



August 16, 2026

**I Am Designed for a Purpose
Elementary Leader Guide**

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



WIN

Jesus taught us not to worry because God cares for us and provides for our needs. Just as God cares for the birds and flowers, He cares even more for us. We can remember His faithfulness in the past and trust Him with today and tomorrow.

BIBLE- Do Not Worry- Matthew 6:25-34

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, Masking or painter's tape (1 per group), Buckets (4 per group), Table tennis balls (1 per child), Masking or painter's tape (1 per group), Plastic cups (1 per child), Buckets (2 per group), Cotton balls (10 per child), Table tennis balls (20-30 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

Jesus told the people in today's Bible story that instead of worrying, they could remember how God provides for all His creation. He feeds the smallest bird. He clothes the fields with flowers. God not only provides for His creation, but He also cares everything in creation! And if He cares about birds and flowers, then He most certainly cares about people—His most special creation! He cares about us, and He designed us with a purpose—to trust Him like Jesus trusted Him. Repeat after me: "I am designed for a purpose!" (*I am designed for a purpose!*) "Let's trust like Jesus!" (*Let's trust like Jesus!*)

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

Circle 1- God's purpose for us to trust Him makes sense when we remember that He created us to have a relationship with Him. In the beginning, everything was perfect—people enjoyed God's love without pain, fear, shame, or anything separating them from Him.

Circle 2- When the first people chose their own way instead of God's way, sin entered the world and brought pain, fear, worry, and broken relationships. Since then, everyone has sinned, and because we cannot fix our sin problem on our own, we need Jesus to rescue us and restore our relationship with God.

Circle 3- The good news is that God loves us so much He sent Jesus to rescue us from sin. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and came back to life, proving He is more powerful than sin and death—that is good news!

Circle 4- One day, Jesus will return and make everything new. People who trust and follow Jesus will get to enjoy a life with no more sin and nothing to worry about. But until then, we can go to God every time we are worried.

We can admit that we are worried and ask God to help us. We can read the Bible and celebrate God's amazing promises and care. And we can remember all the ways God has taken care of us in the past to help us remember that He will take care of us in the present and in the future.

Trusting God does not mean that everything will go the way we want and be easy. It can be hard to trust God when things are difficult or when hard times come. But trusting like Jesus means that we trust that God's love and care will be with us, no matter what is happening around us.

Seek This First

Big Goal: Know that because God cares about us more than anything in creation, we do not need to worry and can seek His kingdom first.

Leader Prep: Print and cut apart the “Seek This First” printable. Tape the pictures around the room in a random order.

Supplies: “Seek This First” printable (1 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group), Masking or painter’s tape (1 per group)

What To Do: Say, “Seek!” (*Seek!*) Say, “First!” (*First!*) Next up is “Seek This First!” In this game, you will race to seek and find pictures from the Bible story. I will tell you one of the scenes from our Bible story, and you will hurry to stand by that picture. Give yourself a point each time you get to the picture first. Let’s go over the pictures before we play. (*Point out and read the descriptions of each picture.*) Stand in the center of the space and let’s seek the Bible story!

“Seek This First” Picture Prompts and Scenes

1. Jesus was teaching people on a mountain about what it means to live in ways that honor God. He taught about how God wants people to trust Him and let go of the worries they struggle with.
2. “I tell you,” Jesus said. “Do not worry about your life.”
3. “Do not worry about what you will eat or drink or about what you will wear. Life is about more than just food and clothing.”
4. Jesus told the people to think about the birds in the sky. He reminded them that birds do not grow their food or gather and store it in barns, and yet God feeds them each day.
5. Then Jesus told the people to look at how the wildflowers in the field grow. Jesus said, “They don’t work or make clothes. But not even Solomon, one of the richest kings ever, had clothes more beautiful than these wildflowers.”
6. Jesus told the people not to worry about the future or what would happen tomorrow. Instead, they were to live each day trusting God and believing that He would provide everything they needed.

Keep It Going: Read two or three scenes and allow kids to race to the pictures in order. Invite kids to call out the Bible story scenes once they are familiar with them.

Loud And Clear: Great job seeking those pictures from today’s Bible story! If you were worried or unsure of which way to go, you could follow your teammates who knew where to go. Jesus taught us that we can seek the right thing first—God’s kingdom. What Jesus means is that doing things God’s way—according to His purpose and design—is the best way to live our lives. Seeking God and His design first helps remove our worries. We can trust like Jesus taught us to trust, and we can follow His example and the examples of others who love and follow Him. When we seek God, we are trusting Him. Say this after me, **“Let’s trust like Jesus!” (Let’s trust like Jesus!)**

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

Discussion Questions:

- When you are worried, what helps you feel better? *(Allow answers and share your own.)*
- The Object Lesson in Large Group was a help buzzer. What are some situations in life where you could really use a help buzzer? *(Allow answers and share your own. Answers may include trying to score a point in a sports game, trying to remember answers on a test, and so forth.)* How is God better than a help buzzer? *(Allow answers and share your own. Answers may include God knows more than a host or help buzzer; I can trust God more than a help buzzer; and so forth.)*
- The Bible tells us that God designed us for a purpose, and we can trust Him. Let's open our Bibles to **Matthew 6:33-34** (pg. 1054) and read about it together. *(Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.)* Jesus told us what we can do instead of worry. Above everything, we can talk with God first. Jesus taught that we do not need to worry because He knew God loves us and provides for us. We cannot get rid of our worries on our own. Only our trustworthy God can bring us peace. How can God's peace help us every day? *(Allow answers and share your own. Answers may include God's peace helps me when I feel worried or afraid; God's peace can help my family; God's peace can help my friend; and so forth.)*
- What can we do when we are worried? *(Allow answers and share your own. Answers may include we can ask God to help us trust Him; we can read the Bible and remember that God cares for people; we can look at God's creation and see that He cares for everyone and everything; and so forth.)* When we are worried, we can remember how much God cares for us. He cares for us so much that He sent Jesus to die and come back to life so we can be forgiven for our sin. God sent Jesus for us, and we can know that He will always give us what we need. If you want to know more about how Jesus can forgive your sins, please come talk to me! I would love to tell you more!
- The Bible tells us that when we trust like Jesus taught us to trust, we are living in God's design and purpose for us. So next up, **let's trust like Jesus!** What is one way you can trust like Jesus this week? 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 the truth that You care for us. Thank You that when we worry, we can trust You instead. Help us to trust like Jesus taught us to trust and shine Your light before others. Amen.

God has a plan and a purpose for your life. When we worry, we can remember that God loves us and cares for us. This week **let's trust like Jesus!** Say, **"Let's trust like Jesus!"** *(Let's trust like Jesus!)*

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.