

rvckids Small Group | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—October 2026, Week 3

Bible Story: Jesus Calms the Storm • Mark 4:36-41

Bottom Line: God is in control, so I can trust Him.

Monthly Memory Verse: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. • Psalm 46:1

Week Memory Verse: When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. • Psalm 56:3

Note: Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

- Opening Activity

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Move the Boat

Application Activity: Wind, Waves, Boat

Memory Verse Activity: Courage Moves

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Parent Cue Card
- Devotionals for Kids



Bible Story

Jesus Calms the Storm • Mark 4:36-41

Bottom Line

God is in control, so I can trust Him.

Memory Verse

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. • Psalm 46:1

5 min

Social

5 min

Opening Activity | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Offering container 1
-  Balloon Several



EveryChild tips

- Have all kids participate from a seated position for kids who may have mobility challenges.
- Provide noise-cancelling headphones to any kid who is uncomfortable with the possibility of a balloon popping.

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Inflate one balloon for each Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Once most kids have arrived, hold up the balloon and say: "Today we're going to work together to keep this balloon from touching the ground!"
- Explain the rules:
 - Kids may tap the balloon gently with their hands.
 - No grabbing or holding the balloon.
 - Everyone works together to keep it in the air.
- Begin playing.
- As kids get comfortable, begin adding challenges one at a time:
 - "Only use one hand!"
 - "Tap the balloon while standing on one foot!"
 - "Everyone has to sit down and still keep it up!"
 - "Pretend there's a giant windstorm blowing!" (*Encourage kids to move around more dramatically.*)
 - "No talking!"
- Allow the balloon to eventually fall or become difficult to control.
- Gather kids back together afterward.

What You Say:

"That started out pretty easy, but the more challenges we added, the harder it became to keep the balloon under control. It probably started feeling a little stressful or even chaotic trying to keep up with everything happening at once! Life can feel that way too. Sometimes everything feels calm and easy, and then suddenly things feel hard, loud, confusing, or out of control. Maybe you've had a day where everything seemed to go wrong, or you felt worried about something happening at home, at school, or with a friend. Today we're going to hear about Jesus and His disciples during a huge storm out on the water. The wind was strong. The waves were crashing. The disciples were afraid because everything felt completely out of control. But Jesus showed them something amazing. Even when the storm was wild, Jesus was still in control. And that's true for us too! No matter what is happening around us, we can trust Jesus because He is powerful, He cares about us, and God is in control. Today we're going to learn this important truth: **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him.**"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Move the Boat | Made to Play

What You Need

	Bible	1
	"Move the Boat Template" Activity Page	1
	Paper	1
	Straws	1
	Coloring supplies	Several
	Floor tape	1



EveryChild tips

- Have a few boats pre-folded for kids who may find the folding process frustrating.
- If a child has difficulty blowing through a straw, they can push their boat along the path with their finger or a craft stick.

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Create two parallel tape lines on the floor about five feet apart.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Using the instruction page as a guide, lead the kids step-by-step to fold their own paper boat. Be ready to help as needed.
- Once the boats are folded, give the kids a few minutes to decorate them with coloring supplies.
- Have them place their boat on a table or smooth spot on the floor.
- Give each child a straw and challenge them to blow their boat from a "start" line to a "finish" line.

What You Say:

"Your boats look amazing! Sometimes, our lives can feel like these little boats in a big storm. Things can feel scary or out of control. But our story today reminds us of something very important. Who is in control of the wind and the waves? *(God/Jesus!)* That's right! God created everything, and He is more powerful than anything else, ever. Everything answers to Him. That means that God is bigger and more powerful than any storm or difficult thing you will ever face. We can be brave because we know that no matter what happens, **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him.**"

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Wind, Waves, Boat | Made to Move

What You Need



Chairs

Several



EveryChild tips

- To ensure safety, remind kids to walk quickly but not to run or push.
- For a kid in a wheelchair or with a walker, encourage them to move in front of a chair without sitting down to claim that spot.

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Arrange the chairs in a loose circle, facing inward, with one less chair than the number of kids playing.

During the Activity:

- Choose one kid to stand in the middle.
- Assign each kid one of three words: "Wind," "Waves," or "Boat." (For example: "You're Wind, you're Waves, you're Boat, you're Wind, you're Waves, you're Boat...")
- Explain the rules:
 - The person in the middle will shout out any one of the three words: "Wind!" "Waves!" or "Boat!"
 - If your word is called, you must get up and quickly find a new, empty seat.
 - The kid in the middle will also try to find a seat (they don't have to call out their own word).
 - If the kid in the middle shouts, "Storm!" EVERYONE must get up and find a new seat.
- The child left without a chair becomes the new person in the middle.
- Play for several fun and energetic rounds.

What You Say:

"That was such a fun game to help us remember today's Bible Story. The storm was big and wild that day! And then there was peace when it was all still. Jesus showed His friends that He is in control of everything—even big, scary storms. Jesus showed His friends that they could trust Him. We can trust Him, too. God is bigger and more powerful than any difficult thing you will ever face. God does not cause terrible things to happen, but He can work in and through all things for our good. And in the end, God will make everything right—even if we have to wait until heaven to see it. Because no matter what happens, **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him.**"

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Courage Moves | Made to Play

What You Need

-  Bibles marked at Psalm 46:1 1
-  "Courage Moves One" Activity Page 1
-  "Courage Moves Two" Activity Page 1



EveryChild tips

- Based on the abilities of your group, discard any cards that would prevent a kid from participating.

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a Bible marked at Psalm 46:1.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name. When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Gather the kids in a circle and place the two sets of cards face down on the floor.
- Explain that you will take turns drawing one card from each stack. Read the cards aloud and put the actions together. Whatever silly challenge the cards describe, the WHOLE group will do together as they say the Memory Verse.
- Let the first child draw two cards. Read the cards aloud (e.g., "Stomp your feet and nod your head.").
- Lead the group in doing the action for a few seconds.
- Then, lead the group in saying the verse while doing the actions: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."
- Let the next child draw two cards and repeat the process. Continue until several challenges have been completed.

What You Say:

"Great job with those challenges! Our Memory Verse is a super reminder for when we feel like we are in a storm. It tells us that God is our safe place, He gives us strength, and He is always there to help. That's why we can trust Him! God is in control, and because He is good, we can trust Him with anything we face. **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him.**"

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

	"Anchored to Jesus" Activity Page	1
	Coloring supplies	Several

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Set out coloring supplies.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a bookmark.
- Invite kids to decorate their bookmarks however they would like.
- Say: "As you work on your bookmark, remember that an anchor helps keep a boat steady in the middle of rough water. Today we learned that Jesus helps keep our hearts steady when life feels stormy. Sometimes things happen that make us feel worried, afraid, overwhelmed, or out of control. As you color, quietly think about any 'storms' you might be facing right now and ways you need help trusting God. Remember, Jesus is with you through every storm, and you can trust Him no matter what happens."
- Once bookmarks are mostly finished, invite kids to hold them in their hands.
- Say: "We're going to take a moment to talk to God. As you hold your anchor bookmark, let it remind you that Jesus is always with you and He is always in control."

What You Say:

"When the disciples were in the storm, they forgot something important: Jesus was still with them the entire time. Even when the waves crashed and everything felt out of control, Jesus had never left the boat. Sometimes we forget that too. When life feels scary, stressful, confusing, or overwhelming, it can be easy to focus only on the 'storm' around us. But Jesus is still with us in those moments just like He was with the disciples. That's why your bookmark has an anchor. An anchor keeps a boat from drifting away during rough water. In the same way, trusting Jesus helps keep our hearts steady when life feels difficult. This week, when you see your bookmark, let it remind you that Jesus is powerful, Jesus cares about you, and Jesus is always with you. No matter what kind of storm you face, you can trust Him. And when life feels out of control, remember **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him.**"

Prayer:

"Jesus, thank You that You are powerful and good. Thank You that You care about us, even when we feel afraid. Sometimes life feels stormy, and we don't know what to do. Help us remember that You are always with us. Help us trust You when things feel hard or out of control. Thank You for being our place of safety and strength. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

*As adults arrive to pick up, remind the kids that **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him.***

Getting Ready | Small Group

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Balloon, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Inflate one balloon for each Small Group.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Move the Boat

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Bible, one per Small Group
- "Move the Boat Template" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Paper, one piece per kid
- Paper, one piece per Small Group
- Straws, one per kid
- Coloring supplies, several per kid
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Move the Boat Template" on paper, one per Small Group.
- Create two parallel tape lines on the floor about five feet apart.

2. Wind, Waves, Boat

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Chairs, one per kid

3. Courage Moves

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Bibles marked at Psalm 46:1, one per kid
- "Courage Moves One" Activity Page, one set per Small Group
- "Courage Moves Two" Activity Page, one set per Small Group
- Colored cardstock in two colors, one piece of each color per Small Group
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Courage Moves One" on one color cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Print "Courage Moves Two" on another color cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- "Anchored to Jesus" Activity Page, one per kid
- Coloring supplies, several per kid

What You Do:

- Print "Anchored to Jesus" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per kid.
- Set out coloring supplies.

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue App**.

Supplies:

- Offering container
- Balloon
- "Move the Boat Template" Activity Page
- Paper
- Straws
- Floor tape
- Chairs
- Bibles marked at Psalm 46:1
- "Courage Moves One" Activity Page
- "Courage Moves Two" Activity Page
- "Anchored to Jesus" Activity Page, one per kid
- Coloring supplies, several per kid

Supplies

Opening Activity | Made to Move

- | | Quantity |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. Offering container | 1 |
| 2. Balloon | Several |

Move the Boat | Made to Play

- | | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. Bible | 1 |
| 2. "Move the Boat Template" Activity Page | 1 |
| 3. Paper | 1 |
| 4. Straws | 1 |
| 5. Coloring supplies | Several |
| 6. Floor tape | 1 |

Wind, Waves, Boat | Made to Move

- | | Quantity |
|-----------|----------|
| 1. Chairs | Several |

Courage Moves | Made to Play

- | | Quantity |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Bibles marked at Psalm 46:1 | 1 |
| 2. "Courage Moves One" Activity Page | 1 |
| 3. "Courage Moves Two" Activity Page | 1 |

Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

- | | Quantity |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. "Anchored to Jesus" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. Coloring supplies | Several |