



God Is Strong So I Can Be Brave

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 1 • October 3/4/5

Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

Give them ownership. By 3rd and 4th grade, kids want to feel trusted and capable – hand them a small job or responsibility (passing out supplies, helping a younger kid) instead of doing everything for them. Ownership builds engagement and confidence at this age.



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask:

- If you could invent your own game, what would you name it?
- How would you play it, and how would you get everyone excited about it?



PRAY

Pray: Dear God, thank you for being our safe place, even when life feels uncertain or scary. Help us remember that no matter what we're facing, you are stronger than any fear, any challenge, or any obstacle in front of us. Amen.

Give each kid a Bible.

Say: God did something no army could do on their own, proving he's stronger than anyone or anything they face.



BIBLE

Read:

- Joshua 6:20

Review:

- What happened to the walls of Jericho after the people shouted, and why do you think God asked them to do something that seemed so unusual first?"
- Who actually made those massive walls fall down, and what does that tell us about what God can do with impossible situations?

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



God Is Strong So I Can Be Brave

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 1 • October 3/4/5
Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



ACTIVITY

Say: Today we're building a structure strong enough to hold a treasure on top – but first, we're going to see what happens when we try to do it our own way instead of following the instructions.

- Gather kids around the supplies.
- **Say:** "Today we're going to build a structure strong enough to hold something on top of it."
- Show kids the Little People Figure that will go on top of the structure and **Say:** "This is the treasure our structure has to hold!"
- Hold up the Activity Page but set it aside dramatically.
- **Say:** "Honestly, I probably don't even need the instructions. I'm pretty sure I already know the best way to build this."
- Begin building the structure incorrectly
- Narrate confidently as you build (Ex. Wow. This looks extremely stable. Professional builders would probably ask me for advice).
- Place the Little People Figure on top and allow the structure to collapse or wobble dramatically.
- Pick up the Activity Page. **Say:** "Let's try this again – but this time, let's actually follow the instructions."
- Read the instructions step-by-step and invite kids to help rebuild the
- structure correctly.
- Once complete, carefully place the Little People Figure on top.

Say: Just like our structure got stronger when we followed the instructions instead of guessing on our own, our lives get stronger when we trust God's plan instead of just doing things our own way.



CHALLENGE

Say: When something feels too big or scary this week, stop and say out loud, "God is stronger than this!" Just like the walls of Jericho fell down because God's people trusted him instead of relying on their own strength, remind yourself that nothing you're facing is too big for God to break through.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- What's something in your life right now that feels too big or scary to handle on your own, and how might remembering that God is stronger change the way you face it this week?
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.



TAKE HOME

**God is our place of safety. He gives us Strength.
He is always there to help us in times of trouble.**

Psalms 46:1



God Is With Me So I Can Stand For What's True

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 2 • October 10/11/12
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

Be consistent and fair. Kids at this age are highly tuned in to fairness and will notice quickly if rules or attention aren't applied evenly – staying consistent with expectations (not playing favorites) builds trust and respect that carries through the rest of your time with them.



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask: If you could build anything in the whole world – no limits on size, budget, or how impossible it sounds – what would you build, and why?



PRAY

Pray: Dear God, help us trust you with all our heart, even when it's hard to let go of doing things our own way. Thank you for always being stronger and wiser than we are, and for being someone we can rely on no matter what we're facing. Amen.

Give each kid a Bible.



BIBLE

Say: The book of Daniel tells the story of Daniel and his three friends, who stayed faithful to God even far from home in a land that didn't believe in him. Today we'll see what happened when his friends refused to bow to a statue – and how God proved he's stronger than anyone or anything, even fire!

Read:

- Daniel 3:27

Review:

- What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to do, and what made that choice so risky for them?
- What happened to them when they came out of the fire, and what does that tell us about how far God's protection can go?

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



God Is With Me So I Can Stand For What's True

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 2 • October 10/11/12

Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes

Say: "Today, we're going to hear different situations that kids like you might face. After each one, you'll decide what choice you would make- will you go along or stand strong?"

- If the situation describes going along with the crowd, stand when I say "Go Along".
- If the situation describes standing for what's true, stand up when I say "Stand Strong".

Go through each scenario, having kids sit down in between.



ACTIVITY

- Scenario 1: "Your teacher leaves the room for a minute. A bunch of kids start talking loudly, and you join in even though you know you're supposed to stay quiet." **Answer: Go Along**
- Scenario 2: "Some kids start making fun of someone, but you choose not to laugh and instead say something kind." **Answer: 'Stand Strong'**
- Scenario 4: "Your friends dare you to break a rule at recess, and you do it because you don't want them to think you're boring." **Answer: 'Go Along'**
- Scenario 5: "You notice a kid sitting alone at lunch, and even though you feel nervous, you go sit beside them anyway." **Answer: 'Stand Strong'**
- Scenario 6: "A friend wants you to lie for them so they don't get in trouble, but you decide to tell the truth instead." **Answer: 'Stand Strong'**

Say: You all made some brave choices today. Some of those situations probably felt easy, but others may have felt harder because real life can be complicated. Sometimes we know what the right choice is, but we still feel pressure to go along with everyone else. That's exactly what happened in today's Bible story.



CHALLENGE

Say: When you are faced with a challenge and you want to make the choice to do something you know isn't right, practice standing firm and saying "no" out loud – just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did. Remember that God is with you in that moment, just like he was with them.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- Just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God even while facing a fiery furnace, what's something hard in your life that you could choose to trust God in- even when it feels scary?
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.



TAKE HOME

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Psalms 46:1