

Following Jesus Calls Me To Share Him With Others

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 1 • Oct. 17/18/19
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes

PRO TIP

Get on their level. Sit or crouch down to talk at eye level instead of standing over them. At this age, 3rd and 4th graders want to be taken seriously, not talked down to. Meeting them eye-to-eye signals that you value what they have to say.

WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask:

- *Would you rather shout something to a friend or whisper it to them?*

PRAY

Pray: *Dear God, thank you for giving each of us a voice. Help us find the courage to speak up for you this week, whether that means a bold conversation or a quiet, honest moment with someone who needs to hear it. Amen.*

BIBLE

Give each kid a Bible.

Say: *Today we're going to read a verse where Jesus gives his friends one big job before he goes to heaven. Let's read Acts 1:8 together and find out what it is!*

Read:

- Acts 1:8

Review:

- *Paul is a man from the Bible who made his whole life about sharing the good news of Jesus with others. How difficult do you think that was for him?*
- *Paul gave to others through hard work, not just leftover time or money — what's one way you could sacrifice something this week to help someone else?*

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



Following Jesus Calls Me To Share Him With Others

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 1 • Oct. 17/18/19
Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes

ACTIVITY

Say: *Today we're playing a game called Good News Web – because just like this yarn connects all of us together, God wants the good news about Jesus to connect and spread from person to person!*

- Have kids sit in a circle.
- Give one kid the ball of string to start.

Say: *Once you have the ball, share about someone you can tell about Jesus.*

- That kid holds onto the end of the string, says one person they can tell about Jesus this week. Give our younger kids some examples- teachers, friends, and coaches. Then that kid can toss the ball of yarn across the circle to another kid. Make sure the first kid is still holding the end of the string.
- The next kid holds onto their part of the string, says a name of someone they can tell about Jesus, then tosses the ball to someone else across the circle.
- Keep going until every kid has had a turn and is holding part of the string.
- Once everyone has gone, hold the web up together and look at what was made.

Say: *Look at this web we made - one message, passed from person to person, connecting all of us together. That's what happens when we're bold enough to tell others about Jesus! The good news keeps spreading, just like this web!*

CHALLENGE

Say:

- *This week you'll get a special pouch that says, "You can make a difference!" That's true – we can make a difference when we're generous with our kindness, our words, and even our money. For the next 5 weeks, we're talking about generosity. Your challenge: take your pouch home and fill it up with money – look for coins around the couch, or ask a neighbor if you can rake their lawn for a dollar. Keep adding to it all series long, then bring it back for the very last week of our Great Adventure series, and we'll collect it all for a special friend in need.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- *What did Jesus promise to send his disciples so they could be bold witnesses, and how do you think that changed what they were willing to do?*
- *Acts 1:8 says being a witness starts right at home before it goes anywhere else – who is one specific person in your life you could start with this week?*
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.

TAKE HOME

- The Great Adventure Take Home Bundle (1 per family, at the door)
- You Can Make A Difference Pouch (1 per kid, at the door)

God gives you power to tell everyone that Jesus loves them.
Acts 1:8



Following Jesus Means Doing Life Together

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 2 • Oct. 24/25/26
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes

PRO TIP

Use their name often. By 3rd and 4th grade, kids are developing a stronger sense of identity and want to be known as individuals, not lumped in with the group. Using their name – and better yet, remembering something personal about them – shows them they're truly known, not just one more face in the room.

WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask:

- *If you could only have 2 foods for the rest of your life, what would they be?*

PRAY

Pray: *Dear God, thank you for today and for the chance to grow closer to you. Help us choose kindness even when it's hard, really listen to the people around us, and love others the same way you love us. Amen.*

BIBLE

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- *Before we read, let's picture the very first church ever – a group of people who loved Jesus and did five things together every single day. Let's read and find out what those five things were!*

Read:

- Acts 2:42

Review:

- *What did the first church do together every day?*
  - They gathered together.
  - They connected with each other.
  - They served the community together.
  - They gave to those in need.
  - They invited others to join them.
- *We are already gathering together and connecting right now! Which one of those other things could you do this week?*

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



Following Jesus Means Doing Life Together

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 2 • Oct. 24/25/26
Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes

ACTIVITY

Say: *Today we're playing a game called Human Knot because just like the first Christians in Acts 2:42, we're going to see what happens when we do something together instead of alone!*

- Have the group of 10-12 kids stand shoulder to shoulder in a circle.
- Have everyone reach both hands into the middle and grab two different hands – but not the hands of the person standing directly next to them.
- Once everyone is holding two hands, explain the challenge: without letting go, the group has to work together to untangle themselves back into a regular circle.
- Let them problem-solve together – stepping over arms, ducking under, turning around – reminding them to talk to each other and be patient as they figure it out as a team.
- Celebrate together once the knot is untangled (or if time runs out, just celebrate the effort and teamwork shown).

Say: *That knot was tricky, but we could only untangle it by working together and staying connected – that's exactly what Acts 2:42 tells us about the first believers. Following Jesus was never meant to be done alone; it means doing life together.*

CHALLENGE

Say:

- *Don't forget your generosity pouch! Keep looking for ways to fill it up – coins around the house, chores for a neighbor, whatever you can find. We've got a few more weeks to fill them before we bring them back and give to our special friend in need.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- *The first church did life together on purpose, not by accident – what's one specific way you could be more intentional about doing life with others this week?*
- *Why do you think God designed us to need community – learning, eating, and praying together – instead of expecting us to grow in our faith completely on our own?*
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.

TAKE HOME

- You Can Make A Difference Pouch (1 per kid, at the door, for kids who didn't get one)
- The Great Adventure Take Home (1 per family, at the door)
- The Great Adventure Sticker (1 per kid, at the door)

They learned, ate, and prayed together every day.
Acts 2:42



Following Jesus Helps Me Live Boldly

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 3 • Oct. 31/Nov. 1/2
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes

PRO TIP

Give clear, sequenced instructions. By 3rd and 4th grade, kids can usually handle two or three steps at once instead of just one, but volunteers should still lay the steps out in order and pause to make sure the group is following before moving on – rattling off a long list all at once still causes kids to miss steps, even at this age.

WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask:

- *What's one brave thing you'd like to try someday?*

PRAY

Pray: *Dear God, thank you for today and for the chance to grow in our faith. Give us the courage to be brave, the heart to be kind, and the willingness to follow you, even when it's not the easy choice. Amen.*

BIBLE

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- *Today we're watching a video about three friends named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were so brave they refused to bow down, even when it was scary just like Jesus' disciples in Acts 4:33, who were bold enough to tell everyone about Jesus no matter what.*

Read:

- Acts 4:33

Review:

- *What did the Jesus's friends keep doing boldly in Acts 4, even after the religious leaders specifically warned them to stop?*
- *What did God give these followers that made them able to stay bold in the face of that opposition, and how is that available to us today?*

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



Following Jesus Helps Me Live Boldly

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 3 • Oct. 31/Nov. 1/2
Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes

ACTIVITY

Say: *Today we're playing a game called Can't Stop Talking. We read that the followers of Jesus in Acts 4:33 kept boldly telling everyone about Jesus even when people tried to stop them, so we're going to practice staying bold no matter what gets in our way!*

- Have kids sit in a circle. One kid at a time goes into the middle.
- Give them a simple sentence to say and keep repeating, like "Jesus is alive and He loves you!"
- While they say it, the rest of the group tries to distract them making silly faces, funny sounds, or laughing (no touching), but the goal is for the kid in the middle to keep saying their line no matter what, for about 10-15 seconds.
- Cheer for them when time's up, then let another kid take a turn in the middle.
- Keep going until as many kids as possible get a turn.

Say: *In Acts 4:33, the followers of Jesus kept testifying about Jesus with great power, even after people warned them to stop just like you kept saying your line even when we tried to distract you. Staying bold means not letting anything stop us from telling others about Jesus.*

CHALLENGE

Say: *We're halfway through our generosity series! How's your pouch coming along? Keep adding to it this week – every coin counts. In just a couple more weeks, we'll collect them all together.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- *What made it hard to keep talking when people were trying to distract you, and how is that similar to what might make it hard to talk about Jesus in real life?*
- *Who is someone you could be bold enough to tell about Jesus this week, even if part of you feels nervous or unsure about it?*
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.

TAKE HOME

- The Great Adventure Take Home (1 per family, at the door)
- The Great Adventure Sticker (1 per kid, at the door)

They loved each other and shared everything.
Acts 4:33



Following Jesus Changes The Way I Live

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 4 • Nov. 7/8/9
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes

PRO TIP

Match their energy, authentically. By 3rd and 4th grade, kids are sharp enough to spot fake enthusiasm and can check out if it feels forced — so it's less about being over-the-top and more about being genuinely present. A volunteer who seems distracted or checked out gets a group that mirrors it right back, while one who's authentically engaged keeps the room with them.

WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask: *If you could change one food that's bad for you, and make it good for you, what would that be?*

PRAY

Pray: *Dear God, thank you for changing hearts, just like you changed Saul into Paul. Help us trust you enough to let you change us too, even the parts that feel hard to let go of. Amen.*

Give each kid a Bible.

Say: *Today we're going to read about the moment everything changed for Saul — after being blind, he was about to see again and become a whole new person. Let's read Acts 9:17-18 and find out what happened!*

BIBLE

Read:

- Acts 9:17-18

Review:

- *What happened to Saul's eyes after Ananias prayed for him, and why do you think that physical change was such a powerful picture of what was happening in his heart?*
- *What did Saul do right after he could see again, and what does that tell us about how quickly his life had already started to change?*

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



Following Jesus Changes The Way I Live

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 4 • Nov. 7/8/9
Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes

Say: *Just like Saul couldn't see until Ananias helped him, sometimes we need someone else to guide us before we can see clearly. And just like that, God can take something hard and turn it into something new.*

ACTIVITY

- Pair kids up and have them sit facing each other on the floor.
- **Say:** *Place 2-3 small objects around your blindfolded partner's reach – in front, to the side, slightly behind. Guide your partner to collect all of the objects by telling them different directions.*
- **Say:** *Blindfolded partner, once you collect all of the objects, say, "Now I Can See!".*
- Switch roles so both partners get a turn.

Say: *Just like Saul couldn't see until Ananias helped him, sometimes we need someone else's voice to guide us before things become clear and God can take something hard and turn it into something new.*

CHALLENGE

Say: *Almost there! Next week is the last week of our generosity series, and that means it's almost time to bring your pouch back. Give it one more push this week – see how full you can get it before we collect them.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- *What was it like to not be able to see and have to trust your partner's voice completely, and how is that similar to what it means to trust God when you can't see what's ahead?*
- *Just like Saul needed Ananias to help him see again, who is someone who has helped guide you closer to God, and what have they done to help you grow in your faith?*
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.

TAKE HOME

- The Great Adventure Take Home (1 per family, at the door)
- The Great Adventure Sticker (1 per kid, at the door)

Saul's eyes were healed, and he could see again; he was changed on the spot.
Acts 9:17-18



Following Jesus Means Staying Faithful

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 5 • Nov. 14/15/16
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes

PRO TIP

Intentionally respond to what they say. By 3rd and 4th grade, kids are sharing more complex thoughts and opinions, and they can tell the difference between an adult who's just nodding along and one who's really listening. Responding to the specific thing they said – not just moving on to the next question – shows them their voice and perspective genuinely matter, which keeps them engaged instead of shutting down.

WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask:

- *If you could only bring one snack to share with your whole class, what would you bring?*

PRAY

Pray: *Dear God, thank you for taking care of us in every way. Help us have the courage to willingly share what we have with others, even when it costs us something. Amen.*

BIBLE

Give each kid a Bible.

Say: *Today's story is about a boy who gave up his whole lunch to Jesus and Jesus used it to feed thousands of people. It's a perfect picture of what Paul meant when he said in Acts 20:35, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive. Let's open our bibles and take a deeper dive into Acts.*

Read:

- Acts 20:35

Review:

- *What do you think Acts 20:35 means when it says it's 'more blessed' to give than to receive?*
- *What's one specific way you could live this out when you go home this week, even if it means giving up something you'd rather keep for yourself?*

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



Following Jesus Means Staying Faithful

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 5 • Nov. 14/15/16
Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes

ACTIVITY

Say: *Today we're playing a game called Pass and Bless — because just like Paul said in Acts 20:35, it's more blessed to give than to receive, and we're going to see what that feels like firsthand!*

- Gather all the kids into one seated circle, close enough that everyone can comfortably reach the basket.
- Fill the Beach Bucket with the items in the Pass and Bless Bag.
- **Say:** *When the Beach Bucket gets to you, take ONE item out. But instead of keeping it, you have to give it to someone else in the circle — not the person sitting right next to you.*
- Hand the Beach Bucket to the first kid to start.
- That kid takes one item, looks around the circle, and hands it to a kid who isn't sitting directly beside them.
- The kid passes the basket to the next person in the circle (not the one they gave the item to).
- *Repeat, going around the circle until the bucket is empty.*
- *Once the bucket is empty, ask a few kids to share how many items they ended up with.*

Say: *It wasn't about who kept the most — it was about who gave the most. That's what Paul meant in Acts 20:35 when he said it's more blessed to give than to receive.*

CHALLENGE

Say:

- *Today's the big day — pouch turn-in day! You did it! For 5 weeks you've been finding coins around the house, doing extra chores, and giving up things you wanted so you could be generous. But it doesn't have to stop here! You can keep finding ways to be generous even after today!*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- *Who is someone in your life you could give to this week without expecting anything in return?*
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.

TAKE HOME

- The Great Adventure Take Home (1 per family, at the door)
- The Great Adventure Sticker (1 per kid, at the door)

It's better to give than receive.
Acts 20:35