We may not always understand when hard things happen, but we can trust that God is using it for good.

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

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

- ☐ Empty 16 oz water bottle, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Hydrogen peroxide, ½ cup for each Small Group
- ☐ A packet of dried yeast, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Warm water, 3 tbsp for each Small Group
- ☐ Food coloring, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Liquid dish soap, 1 tbsp for each Small Group
- ☐ Small bowl, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Large deep-sided cookie sheet, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Small funnel, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Plastic tablecloth, one for each Small Group
- ☐ *Before group time, watch a demonstration of the activity here:*
bit.ly/41MvfDP

Groups

Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Crayons, 3-6 for each Small Group

Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Pen, one for every kid
- ☐ Print "Story Sound Effects" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, four sets for each Small Group
- ☐ Print "Joseph's Story" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group

Discussion Questions

→ No supplies needed.

Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bibles, one for every kid
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Aluminum foil, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time: Create at least 30 foil balls by scrunching up pieces of aluminum foil.

Make it Personal with Prayer

- ☐ Dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Whiteboard, one for each Small Group

Inclusive supplies

- ☐ Index cards, one for every kid
- ☐ Pens, one for every kid

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**

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 5

Getting Ready

Home

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