



July 5, 2026 I Am Broken Elementary Leader Guide



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

WIN

God cared for His people, the Israelites, including leading them through the desert with a cloud by day and a fire by night. We get to teach kids that we need God and His presence in our lives, just like the Israelites needed Him.

BIBLE- God was with Israel- Exodus 13- 40

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, Plastic cups (3-6 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**

The Israelites had just escaped Egypt after being slaves for hundreds of years. But even after their big rescue, they still faced scary stuff—angry armies, no food, no water. But guess what? Say, “What?” (*What?*) God never left them! He led them with a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. That cloud and fire showed everyone that God was with them—right there, every step of the way. God was with His people. Where was God? (*With His people!*) Why? Because they were *His* people—and He never left them alone.

And God did not stop there! He gave them water when they were thirsty. He gave them food every day, including a special food called *manna* (MAN uh). He gave them strength when they faced enemies. When they camped at Mount Sinai (SIGH nigh), God’s presence came down in a thick cloud and fire. That is how serious God was about being close to His people. He even gave Moses instructions to build a special portable tent called the *tabernacle* (TAB uhr nak uhl) where God would meet with His people.

God helped them—and He helps us—when we face challenges. But what if life feels okay? What if we are *not* scared, sad, or facing challenges? Do we still need God then? The answer is yes! Say, “Yes!” (*Yes!*) Just because things *feel* fine does not mean we are *not* broken and in need of God. We *all* are broken and need God. We need God to rescue us from sin, and we need God to help us follow Him every day. Even when life seems good, we still sin. In the good times and the hard times, the Israelites still needed God *every day*. Our greatest need is for God! Say, “I need God every day!” (*I need God every day!*)

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

Circle 1- From the very beginning, God made people to know Him, love Him, and have a relationship with Him every day. God gave people everything they needed, and when He made the world and people, He said it was good!

Circle 2- Things did not stay good for long because people chose their own way instead of God’s way. Sin breaks our relationship with God and others, and because of sin, we all need God’s rescue—SOS!

Circle 3- The Israelites needed God to help them in the wilderness, and we need God to rescue us from sin too. God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sin, and when Jesus came back to life, He made the way for us to have a relationship with God forever.

Circle 4- Even though sin breaks us, God rescues us through Jesus and gives us new life with Him now and forever. We still need God every day, and He helps us follow Him and reminds us that He is always with us.

If you have questions about how God rescues us from sin or want to know more about following Jesus, talk with your Small Group Leader or Campus Team. We know we need God every day and we be more than happy to talk with you about it.

Now let’s take a moment to talk with God and thank Him for always being with us. Let’s pray in 3-2-1.

God, Thank You for being with us every day. We know we are broken, and we need You to help us know, love, and follow You. Thank You for sending Jesus to forgive us and for being with us every day. Please remind us to trust You and follow You no matter what. Amen.

Desert Survival Challenge

Big Goal: Know that we can trust and follow God like His people in the wilderness.

Leader Prep: Set up four separate stations spaced out around your room.

- “Follow Footprints” station: Create a simple path with masking tape on the floor. Teammates will guide blindfolded teammates to follow the path.
- “Desert Drip” station: Place one plastic cup and two buckets a short distance apart—one filled with table tennis balls and the other empty. Kids will relay to move table tennis balls from one bucket to the other.
- “Manna Mayhem” station: Scatter cotton balls across a designated area and place a bowl and a plastic spoon. Kids will relay using the spoon to scoop cotton balls into the bowl.
- “Sandy Shelter” station: Set out tissues, play dough, craft sticks, and a paper plate. Kids will build a “tent” out of the supplies.

Supplies: “Desert Survival Challenge” printable (1 per group), “Allergy Alert” printable (1 per group), Blindfolds (1 per group), Buckets (2 per group), Plastic cup (1 per group), Plastic spoons (1 per group), Cotton balls (20 per group), Paper bowl (1 per group), Tissues (2 per group), Craft sticks (4 per group), Play dough (1 per group), Painter’s tape (1 per group), Paper plate (1 per group), Stopwatch or timer (1 per group), Plastic gloves (2–6 per group; optional)

What To Do: Welcome to the “Desert Survival Challenge!” Today, our team will face some challenges that remind us of the challenges the Israelites faced in the desert. We will start by finding a partner or group of three (*Assign kids to groups ensuring there are at least two kids on each team.*)

We have four different challenges set up, and your team will go through each one. You will have one minute at each station, so you will need to complete each challenge quickly! (*Stand at each station as you explain it.*)

At the “Following Footprints” station, choose one of your teammates to wear a blindfold. The rest of your team will guide the blindfolded person along the path taped on the floor. How many blindfolded teammates can you get to follow the path before time runs out?

At the “Desert Drip” station, one at a time, you and your teammates will use a plastic cup to scoop table tennis “water drops” from the full bucket to the empty bucket. Can you move all the water before time runs out?

At the “Manna Mayhem” station, your team must take turns using the spoon to collect all the cotton ball “manna” scattered on the ground and put them in the bowl. Can you collect all the manna in time?

At the “Sandy Shelter” station, you will build a mini tent! Use the tissues, play dough, and craft sticks to build your tent. You will have to listen to each other, work together, and trust one another!

When time is up at each station, you will quickly clean up the materials before moving on to the next station. (*Assign teams to starting stations.*) If you are ready, say, “Let’s survive the desert!” (*Let’s survive the desert!*)

Keep It Going: Add a surprise “sandstorm” where teams freeze in place for 10 seconds mid-task.

Leader Tip: Provide plastic gloves for kids with play dough allergies.

Smaller Group Option: Invite kids to play in pairs or groups of three without making four separate teams.

Loud And Clear: Great job, everyone! What was the hardest part of the challenge for your team? (*Allow teams to share.*) These challenges were fun, but they also showed us something important. Life is not always easy—sometimes we feel lost, confused, or like we do not have what we need. The Israelites felt that way in the desert too. But even when things were tough, God guided them, provided for them, and stayed close. They had to listen, follow, and trust Him—just like we do today.

We are not wandering in a desert, but we *are* broken because of our sin; we all choose to do what *we* think is best rather than follow what *God* says is best. That means we cannot follow on our own and through our own strength—we need God every single day. Say, **“I need God every day!” (I need God every day!)** The good news is that God is with us, and when we trust Him, He will guide us, help us, and never leave us. What is one way you want to trust or follow God this week? (*Allow kids to respond and share your own answer.*)

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

Discussion Questions:

- What is the silliest mistake you have ever made? Maybe you dropped a plate after dinner when you were helping clear the table or maybe you left a marker on the table without the lid. We all make silly mistakes sometimes. Think about the silly mistake you made. Were you able to fix it? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
- Think back to the basic things we need every day that we learned about in Large Group—food, water, air, and shelter. Why do you think we need those things? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)* Why do we need to add God to that list? *(We need God's help and love every day because we are broken.)*
- The Bible tells us that we are broken, and we need God every day! Let's open our Bibles to **Exodus 19:5-6** 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.)* God made the whole world and everything in it, but He chose the Israelites (IZ ray el ights) to be His special people. These Bible verses say God wanted them to know and follow and trust Him. God brought the Israelites out of Egypt. He guided them through the wilderness, provided food and water for them, and He gave them instructions on how to live as His people. What are some ways you think God has helped you in the past week? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
- We are broken because of our sin. Our wrong choices have broken our relationship with God, and we need Someone to rescue us. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve for sin. Jesus died and came back to life, showing He is more powerful than both sin and death! But even when we believe in Jesus, we are still tempted to sin and follow what we think is best. Like God was with the Israelites in the desert, how can Jesus help us every day? *(Jesus helps us love and follow God every day. Jesus made the way for us to have a relationship with God, so we can enjoy God's help every day.)*
- The Bible tells us that we are broken, and we need God every day! Say, "SOS!" *(SOS!)* The good news is that God loves us so much, and He made the way for us to be rescued from brokenness. God is always here to help us. 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 loving us. We know we are broken because of our sin and need You every day. Thank You for sending Jesus to help us and forgive us. Please stay close to us and help us follow You. We love You, God. Amen.

We need rescue! Say, "SOS!" *(SOS!)* We are broken because of our sin and need God's help, not just once but every day! God loves us, and He always gives us what we need. We can rely on God to love us, forgive us, and help us follow Him.

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.