

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 (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: We're Going on a Scavenger Hunt
2. Application Activity: Superhero Obstacle Course
3. Memory Verse Activity: Puzzled
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

God Chooses Abram Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6

Bottom Line

You can trust that God has a plan.

Memory Verse

**Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what 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.

GROUPS 1/4

We're Going on a Scavenger Hunt



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Prepared envelopes with "Abram's Story Images" Activity Pages inside



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group. Some kids might need extra time coming up with riddle answers or to search for the envelopes. Be patient and assist when needed.

If a kid doesn't enjoy searching, invite them to hold an envelope or help you place the pictures in order.

① What You Do

- Before you begin, hide the envelopes with "Abram's Story Images" Activity Pages inside, in easy-to-find places around your small group area.
- Gather the kids and explain that you'll be going on a scavenger hunt to uncover parts of today's Bible Story.
- Read the riddles one at a time and allow the kids to guess the answer. If kids need assistance, offer additional clues.
 - Riddle #1: What is orange in color, green on top, and sounds like a "parrot"? (carrot)
 - Riddle #2: What has many keys but doesn't open any doors? (a piano)
 - Riddle #3: What has legs but cannot walk? (a chair)
 - Riddle #4: What month of the year has 28 days? (all of them)
 - Riddle #5: What falls but never gets hurt? (rain)
- As kids answer each riddle, encourage them to search and find an envelope and bring it back to you, one envelope per clue.
- Repeat until all five envelopes are found.
- Open the envelopes one at a time and place the pictures in order by referencing the numbers on the page.
- Make sure all the kids can see them.
- Review the Bible Story using the images and prompts on the pages.

② What You Say

"What an amazing true story! When Abraham and Sarah didn't even know where they were headed, God told them to go, and they packed up and moved. They didn't have any children, yet God said He was going to grow their family into a great nation! They trusted that God had a plan, even when they couldn't see it!

"And God was working on an even bigger plan too! Abraham didn't know this, but God was working on His plan to rescue the whole world—and God was going to do it through Abraham's family. Many years later, another baby was born into Abraham's family—God's very own Son, Jesus! Jesus gave His life and paid for sin when He died on the cross and came back to life. Sin was defeated once and for all. He rescued us! And now because of what Jesus did, anyone who wants to can have a relationship with God!

"And there is a second part of God's rescue plan! Jesus is coming back! When He does, we will live with Him forever and there will no longer be any pain, or sickness, or death.

"How epic is it that God never stops working? Because God is good, good, good, no matter what happens, **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust that God has a plan.

GROUPS 2/4

Superhero Obstacle Course

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Chairs
- ☐ Bins
- ☐ Trash Can
- ☐ Floor Tape



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of your group. If kids have sensory sensitivities, consider replacing some items with softer textured things like cushions or small plush pillows.

If this type of physical movement is difficult for any kids in your group, offer alternatives like walking or crawling.

Invite any kids who prefer not to race to cheer on others with you, or time the kids as they race through the course.

① What You Do

1. Set up an obstacle course with at least five challenges.
2. Create a start line and a finish line with floor tape.
3. Gather the kids around the objects and point out the start line and the finish line.
4. Walk through the course once to show them how to navigate each obstacle.

→ Hop over the stack of Bibles, zig-zag around the trash can, etc.

5. Let each kid take a turn traveling through the course from start to finish.
6. After everyone has had a chance, reset the course and make a few changes.
7. Demonstrate the new route and let the kids try again.
8. Gather your group to discuss.

② What You Say

"That was VERY fun! You did a great job tackling the course—even when I made changes!"

"Friends, you can trust that God has a plan, even when we don't know what's next. We live in the middle of the story—we still live in a broken world because Jesus hasn't come back yet. So sometimes we go through things that are really hard. We go through ups and downs just like Abraham and Sarah did.

"We can't see every single obstacle ahead of us, but God knows them, He is good, and He has a good plan we can trust! Try to remind yourself every day in the ups and downs that the good God is with you and **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust that God has a plan!"

GROUPS 3/4

Puzzled

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
- ☐ "Hebrews 11:1 Puzzle" Activity Page
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Zip-Top Sandwich Bags
- ☐ Permanent Marker
- ☐ Prepared Puzzle Example

Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Coloring Supplies



① What You Do

1. Choose a kid to open the marked Bible to Hebrews 11:1 and read the Memory Verse aloud.
2. Repeat the verse together several times.
3. Discuss any unfamiliar words with the kids.
4. Give each kid a "Hebrews 11:1" Activity Page puzzle.
5. Point out the Memory Verse, and lead the kids to read and recite it with you.
6. Give each kid a pair of scissors, and direct them to cut along the lines to create a four-piece puzzle.

→ Have kids work together if they need help with cutting.

7. Give each kid a zip-top bag so they can take their puzzle home.
8. Use the marker to help kids write their name on their bag.

② What You Say

"The Bible, God's Word, is true! It teaches us more about who God is, how God loves us, and why Jesus came. It's good to memorize because it teaches us what is true! This verse is a good one to put in your heart because it reminds us this: Faith is trusting in what we can't see because of what we CAN see.

"We may not be able to see God with our eyes, but we can see all the things God has done! I mean, God made the world and everything in it, including us. God made some really big promises to Abraham and we saw them come true. God also promised to send a Savior—and God did! God made a way for us to have a relationship with Him through Jesus. God is not like a friend who might not keep a promise, God will ALWAYS keep promises, so we can trust Him no matter what.

"God had a plan for Abraham and Sarah—even when they couldn't see where they were going! Put this puzzle together at home and remember, even when you don't know what's next: **[BOTTOM LINE]** You can trust that God has a plan!"



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of your group. If any kids are overwhelmed by scissors or the noise, offer an alternative, like coloring the puzzle instead of cutting it out.

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

No Supplies Needed



Inclusive Pro-Tips

Consider the needs of your group. For kids who may struggle to sit still or concentrate during prayer, offer fidget toy and be mindful or prayer time.

Give the kids extra time to process what they might be nervous or anxious about.

Kids can participate nonverbally by nodding their heads when another kids shares something they resonate with. This allows them to stay engaged in the activity.

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a tight circle.
2. Encourage the kids to think about the school year ahead. Ask if there's anything they're nervous or anxious about.
 - Remind the kids that while starting school can feel exciting, it's okay to feel a little nervous too!
3. Remind kids that: **[BOTTOM LINE]** You can trust that God has a plan even when they feel nervous or unsure.
- 4.
5. Let them know that God is going to go with them this school year and every year to come.
- 6.
7. Close in prayer, asking God to help them trust in Him and in His good plan as they go throughout this school year!

② What You Say

"Dear God, we are so thankful for this true story about Abraham and Sarah, and how when they obeyed You, we saw You carry out a good plan. Help us to trust You, like Abraham and Sarah did. We don't know the way in life, but we want to trust You and follow You. When we're nervous or anxious or unsure, help us to remember that You are with us and that we can always, always trust You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their puzzles from the "Puzzled" Activity as they remember that **[BOTTOM LINE]** you can trust God that God has a plan!

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

Groups

We're Going on a Scavenger Hunt!

- ☐ Print "Abram's Story Images" Activity Page on paper, one set for each Small Group
- ☐ Legal-sized envelopes, five for each Small Group
- ☐ Marker, one for each Small Group
- ☐ *Before group time: Place each image from "Abram's Story Images" Activity Page into separate envelopes, label each envelope with the numbers on the paper, and seal them shut.*

Superhero Obstacle Course

- ☐ Bibles, bins, chairs, and a trash can; enough to create one obstacle course for each Small Group
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group

*Puzzled

- ☐ Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Print "Hebrews 11:1 Puzzle" Activity Page, one for every kid and Small Group Leader
- ☐ Safety scissors, one pair for every kid
- ☐ Zip-top sandwich bags, one for every kid
- ☐ Permanent marker, one for each Small Group
- ☐ *Before group time: Cut a puzzle to show the kids an example.*

Inclusive supplies

- ☐ Coloring supplies

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**