



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Note cards

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Road Trip Slide
- Patience Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Write the laws or lies (from the script) down on note cards, so the Host can reference them.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible

- Five stools
- Four plastic tablecloths
- Inflatable cow (like this: <http://amzn.to/2m7yz8l>)
- Can of gold spray paint
- Tablet (or other device) or a dummy display tablet
- Baseball glove
- Hand mirror
- Scissors

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Spray-paint the cow gold.
- *Optional:* For extra impact, you could also spray-paint the dummy display tablet, baseball glove, and mirror gold.
- Place the Bible on a stool on one side of the stage. Place the cow (with scissors), tablet, baseball glove, and mirror on individual stools (on the opposite side of the stage) and cover them with plastic tablecloths.

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.

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 welcomes kids as they enter.

HOST: "Hey, hey, hey! What's up, everybody? My name is [Host's name], and I am so glad you're here at [your environment's name]!"

"We've been talking for a few weeks now about one of the most important Life Apps there is. Anyone remember what it is? (*Point to the screen.*)

CG: *Patience Slide*

"It's patience. Let's read that definition together."

HOST and KIDS: "Patience is waiting until later for what you want now."

HOST: "Let's say it one more time!"

HOST and KIDS: "Patience is waiting until later for what you want now."

HOST: "Over the last three weeks, we've said that being patient is tough—and not just for kids! Being patient is hard for everyone. If I'm hungry, I'm hungry right now! I don't want to wait for dinner to be ready. If I see a present that I know is for me, I want to open it right now! I don't wait until Christmas morning. If I want to go play on the playground, I want to go play right now! I don't want to wait for recess.

"That's true of me now, and it was true of me when I was your age, too. Patience is difficult!"

SFX: *Upbeat game music*

(Hold your hand to your ear.) “But you know what’s NOT difficult? GAME TIME! Game time is super fun! And in today’s game, we ALL get to play. One thing in life that always takes patience is a road trip.

“When you’re driving, it’s important to know the traffic laws so you can follow them. But there are some pretty strange driving laws out there. For example, in Anchorage, Alaska, it’s illegal to tie a dog to the roof of your car. In California, it’s illegal for a woman to drive around in her bathrobe. How about this—in Florida, if you tie an elephant, alligator, or goat to a parking meter, you have to pay for it!

“Some of these laws sound fake, right? They sound like they’re completely made up! But they’re actually real—or at least that’s what it says on the Internet. So let’s play ‘Law or Lies’ together. I’ve got a stack of cards here that either have a law written on them or a lie. I’m going to read it out loud. If you think it’s a law, stand up. If you think it’s fake—it’s a lie—stay seated. Ready? Let’s play!

Read the lies/laws from the reference cards. If you don’t have enough time to do all of these, choose the three that you think are the funniest for your church.

(Read note card 1.) “In Marietta, Georgia, it’s illegal to spit from a car or bus, but it’s okay to spit from a truck.

“If you think that’s a law, stand up. If you think that’s a lie, stay seated. Look around you, guys. If you’re standing up, you are correct. That’s an actual law!

(Read note card 2.) “In Indiana, it’s against the law to sell cars on Mondays.

“Lie or law? If you’re sitting down, you are correct. It’s illegal to sell cars on SUNDAYS in Indiana.

(Read note card 3.) “In University City, Missouri, it’s illegal to honk someone else’s horn.

“Stand up if you think that’s a real law. What do you think? What do you think? It actually IS a law!

(Read note card 4.) “In Ohio, it’s illegal to run out of gas.

“What do you think? Stand up if you think that’s a real law. Look around you. If you’re standing up, you’re ALMOST right! It’s only illegal to run out of gas in downtown Youngstown, Ohio. If you’re ever on a road trip through Youngstown, you’d better stop at a gas station quickly.

(Read note card 5.) “In Oklahoma, it’s illegal to read a comic book while driving.

“Stand up if that’s a law. Sit down if it’s a lie. *(Pause for response.)* All you standing up, you’re right! That is a law. And a good one, I might add. How about this one?

(Read note card 6.) “In Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, it’s against the law for a person to ride a bike with their hands off the handlebars.

“Stand up or sit down. *(Pause.)* Those of you who are standing are correct! That’s an actual law. Let’s do one more.

(Read note card 7.) “In Montana, it is against the law to drive with sheep in your truck.

“Stand up if you think that’s a real law. Sit down if you think it’s a lie. Those of you sitting down are correct! It’s actually fine to drive with sheep in your truck in Montana, as long as those sheep have a chaperone to take care of them.

“Wow! Some of those are really hard to believe—and you can’t always trust what you read on the Internet. But that was an awesome game of ‘Law or Lies.’ And the awesome doesn’t end there! If you’re not standing already, I want everyone to stand to your feet to sing some songs to our AWESOME God!”

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “I’m so pumped to sing and celebrate with you today. There is absolutely nothing better than God’s love. This song we’re singing today is all about that. So get ready to get those feet moving and your lips singing out God’s praise. Here we go!

SFX: “*This Is Living*”

SFX: “*Alive Again*”

Storyteller enters. Worship Leaders set up the stools, then exit. Storyteller stands next to the stool with the Bible.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, friends! Are you ready for an awesome, true story from the Bible (*hold up Bible*) about a group of people called the Israelites? Yeah! The Israelites were a special group of people, because God had picked them to be His chosen ones.

“Now, the Israelites weren’t perfect people. They absolutely had some good times where they followed God, but they also had some bad times, too. Today, we pick up their story right after God had rescued them from being slaves in Egypt.

“God had done this huge miracle—He’d gotten them released from a terrible, horrible, no-good Pharaoh. And God had done some pretty amazing things to make that happen. All the Israelites had to do now was travel to the land God had promised them. God had given them a leader named Moses to take them there. Seems simple enough, right?

“WRONG. Because the Israelites did something next that NO ONE could have predicted.”

MT. SINAI AND THE GOLDEN CALF

STORYTELLER: “In the book of Exodus (*hold up Bible*), we can read how Moses went up Mount Sinai to talk to God. Remember, Moses was the guy the Israelites were supposed to be following. God was telling Moses some pretty important stuff. But while Moses was there, the Israelites were waiting for him to come down.

“And like a lot of us, the Israelites did NOT like waiting. In fact, they grew pretty impatient. Listen to this.

Open the Bible to Exodus 32:1 and read.

“The people saw that Moses took a long time to come down from the mountain (NIRV).

“What did they do? They went to talk to Moses’ brother, Aaron. Aaron was sort of like Moses’ second in command. The Israelites were tired of waiting on Moses, and they wanted Aaron to give them something to worship.

Walk across the stage to the other stools.

“Instead of remembering what God had done for them, Aaron decided to listen to the people. He told the people to give him their gold jewelry. He melted the gold down, and out of it he created . . .

Remove the tablecloth from the golden calf.

“ . . . a golden cow? That’s right! Aaron made a golden cow for the people to worship. All because they were too impatient to wait for Moses to return.

Pick up golden calf. Hold it up high.

“The people bowed down and worshipped the golden cow as if it were actually God.

“Now, how do you think this made God feel? To see His chosen people—the ones He’d just rescued—worshipping something like this? Yeah, God was not happy at all. In fact, he was ANGRY!

Place the cow back on the stool.

“God allowed Moses to go back down to the people to see what they’d been doing. He saw them dancing and singing and worshipping the golden cow. Moses also became angry, and he threw the cow into the fire.

Take a pair of scissors and snip the cow’s head off.

“He completely destroyed it.”

OUR (LITTLE G) GODS

STORYTELLER: “Now, we all hear this story about the Israelites and we all think the same thing: ‘How silly do you have to be to worship a fake, gold cow that someone made out of your old earrings?’

“But if we’re not careful, you and I can do something kind of like that too. Maybe not to the extreme that the Israelites did, but there are times when we all worship things that aren’t the one true God.

“Let me explain. When we worship something other than God, it doesn’t have to be a statue. We can worship anything by making it more important than our relationship with God. We care about sports or music or food or video games more than we care about anything or anyone else. Those things become so important to us that it gets all our attention and our whole heart.

Pull the tablecloth off the tablet.

“Maybe for you, that’s your favorite game or a TV show or even a book. You give it so much attention and so much of your time, it’s sort of like a little god in your life.

Pull the tablecloth off the baseball glove.

“Maybe it’s a hobby or a sport that you love. You care SO much about soccer, gymnastics, acting, or a club you’re in that it becomes the MOST important thing to you.

Pull the tablecloth off the mirror. Look in the mirror.

“Or maybe your little god is yourself. Maybe all you think about all day is what YOU want.

Turn the mirror toward the audience.

“Or maybe your little god is other people. Maybe there’s a friend in your life you’d do ANYTHING to impress. You’d even do things you don’t really want to do, because you want this person to like you so much. That’s all that matters to you.”

THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES

STORYTELLER: “Look. Look where I’m standing.

Indicate the distance between where you’re standing (behind the last stool) and the Bible.

“I am so far from God’s Word. I am so far from God. There are all these little gods between God and me. There are so many people and things that I put in front of Him—some of them because I’m impatient, some of them because I’m lazy, some of them just because.

“And here’s the deal. (*Pick up the tablet.*) None of these things are BAD, but we have to remember to ask, ‘Is this the most important thing to me? Is this EVERYTHING to me?’ There’s only one thing that should be MOST important, and that’s your relationship with God. (*Put down the tablet.*)

“And when we put this much distance between us and God, there are consequences. For the Israelites, there were consequences. God was angry. Moses was angry. And not everyone got to go to the special land—the Promised Land—because they worshipped the golden cow.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Imagine if the Israelites had paused and said something like, ‘You know, Moses IS taking a long time to come back. But we can wait for him to talk to the one true God. We can be patient.’

“ALL of them would have gotten to go to the Promised Land! But they didn’t. They put too much space between them and the one true God. They forgot that HE was most important. They didn’t wait and think about what was true.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Our Bottom Line today is this: **[Bottom Line]** When you think you can’t wait, think about what’s true. Can you say that with me?”

KIDS and STORYTELLER: **[Bottom Line]** “When you think you can’t wait, think about what’s true.”

STORYTELLER: “Let’s talk to God and ask Him to help us remember what’s true.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, it’s sad to hear how the Israelites forgot to put You first. Please help us to keep our focus on You so that we don’t lose our patience like they did. Help us to put our faith and our hope in You alone. Help us to be patient and stay close to You and to remember what’s true. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Storyteller exits. Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “That was kind of an intense story, right? It’s important for us to know the stories with happy endings and the stories with not-so-happy endings, too. God loves us, and He wants us to be close to Him. Sometimes that means we need to trust Him and wait patiently, even if we don’t understand. The truth is, **[Basic Truth]** we can trust Him no matter what!

Stand by the stool with the Bible.

“I know none of us would want to be far away from God. We want to stay close to Him and focus on the things that are true—the things that matter most. We can remember what’s true by waiting, showing patience, and trusting God along the way, which is something the Israelites did NOT do.

“When something feels unfair and we find ourselves complaining that we never get what we want—that nothing good ever happens for us—we can stop. We can think about what’s true. What’s true is that God is with us. He loves us. *(Point to the tablet, baseball glove, and mirror.)* There’s nothing wrong with any of these things. But if we’re not careful, they can distract us from what’s most important. And none of them are even close to being as important as our relationship with God!

“Here’s the one thing we need to remember today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “When you think you can’t wait, think about what’s true.

“Now it’s time for you to head back to your small groups and talk about how YOU can remember what’s true!”

Dismiss children to their small groups.

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