



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Two tables set next to each other
- A large number of plastic cups (Solo) for stacking
- An oscillating fan plugged in
- 2 (cheap) Nerf Guns
- Six Snowballs balls
- Two flashlights

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals:

- AMPED Theme Slide
- 30-Second Countdown (see “What You Do” below)

What You Do:

- Set up the two tables for the game facing the audience. Put the oscillating fan on another small table or stool between the tables for the cup-stacking so that it will eventually hit both tables separately as it turns.
- Have the other supplies (balls, Nerf guns/bullets) ready in a basket or bucket.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Tool belt with a few tools
- Additional tools needed on tool belt: framing square, level
- Whiteboard and markers
- A larger stone to demonstrate a cornerstone (find a stone that has two fairly straight sides if possible—can be a paver block from a home improvement store.)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Key Question Slide
- Picture of leaning house (See “What You Do” below)

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange’s permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Google “leaning house photo” and download a picture of a house that has settled, such as this one: <http://bit.ly/2o97t1R>

3. Worship

What You Need:

- We Are Royals
- Through It All

Thou Raise Me Up

Bible Story: Thou Raise Me Up (Jesus is the Cornerstone) * *Ephesians 2:20-21a*

Bottom Line: Jesus matters most.

Key Question: Why does Jesus matter?

Memory Verse: “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.” *Psalms 27:13 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. For many, this is the first week of summer vacation or they are anticipating summer vacation in just a few weeks. Host can ask about summer plans and get kids hyped about being off from school soon. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening that month (*Incredibles 2* – June 15), 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 is psyched about the start of summer? Yeah, me too! This summer we want to live an amped life and live fully alive. This means we’re all about going extreme. So, to start us off today, I have an extreme twist on an oldie, but a goodie. I need two sets of partners to go against each other in a head-to-head battle!”

Host chooses four volunteers for an active game.

“Alright, when I say go, it is your job to stack these cups as high as you can. Cup-stacking . . . no big deal, right? You’re probably thinking, ‘What’s so extreme about that?’ Well, every 30 seconds, you will be presented with a . . . hmmm . . . ‘challenge’ that will threaten the progress of your cup stacking. Now, you can both stack together as partners, or you can get creative. The rule is, though, that both partners have to stay within a foot of your table. Got it? Ready . . . set . . . and GO!”

If possible, have a 30-second countdown displayed.

“(At the end of 30 seconds) STOP! Everybody pause. We have hit our first extreme obstacle . . . the fan. (Host turns on fan so it rotates). RESUME BUILDING!”

If the cups blow over, encourage them to start over.

**Note: The second partner can “defend” against the obstacles but must stay at the table (they can’t go turn the fan off, for instance). As more obstacles are added, it will get harder to defend.*

“(At the end of another 30 seconds) And STOP! Extreme obstacle number 2: nerf guns! RESUME BUILDING!”

Host hands nerf guns to a couple small group leaders. They should stay in one place.

“(At the end of another 30 seconds) And STOP! Extreme obstacle number 3: darkness! RESUME BUILDING!”

Host turns the lights off. Hand one partner a flashlight to shine.

“(At the end of another 30 seconds) And STOP! Extreme obstacle number 4: bombs away! RESUME BUILDING!”

Host hands foam balls to a few kids around the room to throw at the cups. At this point, there is no telling how the cup towers will be doing. You can end the game by announcing an artificial ending (“10 seconds left!”) and counting down with the whole room. Compare the towers and announce a winner.

“(At the end of the game) Wow, that was intense. Or should I say, extreme? Well done, everybody. That was a blast!”

“Let’s stand and worship together!”

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “It’s so good to be able to sing praises to Jesus today. We can be confident that He has done great things, and that He’ll continue to do great things. Come on—let’s do this. Sing it loud, everybody!”

WE ARE ROYALS

Through It All

Storyteller enters wearing a tool belt as Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Well, what a good-looking bunch of people we’ve got here! Good to see you all. I’m so pumped to be starting a new month. Not just a new month, but a whole SUMMER!”

(Referencing tool belt) “So . . . you might be wondering why I’m wearing a tool belt. Well, I’ve always been fascinated with how houses are built. I love watching all those DIY shows where people build an entire house in an afternoon. It’s crazy if you think about it—all of those materials coming together to form a house that someone can live in. Now, do you know what the MOST important part of building a house is? It’s not the type of wood you use, though that is important. It’s not the color you paint it, though that’s also an important decision. It is not even where your bedroom is located. The most important part of building a house is . . .”

Allow responses.

“The foundation! Yes. Now, the foundation may not be that exciting . . . I mean, most of it is underground, and you never really see it. BUT if you get the foundation wrong, you can end up with a house that looks like this!”

CG: *Picture of leaning house*

“Woah! That would make rolling out of bed easier in the morning, though! So . . . how do you make sure you get the foundation right? Let me show you.”

Pulls framing square out.

“This here is a framing square. I know what you’re thinking: it’s not a square, more like an L. The reason it is called a square, though, is because that is what it DOES . . . it makes your foundation nice and level. *(Demonstrating)* You put it in the corner of your foundation walls and make sure that they are nice and straight. That way, when your walls finally all come together, they actually match up!”

Pulls out a level.

“And this here is a level. *(Demonstrating)* You put this on any of your boards or even your walls and it will tell you if it is level. That way you don’t get to the end of building your house and realize the whole thing was crooked!”

“If you can start with a good foundation, you are more likely to have a good house.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Okay, so chances are that most of you aren’t going home today and start building a house. But whether you know it or not, we’re all building something. A life! So . . . let me ask you a question: what do people today build their lives on? In other words, what are the foundations some

people build their lives on? Turn and chat about this with the kids in your small group.”

Students turn and share with their groups for about a minute or two.

“Alright, let me hear some of what you came up with. I’ll write them on this white board here.”

Communicator writes down ideas on the board. If possible, try to group them in categories. Most examples will probably fall in one of the following: Accomplishments, Stuff, and Relationships.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s take a look at some of what you came up with. So one of the big ideas that some of you were getting at with these examples is ACCOMPLISHMENTS. Say we build our lives on our accomplishments—this award, that promotion, that next level, this trophy—ultimately what have we built our lives on? Ourselves, right? But if that’s the foundation for our lives, what happens when we don’t get the award or don’t get to that next level? Yeah, our lives might fall apart.”

“Or take, for instance, all of these that have to do with RELATIONSHIPS. Friends. Followers on social media. Our crush—not that any of you have one of those, right? But in all seriousness, when life becomes JUST about who we hang with or who we are seen with, what happens when we aren’t the most popular or we DON’T have a huge number of followers? We might feel small and insignificant.”

“The last big idea I see from our words on the board is STUFF. If we only had THIS or THAT thing, then we would have it all! More, more, more! So what happens when somebody has more stuff than you or something you have breaks . . . or you lose it? Not good.”

“Building the foundation of our lives on accomplishments, relationships, or stuff would make a pretty shaky foundation. A good chance you’ll end up with a life like this . . .

CG: (Same) Picture of leaning house

COMMUNICATOR: “So if it’s not a good idea to build our lives on things like accomplishments, relationships, or stuff, what should we build our lives on? That’s a big question. Let’s see if we can discover an answer in the Bible. In New Testament, we find a letter written by Paul, a church leader we talk about a lot in [Name of Environment]. The letter is called Ephesians. Listen to what Paul says here. (Read directly from Ephesians 2:20-21a, NIV) ‘You are a building that is built on the apostles and prophets. They are the foundation. Christ Jesus himself is the most important stone in the building. The whole building is held together by him.’”

“This is a pretty cool thing Paul is saying. He is telling followers of Jesus that we are a part of something really big—like a massive building. And before you and I arrived on the planet, many others have come before us who followed God and showed us what it means to trust Jesus with our lives. Some of these people were apostles, like Peter, James, and Paul. Others were prophets, like Moses and Elijah. All of these people have lived out God’s story before us . . . they have laid an amazing foundation for us to build on! We are a part of what God started through them!”

“But then Paul mentions this thing about ‘the most important stone.’ Some people call that stone the cornerstone. Now earlier we talked about some of the tools we use to make sure builders get off to a good start when building a house. Well, back in Paul’s day, I’m sure they would have liked to have had these fancy levels and framing squares. Instead, though, they had this.”

Communicator holds up a rock.

“A big stone. But this is not just any stone, and there is a reason I chose this one. See, I went down to the rock quarry—or Home Depot—and chiseled some stones. AKA, picked through a pile on the shelf. After sorting through several stones, I selected this one and carried it from the quarry . . . or, you know, wheeled it in my cart. Why? Because it has two nice, straight edges. This stone is perfect to be a cornerstone. See, before all these fancy tools, you had to start building with the best stone you could find, a stone that you could base ALL of the other stones off of.”

“Did you catch what Paul said about WHO the cornerstone is? (*Reread Ephesians 2:20b, NIV*) ‘*Christ Jesus himself is the most important stone in the building.*’ What is the most important stone in the building? The cornerstone, the stone you build all of the others off of! Exactly. And Paul goes on to say that the WHOLE building is held together by Him, Jesus.”

“We get to build our lives on a foundation that was laid long ago . . . all of these amazing people who have gone before us. AND we can trust what God is building because Jesus Himself is holding it all together!”

“Want to know something else pretty cool? In the same way that you can’t build a building with one stone, we need each other. (*Point to someone.*) You are a stone. (*Point to someone else.*) And you are a stone. And the other people in this church are all stones. And the people at the church down the street are all stones. And the followers of Jesus halfway across the world are stones. Together, we are ALL a part of what God is building, and Jesus is holding us all together.”

APPLICATION

Communicator goes back over to the white board.

COMMUNICATOR: “Alright, let’s go back to the board here. When we build our entire lives on these things, we’re setting ourselves up with a pretty weak foundation. Imagine that you are an athlete that has given your whole life to your sport. You eat, sleep, and breathe your sport. You constantly say no to other people and other good things in your life because you are so focused on practicing and getting better. Then one day in the middle of a game, you go down with an injury. Doctor after doctor tells you that you will never play again. Sad, right? If you built your entire life on your identity as an athlete, what has now happened to your life?”

“Now, there is nothing wrong with sports, and I certainly hope you never experience my sad scenario . . . but sports do not make a very good foundation. Neither does . . . (*point to the board and name examples*). And when we try . . . it will only leave you disappointed.”

“When we (you and you and you) build our lives on God’s foundation with Jesus as the cornerstone holding it all together, then we are a part of something that can never be destroyed or taken away!”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “As you go to small group today, I want you to discuss some of these ideas that were up on the board and why they don’t make great foundations. Then think about this.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“Why does Jesus matter? Now, I know. That’s a big question, but it’s one each of us needs to answer if we want to live an Amped, fully alive life! Really think about it, talk it out with your small group, and figure out how you’d answer that question. Before you head to group, let’s pray and ask God to help us build our lives on Jesus, the cornerstone.”

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.