



September 6, 2026

I Am Valued Elementary Leader Guide

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

WIN

God made each of us with worth. Kids don't have to wait to grow up—God sees, knows, loves, and values them right here and now.

BIBLE- Jesus and the Children- Matt 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16

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, Dice (1 per group), “Piece Of The Puzzle” printable on cardstock (2 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group), Bucket (1 per group), Pool noodle (optional)

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

In today's Bible story, the disciples tried to keep children away from Jesus, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me!" Jesus showed everyone that kids matter to God and are valuable right now, not just when they grow up.

We don't have to earn God's love or prove our worth. God made us, loves us, and welcomes us to come to Him. Say it together: "I am valued by God!"

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

Circle 1- God created all people—including kids—with worth. When God made people, He made them to enjoy a perfect relationship with Him. God made the first two people, Adam and Eve, and they lived in a perfect world. They walked and talked to God with special VIP access!

Circle 2- Adam and Eve chose to sin. Sin is choosing what we think is best instead of following what God says is best. We all sin, and sin breaks our relationship with God. We might try to be good enough to fix things, but we can't fix our sin problem on our own. We need Jesus to forgive our sin and bring us back to God.

Circle 3- The good news is that Jesus is our Rescuer! God sent His only Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. Jesus lived a completely perfect life and never sinned! He died on a cross and took the punishment that we deserved for our sin

Circle 4- But Jesus did not stay dead. He came back to life on the third day, showing He is more powerful than both sin and death. Because of Jesus, we get to have a relationship with God. When we believe in Jesus, God helps us know, believe, and follow the truth about who He is and who He made us to be. God invites each of us to respond by turning away from our sin so we can have a relationship with Him.

Just like Jesus brought the little children near, He draws you near too! God sees, knows, and has a plan for each one of you. He made you with worth, and He wants you to be a part of His family. Say, **"God made me with worth!" (God made me with worth!)** To God, you are so valuable and special because He made you and loves you.

God, thank You for creating us. We are so grateful that You sent Jesus to rescue us from our sins, so that we can follow You and live the way You made us to live You made us with worth, which is amazing because You are amazing! Help us to trust You and follow You. We love you. Amen.

VIP Dash- (20 minutes)

Kids will make badges, then participate in a fast-paced relay race.

Big Goal: Celebrate that we are uniquely valued by God.

Leader Prep: Use painter's tape to create starting and finish lines. Set out supplies.

Game Rules:

1. Cut out and decorate badges.
2. Direct kids to form two teams and place their badges in piles behind the finish line. Line up two teams, single file, behind the starting line.
3. Call the first players on each team to hurry to the finish line, pick up a badge, and hold it high while they hustle back to their teams.
4. Instruct players to pass their badges to the next players in line, who will hurry to the finish line, take another badge, then return with both badges. Continue in this way until teams have picked up all their players' badges.
5. Lead teams to sit down after they have collected all their badges. Instruct the last player to distribute the badges to each correct teammate. The first team to finish wins.

Supplies: "VIP Dash" printable (2-4 per group), Painter's tape (1 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group), Markers or crayons (several per child), Child-safe scissors (1 per child), Stopwatch or timer (1 per group)

What To Do: All right, VIPs! Today, we are playing *VIP Dash* and guess what? (*What?*) Every single one of you gets to be *the* Very Important Person. First, let's make some VIP badges. You will write your name on the blank line, then decorate and cut out your badge. (*Allow time.*) Now, let's make two teams. You and your teammates will place your badges in a pile by the finish line, then line up, single file, behind the starting line. (*Allow time.*) When I say, "Go," the first player on each team will hurry to pick up a VIP badge, hold it high, and dash back to your team. When you return, hand the VIP badge to the next person who will hurry and grab another badge! Make sure you keep passing the badges to the new dashers. Keep going until the final player grabs the last badge and returns. Your team will sit down, and the last player will give teammates their badges. The first team to finish wins. As you move, cheer on your teammates! Let me hear you practice cheering. Let's play!

Keep It Going: Mix up the teams and play another round with silly variations, such as hop on one foot, bear crawl, or flapping arms like a bird.

Leader Tip: Encourage all players to cheer when it is not their turn. Point out and praise positive interactions and great teamwork.

Smaller Group Option: Play as one team, timing the team to see how quickly kids can complete the relay.

Loud And Clear: Wow, that was awesome! No one was skipped or left out when it came to the badges. In a similar way, we all get the opportunity to have access to Jesus, just like the kids in today's Bible story. There is only one way to have access to God, and that is through believing and trusting in Jesus. That is amazing news! Say, "That is amazing!" (*That is amazing!*) Great job!

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

TALK ABOUT IT

Discussion Questions:

- What is something that makes you special? *(Allow responses and share your own.)*
- What do you know about someone who is on a VIP list? *(They have special access. They get to go somewhere that others don't get to go.)* How can a VIP list remind us how God sees us? *(God made us valuable. We are VIPs to God.)*
- The Bible tells us that God made us with worth, and He values us. Let's open our Bibles to **Mark 10:14** (pg. 1101) 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 was not happy with what He saw happening. He told the disciples to let the children come to Him because the kingdom of God belongs to kids just like them. Jesus taught the people that God made *all* people with worth and value. Remember, they did not do anything special to earn access to Jesus, and the same is true for you and me. We are valuable to God because *He* made us. It's not about anything special we *do*, but it is about how amazing and special God *is*! God made us and He gets to say what is true about who we are, and God says we are valuable to Him! How does this Bible story help us know that we are valued? *(We are valued because God made us and what He says about us is true. The same way Jesus invited children to come to Him, God invites us and made the way for us to have a relationship with Him.)*
- God made us with worth. Even after sin broke our relationship with God, He sent His only Son, Jesus, so that we could have a relationship with Him. What can help us know and remember about value when it comes to God? *(I can read this Bible story again. I can talk with people who follow God about what makes us valuable. I can pray and ask God to help me know that I am valuable to Him.)*
- We are valuable to God because He made us! When would it be helpful this week to remember that God made you with worth? 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 so much for making us valuable. We are so thankful that You made us with worth, and we are valuable in Your sight. Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus, to make the way for us to have a relationship with You. Help us know that our worth is not because of what we do but because of who You are and who You say we are. Amen.

Jesus welcomed children in today's Bible story, and we learned that He welcomes all people to know and follow Him! Ask, "Why?" (Why?) Because God made people, and He says that people are made with worth. We can trust and believe that what God says about us is true. We can also know that God values us so much that He made the way for us to have a relationship with Him forever!

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.