



# God Took Care Of Our Greatest Need

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 1 • May 3/4/5

Side 1 • Small Group # 1

10 minutes



PRO TIP

**Transitioning to Large Group can be difficult for some kids. Use the Small Group time to support this transition by creating excitement and anticipation for worship. Plan a special dance move for worship or review your group's favorite lyric to shout when you hear it. This keeps kids engaged in worship.**



WELCOME

## Welcome each kid by name.

*I want everyone to take a minute and think of the best thing that happened to you this week. Pause to allow kids to think. Then share the best thing that happened to you. Pass the bean bag to someone across the circle and **ask:** [Name], what's the best thing that happened to you this week? Prompt kids to continue passing the bean bag at random asking the next person to share.*

*Last week, you were challenged to put stickers from the sheets you got last week around your house to remind you to have hope. Where did you put your stickers?*



PRAY

*When we pray, we are having a conversation with God. During this time, it can be helpful to fold our hands and close our eyes to minimize distractions and focus on God. Is there anything anyone would like to discuss with God in prayer today?*

**Pray:** Dear God, thank you for your unwavering love for us. You love us so deeply that there is nothing we think, say, or do that escapes your knowledge. You are always aware of our needs, even before we recognize them ourselves. Thank you for being a God who sees and hears us, and for always being present with us. Amen.

## Give each kid a Bible.

**Say:**

- *Our verse today focuses on Jesus. Last month, we learned a lot about him, especially through the story of Easter.*
- *Jesus was born to take away the sins of the world. While Jesus was here on earth, he proved that he was God's son through the miracles he performed, the information he shared about the kingdom of God, and the way he lived his life by never sinning, not even once! Jesus predicted his death and resurrection. He came back to life to make it possible for us to live in God's kingdom forever. Now, Jesus lives in heaven with God and is making our forever home. He promised he will come back to earth to make everything perfect again.*

**Read:**

- John 3:16-17

**Review:**

- *What does God's love mean to you?*
- *Why do you think God sent Jesus to help us?*
- *How do you think Jesus felt about us?*

**Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.**



BIBLE



# God Took Care Of Our Greatest Need

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 1 • May 3/4/5

Side 2 • Small Group # 2

15 minutes



## ACTIVITY

Split your Group up into 2 teams. Ask them to stand in line, one in front of the other.

- Place one set of Cards in each Bucket, along with a Decoder under the Cards. Place the Buckets a few feet away.
- Give the first kid in each line a Snowball. Direct them to toss the Snowball into the bucket at your signal.
- When they land it in the Bucket, they will go and retrieve one Card, and hand the Snowball to the next person in line.
- After all the Cards and Decoder are collected, Groups should put the cards in numerical order and use the Decoder to try to read the Memory Verse out loud. The first Group to do this wins.



## CHALLENGE

*Our Verse tells us to look out for the good of others. Can anyone give me some examples of what that might look like? (Sharing, helping, comforting, including, welcoming, defending, being patient with others) Your challenge is to look out for and do something for the good of others. Not just one person, not just once, but as many as possible! Really push yourself to do this a whole bunch this week. You've got this!*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Ask:

- How do you feel when someone does something good for you?
- Why is it important to look out for others who are different than you?
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

**Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.**



## TAKE HOME

As kids leave, remind them of their challenge this week.

**None of you should look out for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. Philippians 2:4**



# Look For Ways To Help The People You Love

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 2 • May 10/11/12

Side 1 • Small Group # 1

10 minutes



PRO TIP

Older Elementary schoolers are beginning to feel a responsibility to make right the wrongs in the world around them. Use this part of their development to encourage them with ways they can help those they love. In Small Group, discuss specific opportunities like doing the dishes, helping a sibling clean their room, weeding a neighbor's garden, and more. This empowers kids to help others and show the love of Jesus.



WELCOME

## Welcome each kid by name.

*I want everyone to take a minute and think of the best thing that happened to you this week. Pause to allow kids to think. Then, share the best thing that happened to you. Pass the bean bag to someone across the circle and **ask:** [Name], what's the best thing to happen to you this week? Prompt kids to continue passing the bean bag at random asking the next person to share.*

*Last week, you were challenged to look out for the good of others. What good things did you end up doing for others last week?*



PRAY

*When we pray, we are having a conversation with God. During this time, it can be helpful to fold our hands and close our eyes to minimize distractions and focus on God. Is there anything anyone would like to discuss with God in prayer today?*

**Pray:** *Dear God, as we are about to open our Bible and learn more about you, I would love everyone here to be inspired by your big story. You have created this world and everyone in it. And the most important stories that show us who you are and who we are, are in this big book. Thank you for this gift. Amen.*

## Give each kid a Bible.

### Say:

- *Our story takes place in a time long ago, when a king ruled who was not kind to the children in his kingdom. While it may be hard to imagine living in a situation like that, I know you all have great imaginations, so let's try to put ourselves into this story and picture what it might have been like.*

### Read:

- Exodus 2:1-10

### Review:

- *How do you think Moses' mom and sister Miriam felt watching him float in the river?*
- *Did Miriam and Moses' mom trust God? How do you know?*
- *What can we learn about trusting God from this story?*

**Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.**



BIBLE



# Look For Ways To Help The People You Love

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 2 • May 10/11/12

Side 2 • Small Group # 2

15 minutes



## ACTIVITY

Take out the Bean Bag and start passing it around the circle.

- At random, when you say *Stop*, the person holding the Bean Bag should respond to a scenario by either taking initiative or responding with love.
- Scenario examples are written below to start with, and then, come up with your own scenarios that your Group might struggle with.

Scenarios:

- *You woke up and noticed your room was messy.*
- *You get your test back and notice you got an A, but your classmate didn't do so well.*
- *You come home to see your grown-up carrying heavy grocery bags into the house.*
- *You notice your dog's empty water bowl, and she is waiting by the door.*
- *You're running late for school and your grown-up hasn't made lunch yet.*
- *You're watching your friend play in their soccer game on a hot day.*



## CHALLENGE

We don't have to worry about helping everyone, but we should start helping the people God has placed right in front of us. The good news is when we follow Jesus, God sends his Holy Spirit to help us, so we don't have to do it alone! The Holy Spirit can help us see a need and take the initiative to do something about it. That is your challenge this week- to take the initiative to help the people you love. And, not just once, a whole bunch! Let's do this!



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Share an age-appropriate story about a time when you noticed someone in need and took the initiative to do something about it. Maybe you saw someone who needed help carrying something heavy, or you cleaned up something before you were asked, or you listened well to someone who was feeling upset.

- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

**Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.**



## TAKE HOME

As kids leave, remind them of their challenge this week.

**None of you should look out for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. Philippians 2:4**



# Look For Ways To Use What You've Been Given

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 3 • May 17/18/19

Side 1 • Small Group # 1

10 minutes



PRO TIP

The power of words is immeasurable! Let the kids in your Small Group know the gifts you see in them. Maybe write them in a note that you send in the mail or stop them in the atrium and tell them as they are with their parents. Not only does this help them plan how they can use their gifts to glorify God, but also lets them know they are seen, known, and loved.



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask:

- Would you rather sneak around in a super-secret invisibility cloak, or ride in a tiny flying car?
- Last week you were challenged to take the initiative to help the people you love. How did it go?



PRAY

When we pray, we talk to God. It is helpful during this time to fold our hands and close our eyes. This shuts out any distraction that might be around us. Is there anything that anyone would like to talk to God about today?

**Pray:** Dear God, we bring all of our ups, downs, fears, joys, anger, and every emotion to you. Please clear our hearts and minds so that we can hear the words you have for us today written in your book, the Bible. Amen.

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- When we pray, we talk to God, and when we read the Bible, God talks to us. He shows us who he is through what is written in the Bible. There are different types of writings in the Bible including letters, poems, historic documentation, and some stories!
- Today, we are going to read a story that Jesus made up to show us something about who God is and what heaven will be like.

Read:

- Matthew 25:14-30

Review:

- How did the master feel about the servants who use their money wisely?
- How did the master feel about the servant who hid his money?
- What do you think this story teaches us about using the gifts and talents God gives us?
- What do you think Jesus was trying to show us about God and heaven through this story?

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



BIBLE



# Look For Ways To Use What You've Been Given

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 3 • May 17/18/19

Side 2 • Small Group # 2

15 minutes



## ACTIVITY

Have your Group work together to retell today's Bible story. Ask guiding questions and correct any errors gently. Ask "What else?" to encourage other kids to include any additional details.

- Instruct everyone to get into a straight line, one person standing in front of the other. You will stand at the front of the line facing your Group.
- One at a time, read one bullet-point statement from the Story Scenario paper.
- After you read each scenario, instruct kids to jump to the right if they think it is a true statement, or the left if they think it is a false statement.
- Continue until every scenario has been read.
- After you have read every scenario, have everyone take a seat.



## CHALLENGE

*Jesus wanted us to know that whether it's a lot or a little, we are each responsible to use what we have been given to make a difference in this world! God is so creative and made each of us so differently! God has given us each different gifts and it's our job to figure out what gifts we have. One way you can do that is by asking grown-ups who know you well! Another way is to look at what you love to do, or what you are good at! Maybe you love to make cards for people, spend time with animals, or sing. Maybe you are good at playing soccer, an instrument, or math. No matter how much or how little you think you have, there's ALWAYS a way to use what you've been given to share God's love with others. This week, look for what God has given you, and ways to use that. You've got this!*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Share an age-appropriate example of how you try to make the most of what you've been given-whether it's time, stuff, talents, or friendships.

- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

**Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.**



## TAKE HOME

As kids leave, remind them of their challenge this week!

**None of you should look out for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. Philippians 2:4**





# Look For Ways To Tell Others About Jesus

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 4 • May 24/25/26

Side 1 • Small Group # 1

10 minutes



PRO TIP

**Make the challenge personal for the kids in your group! Ask them to name the person they want to share about Jesus with. Help them plan the place and the time and let them know you will be praying for them as they carry out this challenge. Write down what kids shared and be sure to connect with them about their plan next week!**



WELCOME

**Welcome each kid by name.**

**Ask:**

- Would you rather have one pet that is a secret agent, like a spy cat or spy dog, or would you rather be able to talk to all animals to get spy information?
- Last week you were challenged to discover what gifts we have as well as think of how we can use those gifts. How did you do?



PRAY

When we pray, we talk to God. It is helpful during this time to fold our hands and close our eyes. This shuts out any distraction that might be around us. Is there anything that anyone would like to talk to God about today?

**Pray:** Dear God, my heart is full every week I get to sit with these awesome people you made and learn more about you! Show us more of who you are and what you are like as we read your Bible today. Amen.

**Give each kid a Bible.**

**Say:**

- There are a lot of names in our story today and you don't have to know them all. The main person you should be aware of is John. The John mentioned in this story is not the same John who wrote the story. The John in the story is also known as John the Baptist. His job was to talk about and get people ready for Jesus!

**Read:**

- John 1:35-45

**Review:**

- It might have been a little difficult to follow along with what was happening in this reading. What do you think was happening here? John the Baptist was telling people about Jesus and who he is. He was Jesus' hype. Man. Then, when those people were introduced to Jesus they started to follow him.
- If someone asked you to come and see Jesus, what would you say?
- Why do you think Jesus was called 'the lamb of God'?

**Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.**



BIBLE



# Look For Ways To Tell Others About Jesus

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 4 • May 24/25/26

Side 2 • Small Group # 2

15 minutes



## ACTIVITY

Give everyone in your Group a Comic Activity Sheet and take out the markers.

- Share with your Group that the sheet is a comic of today's story, and they will fill in the speech bubbles with words.
- Review the story and support your Group as they fill in the bubbles.
- First bubble is John the Baptist telling Andrew that Jesus is the Lamb of God.
- Second bubble is Andrew running to tell Peter about Jesus.
- The third bubble is Philip telling Nathanael about Jesus.
- Allow kids to continue coloring the picture as you discuss the story.



## CHALLENGE

*I want everyone to take this picture home and use it as inspiration to talk to someone about Jesus. There were so many people having different conversations with others about Jesus. So, your challenge is to do that this week! Have one conversation with one person, MINIMUM. If you have more than one opportunity to do that, keep at it! Let's look for ways to tell others about Jesus. You've got this!*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Share an age-appropriate story about a time you were able to share about Jesus with someone else. Maybe you shared how you had peace in a tough situation, were able to talk about Jesus with a friend or neighbor or had a conversation at home with your family about what Jesus did for you.

- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

**Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.**



## TAKE HOME

Comic Activity Sheet (1 per kid, consumable)

**None of you should look out for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. Philippians 2:4**