



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Road Trip Slide
- License Plate Game Slides

What You Do:

- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- An inflated beach ball (See “What You Do” below)
- Inflatable cow sprayed gold

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- Plant two of your small group leaders ahead of time to cause a disruption. The Communicator will ask the groups to discuss a question and then head back stage to “get some props.” After the Communicator leaves, these two small group leaders should discretely begin to hit a beach ball around but then encourage others to join in. The goal is that the whole room switches from discussing the question to goofing off.
- Purchase an inflatable cow, such as: <http://amzn.to/2IOLmNE>. Inflate the cow and spray it with gold spray paint. (Note: depending on your gold spray paint, you may need to spray a coat of primer such as: <http://amzn.to/2EPu7nq>.)

3. Worship

What You Need:

- This Is Living
- Alive Again

Watch for Livestock

Bible Story: Watch for Livestock (Golden Calf) * *Exodus 32:1-35*

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think about what's true.

Key Question: What can you think about when it's hard to wait?

Memory Verse: "Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD!"

Psalm 27:14, NIV

Life App: Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: Road Trip Slide

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, or a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everyone! Who's taken a Road Trip recently? Maybe you traveled for spring break and spent hours and hours in a car. What do you do in the car when you're on a road trip? (*Take some answers.*) Those are great! I wish I had those sorts of things when I was traveling on road trips as a kid. No, when I was a kid, we had to make up games on the fly. One of my favorites was checking out license plates. I loved trying to find license plates from faraway states. And I always tried to find those custom plates that spelled things out. With that in mind, I've created a game that pays homage to those fancy plates of my past . . . I need two players! Who wants to play?!"

Host chooses two volunteers.

"Here's how this works. I'll flash a license plate on the screen. The license plate contains letters that spell out – in license plate code – something to do with a road trip. The first person to call out the correct road trip term gets a point. First person to three points wins. Ready? Go!"

The following plates will appear on the slide. If you prefer, adapt the game so that more people will get to play, make the winner the first to two points and then call up two new volunteers, brings partners up, etc.).

*5NAK5 (snacks),
BK5EATDRVR (Backseat driver),
CNTREER0AD (Country Road),
G00GLMP5 (Google Maps),
T0LL\$ (Toll Money),
M1LEMRKR (Mile Marker),
\$PEEDL1M1T (Speed Limit),
PL4YL15T (Playlist),
P0THLE (Pot Hole),
5PEEDNGTIX (Speeding Ticket)*

HOST: “(After game) Great job, and thanks for playing. Well let’s stand and sing together!”

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Hello to all of you. Get up on your feet. Let’s get loud and make sure everyone knows how much we love God. We have so much to be thankful for. Let’s sing out how amazing our God is ‘At the Top Of our Lungs!’”

SFX: “*This Is Living*”

SFX: “*Alive Again*”

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everybody! Awesome to see you all here. This has been an incredible month for me. I’ve been learning a ton about what it means to wait—how when it is tough to show patience, we can talk to God like Hannah did. Or when we feel ourselves losing our cool when we’re waiting, we can be patient and show understanding like our Proverb last week. But have you ever been in a situation where it is so tough to wait that you start to listen to the other people around you . . . even when it’s wrong?”

“For example, imagine that you have a history test. Your teacher is known for giving super tough tests . . . I’m talking, ‘You never said that, but you still expect us to know that!’ tests. Now, you sit right next to the teacher’s desk, and right after the test begins, the principle stops by and calls the teacher the hallway. As you look toward the desk, you see the answer key for the test sitting right there. You’re not the only one to see it, either. The most popular kid in your grade sees it, too. He whispers to you, ‘Quick! Pass it over.’ You know that would be wrong, but while you’re waiting for the teacher to come back, it sure seems like you could get away with it.”

“Or imagine that you have asked your parents to go see a movie with friends. Your parents tell you no because the movie has some content that they don’t think would be good for you to see at your age, and they tell you that they are going to make you wait until you are older. You tell your friends, and they come up with an idea: ‘Tell them we are going to go to a movie they would be fine with, BUT we’ll actually go to the movie we want to see!’ You sure don’t want to wait to see the movie . . . and chances are your parents will never find out.”

“Tough situations, huh?”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Maybe you’ve caught on to this, but sometimes when we’re waiting for something, it’s easier to listen to other people than to God. But just because it’s easier, does that make it right?”

“OK. Quick, huddle up with your small group. For the next few minutes talk about this question: when have you recently had to wait for something?”

“Got it? Great. I have to run back stage to get some props, but I’ll be back while you’re discussing. Annnnnnd GO!”

Communicator leaves the room/goes backstage. The Small Groups begin discussing. After a minute or two, the two “planted” volunteers begin to hit around a beach ball. It starts discretely, but others should start to join in (and are encouraged to). The goal would be that a large amount of, if not all the kids, would get sidetracked into playing with the beach ball.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “(Running back on stage after a few minutes of chaos) What in the world is going on in here?! Who started this?”

Let the kids react. Planted small group leaders blame each other.

“When I left, I asked you to discuss a question. I come back, and it is a downright party in here! What is going on?!”

(After a pause) Okay, okay . . . I’m sure some of you have already guessed. I’m not *really* upset. In fact, I was the one that told [*two Small Group Leaders*] to start the madness. Want to know why? *(Pause for response.)* Alright . . . let’s find out.”

“Actually, we start with the second book in our Bible, Exodus. Here’s the summary of what’s been happening: the nation of Israel had been enslaved in Egypt, but God saw his people being oppressed and came to their rescue. He used Moses to bring them out of Egypt and into the desert. But that’s not all! With Moses’ help, God led the Israelites to Mount Sinai in the desert.”

“Moses is the leader of Israel. God called Moses to the top of Mount Sinai. Moses headed up the mountain to meet with God because God planned to give His instructions to the people through Moses. Maybe you’ve heard of the Ten Commandments? No other gods. Don’t make statues of me. Don’t murder. Honor your parents . . . Yeah, those happen here.”

“Moses left the people alone at the base of the mountain while he met with God at the top. And Moses was gone . . . for a LOOOOOOONG time. Here’s where we pick up today’s story.”

(Read from Exodus 32:1a, NIV) “The people saw that Moses took a long time to come down from the mountain. So they gathered around Aaron.”

“Aaron was Moses’ brother and had been a kind of co-leader with Moses. I wonder what the people wanted? Maybe they want Aaron to go look for Moses . . . let’s find out.”

(Read from Exodus 32:1b, NIV) “They said to him, ‘Come. Make us a god that will lead us. This fellow Moses brought us up out of Egypt. But we don’t know what has happened to him.’”

“WHAT! Make us a god?! The one true God just rescued them from Egypt, and now they are looking for another god to lead them . . . and one that you can MAKE? Surely Aaron knows better, right? Surely he’ll put them all in their place . . . maybe send them to timeout to think about what they’ve done . . .”

(Read from Exodus 32:2-4, NIV) “Aaron answered them, ‘Take the gold earrings off your wives, your sons and your daughters. Bring the earrings to me.’ So all the people took off their earrings. They brought them to Aaron. He took what they gave him and made it into a metal statue of a god. It looked like a calf. Aaron shaped it with a tool. Then the people said, ‘Israel, here is your god who brought you up out of Egypt.’”

“This is an absolute train wreck. Aaron takes all the jewelry, melts it down, and forms a . . . hold on . . .”

Communicator goes back stage and brings out the inflated gold cow.

“. . . A giant golden cow! They put it on an altar, and then everybody just starts going crazy worshipping this golden cow as their god. Did you even hear what they said?! THIS god led us out of Egypt!”

“This is not what God instructed them to do! It is kind of like how I left you with instructions but, when I left the room, chaos broke out. It is absolute chaos at Mount Sinai!”

“Now, while THIS is going on down here, look at what is happening at the top of the mountain . . .”

(Read from Exodus 32:7-8, NIV) “The Lord spoke to Moses. He said, ‘Go down. Your people you brought up out of Egypt have become very sinful. They have quickly turned away from what I commanded them. They have made themselves a metal statue of a god in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down and sacrificed to it. And they have said, ‘Israel, here is your god who brought you up out of Egypt.’”

“God sees what is happening. And he is NOT happy. And neither is Moses. To be honest, there are some pretty strong consequences for what the Israelites did. The whole event causes a lot of damage and hurt their relationships with God.”

“In some ways, I just don’t get it? How did they get from worshipping the one true God who had rescued them from Egypt to . . . well . . . this? *(Hold up inflatable cow.)*”

“Well, I think they forgot what was true. Specifically, they forgot what was true about God. He was their Leader. He was their Rescuer. He was their God who gave them instructions on how to live. And yet, they threw all of that aside because they were afraid that there was no one left to lead them. But would God lead them this far just to abandon them? No!”

“They forgot what was true. And of all people, Aaron should have known better! But while they were waiting, he let the people push him into to doing something he knew was wrong.”

“And it cost them dearly.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, my guess is that none of us is going to bow down to a golden cow . . . or even feel pressured by friends to do this. But we have our own challenges when we find ourselves having to wait, right?”

“Let’s go back to those scenarios from before. Back to the classroom. The teacher left the room and the test’s answer key is in reach. Plus, you have the popular kid asking you to pass it over. Now, in this moment, you could be a hero! Maybe make some new friends . . . find yourself in the popular group. But here’s the question: What is true? In that moment, while you are waiting for the teacher to come back, what can you think about that’s true? Maybe what you remember is that cheating is wrong and can cause a lot of damage to your grades but also to your reputation. What is true is that you need to say no and leave the test key alone.”

“Or let’s go back to the movie scenario. Your parents have told you to wait until your older to see a particular movie, but your friends have worked out a plan so that your parents will never know you went to it. But here’s the question again: what is true? In that moment, while you are supposed to be waiting to see the movie until you are older, what is true? Hopefully you remember how obeying your parents is

important to God and how going to see that movie could damage your relationship with your parents if you disobey them and make it hard for them to trust you in the future. What is true is that you need to say no and not go to the movie.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “These are tough conversations, and that is why I’m glad you have Small Groups to talk with! But more importantly, we can talk to God about these tough decisions, too, and ask for His wisdom. As you go to your groups, think about some other moments where it can be tough to remember what’s true.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“Here’s the question. What can you think about when it’s hard to wait? We can’t escape waiting, but we can figure out how to wait without causing damage to the relationships in our lives. Before we head to groups, let’s pray and talk to God about all of this.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.