

How to Use This Guide

Each session is organized in the following way:

Session Goals

Highlights the objectives and what you will complete and explore for each session.

Supply List & Prep Work

Provides a list of supplies and what you will need to prepare for each session. Use this to make sure you have everything set up according to the session guide prior to your group arriving.

Theological Points of Reference

Offers insight into how the scripture for each session relates to the subtheme and the session objectives.

Lesson Quick View

Offers an at-a-glance look of the entire session.

Session Guide

You will notice that each session is divided into four sections:

1. Good to SEE You - time spent gathering and forming community
2. Let's SEE- scripture exploration
3. I SEE What You Did There - activities in response to scripture
4. SEE Ya! - closing activity and prayer

Please note that each session includes:

Prayer – Each session includes time focused on prayer. Please allow space for prayers and silence. Offer anyone who wishes to pray out loud the time and respect to do so.

Use of Bibles – The use of Bibles during group time is not optional! It is the main source of inspiration for each session. Please set a good example by bringing your Bible (even in electronic form) with you to each session. Please encourage youth to bring their Bibles too.

Use of Recorded Music – Bring a smart device and portable speakers to use when music is suggested.

Additionally, your job is to create a safe and welcoming space for your group. Please consider the following:

Know Your Space – Check it out prior to your first session. Knowing the space and doing some initial set up will help you to be comfortable and create a welcoming environment for your participants. Make sure to set up your space with different bodies and mobilities in mind. For some activities you will be instructed to hang things up. Think about where and how you might do this in your space. Go ahead and get the supplies you need for this, such as tape or thumbtacks.

Seating – Is the placement of your seating welcoming and inclusive? You can have chairs, sofas, or “fixed” seating. Seating arranged in a circle is a great option because all participants can see one another and be heard. Whatever type of seating you have, try to create an environment that is comfortable and includes everyone.

Use of Newsprint – Are you placing newsprint on a level so all can easily write? Is it too high or too low? Check markers to make sure they do not bleed through to the wall.

Participant Needs – We are excited to give you this guide to help you and your group explore the ways in which we can see all of God’s children! While we have provided activities that will resonate with a wide variety of groups, we realize that not all activities will work for all groups. You know your group best, so we invite and encourage you to adapt and adjust any of these activities to best meet your participants’ needs. Some of the ways in which you might meet the needs of your group could include:

- Providing small containers of clay or play dough, finger fidget toys, or even just fun pens and paper. This can help students to focus, relieve a little tension in group settings, and also be a helpful act of hospitality.
- Writing out questions you will be discussing. You can print several copies or write them on a white board or newsprint.
- Turning on the closed captioning for any recordings or videos.
- Praying using call and response in which participants repeat after you rather than reading prayers together as a group.
- Playing the scripture using an audio Bible instead of inviting participants to read the passage.
- Becoming familiar with any equipment and tools that might increase accessibility for your participants and providing these resources for them. For example, a hearing loop.
- Providing an interpreter and/or translated resources as needed. For example, find out if someone in your church, presbytery, or community is an American Sign Language interpreter and if they would be willing to join you.