



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host dressed like a climber
 - Sunglasses
 - Rolled up jeans
- Worship Leader
- Pack of Gatorade Energy Chews
- One bucket for each Small Group
- River stones for each Small Group

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- AMPED Theme Slide
- Free Rock Climbing Video (See “What You Do” below)

What You Do:

- Find a short, age-appropriate video of someone free rock climbing to show during Large Group.
- Pre-fill buckets with river stones for Host and Small Groups.

- Place one of the filled buckets backstage for the Worship Leader to bring on stage. Place the rest of the filled buckets along the back of the room, ready for Small Groups to grab them when it's time to play.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Nine volunteers
- Table
- Table cloth
- Big bag of M&Ms
- Bag of Traditional Chex Mix
- Lemonade
- 16 clear, large cups

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- Set up a covered table on the stage. Place the large bag of M&Ms and six clear cups on the table. Place the rest of your food props and cups under the table ready for a quick reveal.

3. Worship

Every Beat Through It All

Something to Believe In

Bible Story: Something to Believe In (Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love) • *Romans* 8:38-39

Key Question: How would you live if you believed what God says is true?

Bottom Line: Live like you believe what God says is true.

Memory Verse: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." *Philippians 1:6, NIV*

Life App: Confidence—Living like you believe what God says is true

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: AMPED Theme 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 wears his or her favorite summer climbing gear – sunglasses, taped up fingers, jeans rolled up, pack of Gatorade Energy Chews, and tank top. Host discusses recent events: National Ice Cream Month, Independence Day, Wimbledon Championships, Tour de France, summer vacation, movie opening (Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation, Teen Titans Go To The Movies, etc.), 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: "What is UP, party people? Are you stoked? Are you AMPED? Are you ready to live life to the extreme?! I know I am! This morning I woke up, made myself a hearty bowl of oatmeal-n-Red Bull, chewed a dozen packets of Gatorade Energy Chews, and went for a brisk, fifteen-mile sprint around my living room, all because I was SO EXCITED to come here today to share my latest extreme sports discovery with you: FREE CLIMBING. Maybe you all are familiar with rock climbing in its purest form—you latch yourself into a harness and use a rope to slowly but surely make your way up some sort of mountain face . . . BOOOORING. In FREE climbing, you don't have the harness or the rope. It's just you versus the rock. Man versus cliff! Mano a cliff-o! Take a look for yourself!"

CG: Free Climbing Video

"Talk about AMPED! That right there is the extreme life! And the best part is . . . I'm going to be free-climbing today. Right here in [Name of Environment]! I already talked with [Name of Worship Leader], and [he/she] is going to be bringing the rocks for me to climb—all I had to do was bring my gear! [shows pack of Gatorade Energy Chews] I think they should be here any minute now . . ."

Worship Leader enters.

Communicator: "Hey, [*Name of Host*]! Are you ready to free climb?"

HOST: "Man, I was BORN ready. Just look at my fingers!"

Communicator: "Glad to hear it! I do want to remind you that we have certain safety standards here in [*Name of Kids Environment*], so I had to take the appropriate measures to make sure everyone—including you—was safe during this stunt, so I went ahead and—"

HOST: "Yeah, yeah, yeah, safety first and all that jazz—BRING ON THE ROCKS, BABY!"

Communicator: "Okay . . . here ya go!"

Communicator pulls out a bucket full of river stones from behind his/her back and hands it to Host.

HOST: ". . . are you kidding me? Are you seriously kidding me right now?"

Communicator: "Well, logistically we couldn't bring a mountain back here anyway . . ."

HOST: "So you want me to climb a BUCKET OF ROCKS? Can't you see how absurd that is? Look!"

Host sets box on the ground and stands on the rocks.

HOST: "There! I did it! Free climbing! Woo! I climbed up all these rocks!"

Communicator: [*clapping*] "Hey, you did do it! What a great job [*Name of Host*] did, right guys? YES! Didn't think you could do it! Now I'm AMPED!"

Communicator leads kids in applause then exits.

HOST: "Oh man, this was just . . . I mean I should have expected something like this but . . . ugh. Let's just put these rocks to good use play a game. I need 4 volunteers to come up here."

Host brings 4 volunteers and splits into 2 teams on stage for game

"Since [*Name of Worship Leader*] thought small, I think it's appropriate that we think small, too. This game is called Mini Mountains, and the rules are simple: as a small group, you will have sixty seconds to build the tallest freestanding rock tower that you can. Once time is called, get your paws off those rocks—the stack has to stand ENTIRELY on its own. Everyone good to go? Then let's get stacking in three . . . two . . . one . . . STACK!"

SFX: *High-energy game music*

Host starts the timer. volunteers work together to stack their river rocks. Once time expires, host determines the tallest tower and makes a big hullabaloo about the winner. Small Groups can have multiple towers going at once, but only their tallest tower counts.

“That was awesome! An incredible effort by all! I wish some of these towers were one hundred times their size so I could free-climb all over ‘em! I’m going to lug these rocks off this stage and search my phone to find the nearest location of the bigger version of these mini mountains.”

Host exits and Worship Leader enters.

Worship

Every Beat

Through It All

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everybody! It’s so good to see all of you here today. I love being around people I love. I’ve always been this way—even as a kid. In fact, I used to throw a fit if I couldn’t be in the same room as my mom. I am *[insert accurate mileage]* miles away from her now, which makes me a little sad just thinking about it. I love my mom. What about all of you? Anyone else love being close to the people you love? *(Pause for response.)*”

“When we are far away from the people we love, we can simply hop on a bike or in a car and go visit them. We can make a call or send a text or even video chat so we feel better about the distance. I realize that I am over-simplifying this solution, but you get the idea. With the right mode of transportation or technology, you can visit or connect with anybody you love.”

“But what happens when we feel distant from God? A phone call or a car ride usually can’t fix that problem. I remember a time when I felt just that—far from God.”

Communicator shares an age-appropriate story about a time he/she felt distant or far from God.

“When I was young, I found a stray kitten in my mom’s garden. He was a scrawny little thing who was just starting to walk on wobbly legs. The kitten was separated from his mom, and I spent hours trying to find its mother or any other kittens for that matter. With no luck, I named him Tater after the potato plant I found him under and took him to show my parents. While he was cute, he didn’t look very healthy. My parents picked up a bottle and milk formula to feed the kitten. I did my best to nurse little Tater back into tip-top shape, but I went away for the weekend to visit my grandparents. When I came back . . . Tater had passed away. I was so sad. Tater was so little and so innocent—he never hurt anybody in his short, feline life. It was unfair! I felt like I failed. I felt alone. Nobody could really comfort me. I even felt far from God when that happened. In that moment, it felt like God was a million miles away. But when bad things happen in your life, the last person you want to feel distant from is God.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Regardless, there are times in all of our lives when bad things happen. It’s easy to feel alone and isolated from everyone, including God. Maybe your mom and your dad are separating. You asked God for comfort, but it felt like God didn’t answer. Or you got in a fight with your best friend, and you felt like you’d been left along with no one around to turn to. Maybe you didn’t make the swim team and you felt like a failure . . . like you let everyone down. Now you feel isolated.”

“When you’re struggling with the big events in your life, you may wonder if God even cares. It’s times like these when you can turn to the Bible for guidance.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s do that right now and head to the book of Romans. You can find it in the New Testament. The book of Romans wasn’t always a book; in fact, it started as a letter written by Paul to the Jesus followers in Rome whom he’d never met. Many of these believers were new to their faith and working to better understand who Jesus is. Paul wrote this letter to answer some of the questions they may have had about their faith and how they could live for Jesus. Paul says some pretty cool stuff about whether or not we, as Christians, can really be separated from God . . . particularly His love. But

before we dive into the passage, I need your help. Could I get three volunteers from the audience to help?”

Communicator selects three volunteers and brings them to the stage. Stands them behind the table with six clear cups and a bag of M&Ms sitting on the table.

“On the table, I have a bag of M&Ms and six clear cups. This is a normal bag of M&Ms—all of the colors are mixed together. However, I want our three volunteers to separate the entire bag into separate cups. All the orange candy should be placed in a single cup. All the blue M&Ms should be placed in a different cup and so on. Make sense? *(Pause for response.)* Awesome! Let’s see how fast you can accomplish this task. Ready? Go!”

Allow time to split up the M&Ms. Communicator praises all three volunteers and thanks them for their help. Optional: communicator can use his phone timer to see how fast they can do it.

“Awesome job! That was achieved quickly! I guess the separating M&Ms isn’t that difficult of a task. You can take a seat! I need three more volunteers for another project.”

Communicator selects three volunteers and brings them to the stage. Stands them behind the table with four clear cups and a bag of Traditional Chex Mix sitting on the table.

“Now, allow me to introduce you to my good friend . . . Mr. Chex Mix. It’s a perfect blend of savory, salty goodness. But sometimes I don’t like all the different types of food to be mixed up. Similarly to before, I need the three of you to separate the different elements into different cups. Pretzels, cereal, nuts, and bagel chips should all be separated into different cups. Make sense? *(Pause for response.)* Great! Let’s make this happen as quickly as you can! Ready? Go!”

Allow time to split up the Chex Mix. Communicator praises all three volunteers and thanks them for their help. Optional: communicator can use his phone timer to see how fast they can do it.

“Nicely done! Again, another job that wasn’t too complicated and still delicious. Thanks for your help. You can take a seat. I need three more volunteers for a final job.”

Communicator selects three volunteers and brings them to the stage. Stands them behind the table with three clear cups full of lemonade and three empty clear cups.

“Ok, I think by now you know the drill—I need something separated. It’s been pretty simple so far. What I have here for all of you is your very own cup of lemonade. All I need you to do is separate the sugar from the juice. Place all the sugar in the empty clear cups in front of you. Make sense? *(Pause for response.)* Sweet! Ready? Go!”

Communicator gives the volunteers the chance to struggle through the task.

“Well, how’d you do? No can do, huh? What gives? *(Pause for response.)* Are you saying it’s impossible to separate the sugar from the lemon juice once it’s mixed in as lemonade? Interesting! Let’s give it up for our volunteers and efforts! You can take a seat. Thanks again to all of you.”

Communicator dismisses volunteers.

“In case you missed it, the M&Ms and Chex Mix could be separated easily. However, separating the sugar from the lemon juice was not possible on this stage. Now, you might be wondering, ‘Why is this guy talking about food and lemonade, I’m getting HUNGRY?!’ But stay with me for a minute.”

“Check out what Paul wrote *(Open Bible and read Romans 8:38-39)*, ‘*I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God’s love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can separate us. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can separate us. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God’s love. That’s because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done, (NIRV).*’”

This is crystal clear. Absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God. Paul states one of the most comforting promises in all of the Bible. God’s love is NOT like a bag of M&Ms where green and blue candies can be split up. It’s NOTHING like Chex Mix where pretzels and peanuts can be divided into groups. The love God freely gives is more like the lemon juice and sugar in this lemonade. It cannot be separated. No matter where you go or what you do, you can’t lose God’s love. You can’t escape it, shake it, or lose it. Ever. Nothing can separate you from God’s love.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Paul offered the church in Rome a ton of truth and guidance in his letter. However, this morning, think about this fact: you can’t be separated from God’s love.

If you want to have confidence that you’ll make it through whatever life sends your way, you live like you believe what God says is true. In order for this to happen, it is important to study and think about Scripture. When something doesn’t make sense, ask your Small Group Leader, *[Name of Children’s Pastor]*, or your parents for help. When we know God’s Word, we will know the truth about God, about how to live, about making wise choices, and so much more.”

“Knowing God’s Word will even help us in times when we feel all alone. When Tater passed away, I felt like God was a million miles away. But God’s Word tells me that He was right there with me the whole time. The same is true for you on your very worst days. Whether you face illness, bullying, a bad hair day, a hard test, an angry friend, or anything else, it is impossible to separate you from God’s love. Even when you FEEL alone and abandoned, like God doesn’t love you anymore, remember that Paul tells us the feeling is untrue. The times you feel furthest from God are the times you should remember the most that God loves you and cares SO much! And on your very BEST day, Jesus is right there with you, too, loving you and celebrating your great day.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “This is great news to hear today. As you head to Small Groups, think about this question.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“How would you live if you believed what God says is true? How would you act or talk or play sports or make friends or whatever else if you believed what God says is true? How would you face difficult moments knowing that what God says is true? Let’s pray and tell God how thankful we are that what He says is true.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

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