



April 12, 2026 I Am Set Apart Elementary Leader Guide



the place for kids to take their first steps with Jesus. 

WIN

We see in 1 Peter 1:13-25 that God cares about our thoughts, and when we set our minds on Him, He helps our words and actions reflect hearts that honor Him.

BIBLE- PreK- Wise King Solomon 1 Kings 3:1-15, 2 Chronicles 1:1-13, Proverbs 4 Elem- Living for Jesus - 1 Peter 1:13-25

TOOLS

Scan QR



ASK Leader



Leader Devos



Like It Counts

SOCIAL TIME

The first 10 minutes as kids arrive is a very important time in your small group. Because of this, we provide you with intentional activities to engage their interests and help lead into a great discussion. All of this is so that “boredom” is not an excuse. Everything is only available one time.

Every week you have:

- Roku Games to play together that are changed out monthly.
- 2 month specific games or group activities.
- Plus 2 Social Activities. *** Use one now and save the other for an incentive to participate in all the activities.*

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, Stopwatch or timer (1 per group), Construction paper (red, blue, green, yellow, orange, and pink paper- 5 of each per group), Giant Window Game Cube, colored squares printable (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today."

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)**Bible Story Recap- Say This**

Have you ever wondered if you can think about whatever you want as long as you do not say or do wrong things? Peter encouraged Christians that our thoughts matter because our thoughts affect our actions. When we have a relationship with God, He set us apart to have actions which honor Him and point others to Him. God calls us to work hard to set our minds on things that please and honor Him. When we believe in God, we are set apart to think in ways that love, follow, and honor God. Repeat after me: **“God cares about my thoughts!”** (*God cares about my thoughts!*)

Why do we struggle with our thoughts in the first place? Ask, “Why?” (*Why?*)

Gospel Connection: (refer to the 4 Circles poster in your small group spaces)

(*Circle two*) Because our world is broken by sin, we often struggle with thoughts that are confusing, fearful, or distracting. Sin separates us from God and affects even our thinking, showing that we cannot fix the problem on our own and need God’s help.

(*Circle three*) God does not leave us in our brokenness but sent Jesus to rescue us from sin. When we turn to Jesus and trust Him, He forgives us, gives us a forever relationship with God, and begins changing our lives and thoughts with His love.

(*Circle one*) Peter wrote that it was always God’s plan to send Jesus. When we follow Jesus and obey God with our thoughts and actions, we live set apart.

(*Circle four*) That is the way God designed us to live from the very beginning. One day when Jesus returns, He will make all things new, and we will never struggle with sin and our thoughts again!

Talk to a leader if you want to know more about following Jesus!

Peter reminded Christians that both our thoughts *and* our actions should point others to God, even when life is difficult. Repeat after me, **“God cares about my thoughts.”** (***God cares about my thoughts.***) What we think impacts how we live. If we are constantly thinking terrible things about people, we will not want to treat others well. If we keep replaying events in our minds of how someone upset us, it is going to be difficult to forgive that person. But when we have respectful thoughts like Peter wrote about, and when we think about Jesus returning, we will have respectful actions. Kind thoughts lead to kind actions. Forgiving thoughts lead to forgiving actions. What we fix our minds on affects how we function as people.

Our thoughts are not always good. That is why we need to set our minds on God. When we focus our minds and thoughts on Him, He helps us live our lives in the way He made us to live. When we trust and follow Jesus, we can live set apart. We are different than we were before we followed Jesus, and we are different than other people who do not follow Jesus. Repeat after me, “I am set apart!” (*I am set apart!*) *Let’s turn our thoughts to God right now as we pray in 3-2-1.*

God thank You that You set us apart. Thank You for sending Jesus to make the way for us to have a relationship with You. Thank You that You help us have thoughts that honor You. Fill our thoughts with the truth of who You are and who You made us to be. As we fix our thoughts on You, help us live in ways that point others toward You! Amen.

Thought Clouds

Big Goal: Know our thoughts help us live set apart.

Leader Prep: Print copies of the “Thought Clouds” printable for each kid. Set out supplies. Write **God cares about my thoughts** on the dry erase board.

1. Write **God cares about my thoughts** on the paper.
2. Encourage kids to draw pictures or write words that help describe the words Peter wrote in 1 Peter 1:13.

Supplies: “Thought Clouds” printable (1 per child), Adult scissors (1 per group), Dry erase board and marker (1 per group), crayons or markers

What To Do: We have an awesome craft to make called a “Thought Clouds!”

Next, write our Main Idea on your headband: **God cares about my thoughts.** *(Allow time.)*

On your printable, you will see five clouds. Each circle has something Peter wrote about in our Bible story. We can think about being ready for action, respectful, redeemed and rescued, believe in Jesus, hope and love. We are going to fill in ways that we could re-focus our thoughts. Have you ever tried re-focusing your thoughts? Even Peter in the Bible tells us it is possible and gives us things to focus on. How can you draw or write something to help you remember these things?*(Allow time.)*

Loud And Clear: These are amazing thoughts! They are filled with things we can think about. God cares about our thoughts. He knows our thoughts show that we love, trust, and follow Him. When we have thoughts focused on God, He helps us live for Him and live set apart. These thoughts help us live it out!

(While kids are completing this activity, it would be a good time to talk through the discussion questions so they know why remembering Jesus is the only way is important.)

Let’s chat about this more by looking at some questions that make us think deeper.

Discussion Questions:

- I am going to list two options, but for a full day, you can only fill your thoughts with one of them. Which one would you choose? Candy or sports? Homework or chores? Friends or pets? Birthdays or vacations? *(Allow kids to respond with a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.)*
- What do you think makes a baseball go super far when it is hit with a bat? *(The special rubber and yarn helps the ball travel.)* Like how the inside of a baseball makes a difference with what happens on the outside, what is on the inside of us, meaning our thoughts, impacts what happens on the outside. How can your good and positive thoughts on the inside change what others see on the outside? *(Others can see positive actions.)*
- The Bible tells us that what we think is important. God made us to think about things that please Him and show Him respect. We are set apart to think in ways that love, follow, and honor God. Let's open our Bibles to **1 Peter 1:13** and read about it together. *(Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.)* Peter wrote a letter to Christians encouraging them to live out their faith and keep their minds focused on Jesus and His return. How can our thoughts make a difference in what we do? *(Our thoughts lead to our actions. What we think impacts what we do and say.)*
- Jesus died on the cross for our sin, even for our thoughts that disobey God. What can we do when we have thoughts that do not honor God? *(We can ask God to help change our thoughts. We can also learn Bible verses to think about throughout the day.)*
- The Bible tells us that God cares about our thoughts, and He calls us to honor Him in everything. What is something you learned today?

Is there anything you have questions about? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)* Let's pray and talk to God. *(Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

God thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Please help us all to honor You with our thoughts. Help us focus our thoughts on You so we can live in a way that shows we are set apart and follow You. Amen.

What we think matters! God helps us set our minds on the things that please and honor Him. We live set apart when we think in ways that love, follow, and honor God. We are set apart and called to live for Jesus! Repeat after me, "I am set apart!" *(I am set apart!)*

GOING HOME

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.