



Lifegroup Kids Guide:

Always give thanks to God!

INTRO

We encourage family Lifegroups to do welcome & vision, Lifegroup house rules, and worship all together – then have the kids and adults separate for discussion.

WELCOME & VISION DANCE (5 MINUTES)

Who loves Lifegroup?! Who can tell me why we do lifegroup?

We're going to teach you a simple way to remember why we do Lifegroup. It's called the vision dance. Are you ready?!

- Because Jesus loves us (point up, then point to yourself)
- We want to walk with Jesus (walk in place)
- Become like Jesus (cross arms over chest)
- Help others follow Him (point out to others, then point up to Him)

Do it again in slow motion or super fast. Have fun with it.

LIFEGROUP HOUSE RULES (2 MINUTES)

We have 3 Lifegroup rules.

1. Be kind and respect ourselves
2. Be kind and respect others and their things.
3. Listen and obey the first time.

Who can repeat these back to me?

Discipline Plan: 1st time is a warning, 2nd time you talk with kids leader, 3rd time we get your parents and you leave kids portion of lifegroup, but are welcome to come back next time

note to share any house specific rules

EX: No going into people's bedrooms, we take our shoes off at the door, etc.

BIBLE STORY (10-15 MINUTES)

Opening question

Ask the kids who their best friend is. Ask them what makes someone a good friend. Share that God loves us so much and gives us good friends here on earth and that he wants to be our very best friend! Today we will review the Bible story of two good friends, David and Jonathan.

Bible Story

See if any of the kids can retell the story of David and Jonathan from Sunday or use the script below to retell the story. You can also watch a short video on the story of David and Jonathan [HERE](#).

“Hello, friends! I’m [your name], and I can’t wait to review this true story from the Bible about two very good friends. Do you remember their names? (allow them to respond) Yes, David and Jonathan! Speaking of friends, I need two friends to help me tell the story today. (Select two older children to play David and Jonathan.) Thanks for helping me out today. So, the two best friends in our Bible story today were named David and Jonathan. (assign a child to be David and the other to be Jonathan) They were so thankful that God gave them such good friends. Raise your hand if you have a good friend. (Raise hand.) Yay! Friends are great. (Point to each child as you talk about them.) Jonathan loved his friend David and David loved his friend Jonathan. David and Jonathan were good friends. David and Jonathan talked to each other. (to the volunteers) David and Jonathan, can you pretend to talk to each other? (to the audience) Who likes to talk with their friends? Raise your hand! (Pause.) Me too! David and Jonathan encouraged each other. (to the volunteers) Give each other a high five, David and Jonathan! Yay! We can encourage our friends, too. (Give a friend near you a high five.) Great job! David and Jonathan helped each other. Do you like to help your friends? Raise your hand if you like to help your friends. (Pause.) Me too! Jonathan even gave David some of his special things to show that they were such good friends! Jonathan gave David his robe, his sword, his bow, and his belt. What a good friend! (to Jonathan) Jonathan helped David put on the robe and belt like a good friend would do. They were great friends! And what good friends you are for helping me. Let’s clap for our friends! (Help volunteers bow and go back to their seats.) David and Jonathan were good friends. Did God give us good friends too? Yes! What are some things we do with our friends? Do we play with our friends on the playground? If you do, say ‘Oh yeah!’ (allow response.) Do we share our toys with our friends? If you do, say, ‘Yep, yep!’ (allow response.) Do we help our friends when they’re feeling sad? If you do, say, ‘Uh-huh!’ (allow response.) Do we laugh with our friends? If you do, say, ‘Ha, ha, ha!’ (allow response.) Let’s say thank You (ASL sign for thank you), God, for our friends. Hooray! Thank You, God, for our friends! Jonathan and David were thankful for each other. And we can thank God for our friends. We can thank God for everything! Who can you thank for everything? I can thank God for everything. Yes, I can thank God for everything. [Transition] Our story time is over (pick up and close Bible), but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you!” Close in prayer.

PRAYER (7-10 MINUTES)

Share about a good friend God has given you and why you are thankful to be their friend. Make sure it's a kid friendly story!

- Ask the kids to pray and thank God for giving us friends and thanking him for friends by name.

GROUP ACTIVITY - WHO IS MISSING? (5-10 MINUTES)

- Blanket

Gather children in an open area of the room and have them sit in a line on the floor. Encourage children to close their eyes as a leader will tap on one child from behind. That child will quietly get up and stand behind a blanket the other leader is holding up. Ask the remaining children to open their eyes and look around to guess who is missing. Continue until each child has a turn to stand behind the blanket. Repeat as desired.

"I have a super fun friend game for us to play today. Everyone, sit on the floor over here. To play the game, everyone needs to close their eyes. If I tap you on the shoulder, I want you to get up quietly and stand behind this blanket that I will hold up. Then I'll count to three and you can open your eyes and try to figure out which friend is missing. Ready? Everyone, close your eyes. (Walk behind the children, tap one child on the shoulder, and then hold the blanket up in front of them.) One, two, three, open your eyes. Look around. Which friend is missing? (Pause.) Wow, good guesses! (Remove the blanket to reveal the missing friend.) Sit back down and everyone close your eyes. (Continue with each child.) That was a really fun game, trying to find the missing friend!"

EXTRA IDEAS IF YOU STILL HAVE TIME...

ART

Give each child a paper and something to write with. Have them draw what they envision Jesus' amazing party to be like and to thank him for inviting us. Have kids share at the end if they feel comfortable.

PRACTICE MEMORY VERSE

Let's do the motions as we say our memory verse together. Ready? Great! 'Always (draw large circles with index finger) give thanks (move flat hand forward from lips) to God (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down),' Ephesians 5:20. (Open hands like a book.) Great job!"

PLAY!

- Soccer
- Tag
- Simon Says

- Hide n Seek
- Rock/Paper/Scissors

DANCE!

- Play the monkey video and dance along. [Monkey video](#) (if you're trying to calm kids down - do not play this song 😂)
- Freeze Dance - Have the kids dance to upbeat music and when it stops they have to freeze until the music starts playing again. If they move when the music has stopped, they are out. Play until there is only a handful of kids left then play again if time allows.