



September 13, 2026

I Am Valued Elementary Leader Guide

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



WIN

God loves and values us so much. God seeks us when we are far from Him and welcomes us into a forever relationship with Him through Jesus.

BIBLE- The Story of the Lost Son- Luke 15:11-24; 19:10

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, Construction paper (4 per group), Clear tape (1 per group), Music and music player (1 per group), “Lost Son Roundup” printable (1 son per kid), Bucket (1 per group), Clear tape (1 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group), Stopwatch or timer (1 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 a story about a son who made wrong choices and went far from home. When the son returned, his father ran to him, hugged him, and celebrated because he loved him!

Just like the father in the story, God seeks us and loves us even when we make wrong choices. When we turn to God and ask for forgiveness, He welcomes us into His family. Say it together: "God seeks me!"

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

Circle 2- The son chose to do what he wanted instead of what was right. We do this too, and the Bible calls it sin. Sin breaks our relationship with God, and we cannot fix it on our own. But God loves us and seeks us even when we sin. He made a way through Jesus to forgive our sin and bring us back to Him.

Circle 3- God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. Jesus lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and came back to life, showing He is stronger than sin and death! We cannot earn God's love or forgiveness. He offers it to us because He loves us and values us. When we trust Jesus and ask for forgiveness, we can have a relationship with God forever. Say it together: "I am valued by God!"

Circle 4- Jesus promised that He would come back and make all things new. One day, there will be no more sin, no more death, and no more brokenness. When that happens, everyone who trusts in Jesus will be made new too! When you believe in Jesus for life, you get to enjoy a perfect relationship with God forever, just like He designed it in the very beginning.

Circle 1- When you admit to God that you are a sinner and ask Him to forgive you, He will! You can repent, or turn away, from your sin and follow Jesus. This means that you are giving over your identity and your plans to God and letting Him be the good King in charge of your life. Turning from sin to follow Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with God.

We do not have to earn God's love, and we do not have to wait until we feel worthy of His love. Whenever you feel sad, lonely, or like you are not important, you can remember the story of the lost son. Remember the father seeking his son, hugging him, and celebrating him. Remember that God offered the same forgiveness for you when He sent Jesus. That love and forgiveness are available right now, no matter what. Say, **"God seeks me!" (God seeks me!)**

God, thank You for loving us and for sending Your only Son, Jesus, so that we can have a forever relationship with You. Thank You for loving us so much and seeking after us. Whenever we wonder about our value and worth, remind us that You love us, You seek us, and You want a relationship with us. Help us to trust You, follow You, and know You. Amen.

Seek and Catch Craft- (20 minutes)

Kids will build a toss and catch game with streamer balls and tape.

Big Goal: Know that, like the father sought his son in the Bible story, God seeks after us.

Leader Prep: Print copies of the “Seek And Catch” printable, providing one card for each child. Set out supplies.

1. Cut two 2 inches pieces of duck tape per kids.
2. Allow kids to assemble the game by taping the streamer ball to the bottom of the cup.
3. Cut and tape a card from the “Seek And Catch” printable onto the cup.

Supplies: “Seek And Catch” printable (1-3 per group), Plastic cups (1 per child), streamer ball, (1 per child), Duck tape (1 per group), Clear tape (1-3 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group), Child-safe scissors (1 per child)

What To Do: As we continue to talk about how God seeks us, we are going to make a fun craft *and* game to help us remember that truth! This craft is called “Seek and Catch!” You are going to make a game using a cup, tape, and a streamer ball. Try to catch the ball in your cup! This is a fun way to remind us that, just like this little ball, we can never stray too far away from God, and He is always seeking us!

For the first step, cut two 2 inch pieces of duck tape. *(Demonstrate and allow time.)*

Next, place the end of the streamers on the bottom of your cup. Then using your tape, attach them to your cup. *(Allow time and assist as needed.)*

Finally, cut out the Bible story reference cards and tape one to your cup. *(Allow time.)*

Now for the fun part! When you are done, hold the cup, swing the ball, and try to catch it inside! How many catches do you think you will get in a row? *(Allow responses.)*

You can invite friends and family to play this game and tell them the story about how the father looked for and welcomed his son who had wandered far away. Just like the son in that story, you can never wander too far away from God! He will always seek you and welcome you to a relationship with Him!

Keep It Going: Hold contests to see which kids can catch their streamer ball the fastest.

Loud And Clear: Sometimes the ball flies everywhere, but the cup is always ready to catch it! In our Bible story, the father was always ready to welcome his son home. Even when we wander or make wrong choices, God’s love for us does not disappear. When we feel like we are not valuable, we can know that God welcomes us to follow and trust Him because He seeks and loves us. He is always ready to forgive us because we are valuable to Him.

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

TALK ABOUT IT

Discussion Questions:

- If you could be a famous person for the day and do anything you wanted, what is one thing you would do? *(Allow kids to share responses and share your own.)*
- When somebody wins a trophy, it does not just happen in that moment—someone gave the trophy because of the value in the winner. How can this remind us that God values and seeks us? *(God made the way for us to have a relationship with Him before we were born. God decided we were valuable enough to love and rescue.)*
- The Bible tells us that we are valued by God, and He seeks after us! Let's open our Bibles to **Luke 15:20** (pg. 1142) 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.)* Jesus told a story about a father who ran to his son when his was still far away. The father did this even though his son made many wrong choices. That is how God treats us! God values us so much that He seeks us even when we are stuck in our sin. How can knowing that God seeks you help when you are feeling unimportant or wondering if you are valuable? *(Allow responses and share your own.)*
- Jesus told this story about the lost son to show us what God is like. The Bible says that all of us have sinned. That sin separates us from God, like the lost son in the story was separated from his father. But God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sin and make the way for us to have a relationship with Him. How is God like the father in this story? *(God seeks us and forgives us.)*
- When would it be helpful for you this week to remember that God seeks you? What is something you learned today?

WRAP UP

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 valuing us so much. Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sins. Thank You for seeking us, loving us, and forgiving us, like the father sought after and welcomed his son in today's Bible story. Help us to trust You when we feel unsure, lonely, or like we do not matter. Give us hearts that trust Your love and want to follow You. Amen.

Like the father ran to welcome his lost son home, God seeks us and celebrates when we respond to Him by turning from sin to follow Him. We do not have to earn His love! He gives it freely because we are valuable to Him. If you have questions about what it means to follow Jesus or be welcomed into God's family, I would love to talk with you. Let me hear you say, "God seeks me!" (God seeks me!)

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.