



Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (15 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Pray & Dismiss (5 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



Bible Story

On the Road to Emmaus
Luke 24:13-35

Bottom Line



Monthly Memory Verse



Greeting & Prayer



What You Need

- A Spinning Wheel
- Prayer Chart

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that His love is for the whole world, and that includes you and every person you will ever meet. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time you were confused about God, and He met you in your questions. Ask God to help the kids in your group understand that “the whole world” means everyone. Pray they would know God loves them, He loves their family, He loves their friends, and He loves the new person at school.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

② What You Say

“Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation.”

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

Joy Uncovered

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God



What You Need

- Bible
- Prepared white pieces of paper with "JOY" written on them in white crayon
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes or Cotton balls
- A bottle of water
- Paper towels



Inclusive Pro Tips

Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible and direct them to look up Philippians 4:4.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2nd-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Guide the kids to put their Bibles aside.
- Ask kids to gently paint over the entire page with their watercolor paints.
- As they paint, the word "JOY" will begin to appear on the paper.
- Once revealed, talk about the Memory Verse: ***"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4"***
- Ask kids what they notice about their painting--how the word was "hidden," and what helped it show up.

What You Say:

"Wasn't it cool to see the word 'JOY' appear on your paper? It was there the whole time—you just couldn't see it until the color revealed it. Joy is like that! Because we belong to Jesus, we can have joy in our hearts all the time, even when we don't feel it at first. Jesus helps us uncover joy as we remember His love, His promises, and His truth. You can have joy every day because you belong to the Lord, and [Bottom Line] you can have joy because there's a bigger story!"

Help to See



What You Need

- “Small Picture Answers” Activity
Page taped to the walls

What You Do:

- Show kids how to make binoculars with their hands and cup them around their eyes.
- Explain that you are going to ask a question, and the answer is hidden somewhere in the room. They are to use their binoculars to find the answer!
- Ask a question: “Who was walking with the two friends?” (Find the “Jesus” picture.)
- Ask a question: “What did Jesus and the two friends eat?” (Find the “bread” picture.)
- Ask a question: “What book tells us the true story of God?” (Find the “Bible” picture.)
- Ask: “Who died and came back to life?” (Find the “Jesus” picture.)

What You Say:

“You found all the answers! Sometimes when bad things happen, it’s like we can’t see clearly. We only see the sad part of the story. But God wants us to use our ‘faith binoculars’ to see the bigger story.

“And the bigger story that we are living in is this: Jesus gave His life to pay for sin, and in the end, He’s going to make everything right. We can live with Him forever! That’s the story that the two friends on the walk to Emmaus were living in, and it’s the Big Beautiful Story that we are living in too!

“It’s the best story that’s ever been told. And it’s all true. So when things get hard, and they will, remember that there is a bigger story! Ask Jesus to remind you that He is with you every step of the way, and ask Him to help you trust that the hard that you are going through right now!

“God is always working on His bigger story. He is working for good—a forever good. And let that bring you joy! [Bottom Line] You can have joy because there’s a bigger story.”

Inclusive Pro Tips



Print “Verse Motions” Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

Pray and Dismiss



What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for the story of the friends on the road. Thank You that even when we're sad, we can have joy because we are a part of the best story ever that You are writing! Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Rescuer. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today's Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is good news for everyone.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.



What to Do:
Print on cardstock.
One for every Small Group. Page 1 of 3.

"Small Picture Answers" Activity Page
April 2024, Week 2, Small Group 2-3
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What to Do:
Copy on cardstock.
One for every Small Group. Page 2 of 3.

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