



# 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.



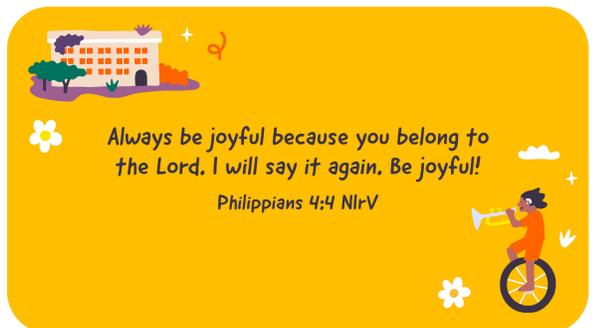
## Bible Story

Great Commission and Ascension  
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11

## 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

# Emoji Story



## What You Need

- Bible
- "Emoji Story" Activity Page

## What You Do:

- Read Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:4-11 out loud to the group. Tell the kids that they are two different, but very important, events!
- Give each kid a set of four emoji pictures.
- Tell the kids that these emojis help us remember and share the story of Jesus.
- Invite the kids to work together to place the emojis in the correct order as you talk through the Good News:

o Heart: God loves us so much that He sent Jesus as His rescue plan.

o Cross: Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

o Empty Tomb: Jesus rose again on the third day. He is alive!

o Heaven: When we choose to accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness, we can live with God forever in heaven.

- Once the emojis are in order, encourage kids to practice using the pictures to tell the story to a partner.
- Let them mix up the emojis and retell the story again.

## What You Say:

"These emojis help us remember the BEST story ever—the good news about Jesus! God loves us so much that Jesus came to rescue us. He died on the cross to pay for our sins so we could be close to God. And then Jesus rose from the dead! Now, anyone who chooses to accept what Jesus did on the cross can be God's friend forever!"

"Jesus gave His friends, the disciples, a big job—a really big job! Jesus told His friends to tell everyone around the world about Him. You can use these emojis to share Jesus with everyone, everywhere you go, just like Jesus told His followers to do. [Bottom Line] You can share the good news about Jesus."

April - Week 3

G23 | W3

ACTIVITY TWO

# Spread the Joy

## What You Need

- “JOY” Activity Page
- Cotton rounds
- Washable markers
- Double-sided Tape



## What You Do:

- Ask kids to color one side of the cotton completely with lots of different colors.
- Use double-sided tape to stick the cotton round in between the J and Y on their paper.
- Explain that when they get home, they can take their colorful cotton round off their paper and place it on a plate with a thin layer of water. Watch as the colors on their cotton round do something special.

## What You Say:

“Your artwork looks so cool! It will be even cooler when you go home and put the cotton round in water. The water will make something special happen—the colors will spread all over in the water.

“Jesus wants us to spread His joy to everyone around us. He told us to go into all the world and tell people about Him and His great love. That means we can tell our neighbors, our friends, our teammates, and our family about Jesus. That means we can tell people about Jesus in our neighborhood, at school, at the grocery store, at practice, at the park, and on the bus. He loves them!

“And just like the water will help the colors from your cotton round spread, God is with us to help us spread His love and tell people about Him. Jesus said, ‘And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end’ (Matthew 28:20b). And later Jesus explained what that meant—He told His followers that His very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, would help them! That promise was true then, and it’s true for us today. Jesus is always with us. [Bottom Line] You can share the good news about Jesus.”

# Pray and Dismiss



## What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for always being with us. Thank You for giving us the job of telling others about You. Please be with us as we talk to our friends and family this week about Jesus. Help us to be brave and full of joy as we share the good news of Your great love. 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.

**You can share the good news about Jesus.**

**J**

**Great Commission and Ascension • Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11**

**Fill** the bottom of a **plate** or **bowl** with water. Remove the cotton pad from your paper and place it in the water. Watch the water swirl and change as the colors from the cotton pad **release** into the water. Fun to watch, but not to drink. **Please** dispose of the water when done.



**God loves us so much that He sent Jesus as His rescue plan.**



**Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins so we can be close with God!**



**Jesus rose again on the third day. He is alive!**



**When we choose to accept what Jesus did for us on the cross, our friendship with God will last forever—on into heaven!**

**What to Do:**  
Print on cardstock and cut.  
One for every kid.

**"Emoji Story" Activity Page**  
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