



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



K1 | W3

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

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.”

ACTIVITY TWO

GROUPS 1/4

Parachute Party

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God



What You Need

- Bible
- Parachute
- Streamers

What You Do:

- Read Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:4-11 out loud to the group. Explain that they are two separate, but important, events!
- Spread the parachute on the floor.
- Gather around the parachute and hold the handles or edges.
- Ask, "What was the special job Jesus gave His friends?" (to tell everyone about Him!)
- Ask, "What is the message we are supposed to share?" (Jesus is alive, and Jesus loves you!)
- Throw the streamers onto the center of the parachute.
- Say, "These are like the good news of Jesus. Let's spread them everywhere!"
- Invite the kids to shake the parachute fast so the streamers fly up and out all over the room.
- Ask kids to gather them up and do it again!

What You Say:

"Whew! We spread that good news everywhere! Jesus told His friends to go into all the whole world and tell people everywhere about Him. That's a really big job! But He promised them something special, that He would be with them always through His Holy Spirit. Guess what? Jesus wants YOU to tell everyone, everywhere about Him, and Jesus will always be with you through His Holy Spirit too! [Bottom Line] You can share the good news about Jesus."



Inclusive Pro Tips

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

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

Y

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.