



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Four Way Tug-o-war rope (2 20' ropes)
- Four cones or tape lines

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- AMPED Theme Slide

What You Do:

- You will need to set up the ropes for 4-way tug-o-war. See the following diagram for one way to connect the ropes. <http://bit.ly/2EuCTqm>
- Be sure the ropes will not disconnect with the pressure that will be put on them!
- If space allows and you are able, consider doing the tug-o-war in the middle of the room.
- Put down 4 cones or tape lines as markers for the groups to pull the center of the rope over.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator

- Muscle suit for kid volunteer
- Prop box
 - Long, dark-haired wig
 - A lion stuffed animal (will be destroyed; if you have multiple services, have one per service)
 - Fishing net (TJ)
 - Rope
 - Giant dog bone
 - Red paper heart
 - Strings
 - Spray bottle with water
 - Sleep mask/blindfold

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:

- Collect costume pieces for the volunteer and have them backstage, ready for the volunteer to put on over his clothes. Muscle suit can be oversized shirt that you stuff with pillows/ balloons for biceps or a costume muscle suit, etc.
- Collect props and place them in a prop box. Put this on stage off to the side for the Communicator to use during the Bible lesson.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- This Is Living
- Alive Again

Clip My Hair

Bible Story: Clip My Hair (Samson) * *Judges 13–16*

Bottom Line: God is stronger than anyone.

Key Question: What happens when you trust yourself more than God?

Memory Verse: “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.” *Psalm 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: “What’s going on, my friends! Glad you made it here today! Let’s kick this morning off with a game that, if played correctly, might get a little intense. How many of you love a good old tug-o-war? Yeah, me too. Except for the rope burns, but let’s not talk about those. So since we are all about the extreme this summer, instead of a two-team tug-o-war, how about a FOUR-team tug-o-war? That’s what I’m talking about! I need some STRONG volunteers!”

Host chooses kids/leaders to make up four teams (space permitting) and puts them in teams next to their length of rope.

“Alright, your goal is to get the center of this rope (where the ropes meet) over YOUR line. Now, it is not just about muscle. You’ve gotta use some strategy, so put on your thinking caps.”

“Now a couple quick rules: first, don’t pull until I say GO. Second, no wrapping the rope around your arm—only hold it with your hands. Third, let go of the rope if it is slipping through your hands. No rope

burns! Got it? Alright, everybody pick up the rope, but do not pull until I say . . . well, the word.”

Make sure everybody is set and the middle of the rope is equal.

“Ready . . . set . . . GO!”

Host provides commentary.

(After a winner) “And we have a winning team! Well played, everybody. Now give your arms a rest, but let’s stand and sing together!”

Host exits and Worship Leader enters.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Let’s stand and sing. He is super wonderful! Everybody repeat after me: THIS IS LIVING! It means that with God in our lives, THIS IS LIVING now and nothing will ever be the same. I think you’re ready to sing it. Let’s go!”

THIS IS LIVING

WORSHIP LEADER: “I’m so thankful that we are fully alive because of Jesus. Let’s continue to sing His praises with a confident heart. Our God is stronger than anyone, and we are fully alive in Him. Come on—let’s sing this.”

ALIVE AGAIN

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “What’s up, everyone? Welcome to another exciting morning at *[Name of Environment]*. So far, this summer has been a blast. I’ve loved exploring this idea of what it means to live fully alive as we follow Jesus! We’ve used a word a few times that helps us understand what it means to live fully alive; it’s confidence. And speaking of confidence, have you ever had a moment where maybe you were a little too OVER-confident? You didn’t quite take something as seriously as you should have because you just trusted yourself maybe a little too much?”

“I can remember when I was in middle school and there was this big Spanish test. Everybody was making such a big deal about it . . . the teacher kept saying we should take time to fill out our study guides. Well, I was all, ‘Yo Hablo Good Spanish,’ so why do I need to study? On test day, I walked into that classroom, sat down at the desk . . . and had NO idea what any of the words on the test meant. It was no bueno, people. No. Bueno.”

“You ever have something like that happen? Trusting yourself too much is sometimes too easy to do!”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “But what happens when we do this? For starters, we start to live our lives like we can do everything on our own. We become really confident in our own abilities, even when deep down we know we probably shouldn’t have that much trust in ourselves and what we think we can accomplish on our own.”

“And sometimes, trusting in our own abilities and strengths can eventually let us down. We might be able to get by on our own for a little bit, but at some point the whole thing we’re trying to accomplish will never happen. But if we can’t always trust ourselves, who can we always trust to help us?”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “That’s a big question. And when we have questions like that, we should look some place with the answers. And the best place to start is God’s Word, the Bible. But before we dig in, I need a nice, strong volunteer today.”

Communicator chooses a male volunteer and introduces him to the rest of the group. Host comes on stage to take the volunteer back to get ready.

(To Volunteer) “Alright, you need to get you ready for your part. *[Host’s name]* will take you backstage and get you into costume.”

Volunteer heads backstage.

“While *[volunteer’s name]* is getting ready, let’s head to the book of Judges in our Old Testament. Now, if that sounds familiar, that is because the story of Gideon last week was from this book also. Like we said last week, Judges tells the story of a pretty dark time in the nation of Israel’s history. It was a time when the people often turned away from worshipping and following God and found themselves at the mercy of their surrounding enemies. When that happened, the people of Israel would then cry out to God, and He would send a deliverer to rescue them. This was a cycle that happened over and over again. And God’s people once again were in trouble.”

“At this particular time, the Philistines were making life VERY tough for the people of Israel, and it went on like this for decades.”

“There was this man who lived in Israel named Manoah. Now Manoah and his wife had been unable to have children. But one day an angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah’s wife. The angel announced to her that she would have a son! And from the very beginning, her son would be set apart for an important task. Check it out. *(Read directly from Judges 13:5b, NIV)* ‘He will be set apart to God from the day he is born. He will take the lead in saving Israel from the power of the Philistines.’”

“This young boy would save Israel from the Philistines. And his name?”

Host brings the volunteer out, dressed in his muscle costume, no wig yet.

“Samson!” *(Read directly from Judges 13:24b-25a, NIV) ‘As he grew up, the LORD blessed him. The Spirit of the LORD began to work in his life.’”*

“Now, there were things about Samson being set apart from birth that might seem strange to us. Like for instance, one of them was that Samson’s hair was never to be cut. *(Communicator puts a wig on the volunteer)* This might seem random, but it will make sense later. And Samson grew in strength *(Help volunteer flex upward)* and power *(help volunteer flex downward).*”

“One day, while Samson hiked along a road toward the Philistine country *(help volunteer start marching in place)*, he was suddenly attacked by a . . . *(reaching into prop box)* a LION!”

Communicator throws a stuffed lion at the marching Samson.

“Dude, that’s a real lion . . . you know, if you use your imagination! The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson and he was filled with strength *(help volunteer flex upward)* and power *(help volunteer flex downward)*. He took that lion with his bare hands and tore it apart!”

Communicator helps volunteer rip the lion stuffed animal in half.

“Sorry folks . . . that was gruesome. Let’s move on. On another occasion, Samson punished the Philistines by capturing 300 foxes . . .”

Reaches in prop box and hands volunteer a fishing net. Helps the volunteer motion like he’s trying to catch something.

“*(Looking at the net)* This could take a while . . . tying flaming torches to their tails and setting them loose in the fields and vineyards of the Philistines. But you gotta give it to Samson, he’s definitely an outside-of-the-box thinker.”

“Samson brought all sorts of destruction upon the Philistines. They were having none of it. They prepared to attack the Israelites in order to take Samson as a prisoner. Yet his own people tied him up.

Communicator wraps the volunteer in ropes.

“But when they delivered him over to the Philistines, *(Read directly from Judges 15:14b-15, NIV) ‘Then the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully on Samson. The ropes on his arms became like burned thread. They dropped off his hands. He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey . . .’”*

Communicator looks in prop box.

“Sorry, fresh out of donkey jawbones. This will have to do . . .”

Hands volunteer a giant dog bone.

“(Read directly from Judges 15:15b, NIV) ‘He grabbed it and struck down 1,000 men.’”

Communicator helps volunteer whack the air with the bone.

“Samson led the Israelites for twenty years and kept the Philistines from causing too much harm to the Israelites. During this entire time, he never once cut his hair (*help volunteer flip his hair*). Now, we know Samson was strong (*help volunteer flex*), but Samson wasn’t always wise. Especially when it came to a certain Philistine woman named Delilah.”

Communicator holds a red paper heart up above the head of the volunteer.

“Once the Philistines learned of Samson’s crush, they decided to use Delilah to trap Samson. (*Read directly from Judges 16:5, NIV) ‘The rulers of the Philistines went to her. They said, ‘See if you can get him to tell you the secret of why he’s so strong. Find out how we can overpower him. Then we can tie him up. We can bring him under our control. Each of us will give you 28 pounds of silver.’”*

“Delilah tried to learn the secret of Samson’s strength. Eventually he told her . . . (*Read directly from Judges 16:7, NIV) ‘‘Let someone tie me up with seven new bowstrings. (Communicator wraps volunteer up with thin string, continues reading) They must be strings that aren’t completely dry. (Communicator looks around, grabs a squirt bottle and sprays the volunteer. Continues reading) Then I’ll become as weak as any other man.’”*

“But when Delilah tried it while Samson was sleeping, he broke out of them as if they were spaghetti noodles!”

Communicator helps free volunteer.

“(Reading directly from Judges 16:10, NIV) ‘Delilah spoke to Samson again. ‘You have made me look foolish,’ she said. ‘You told me a lie. Come on. Tell me how you can be tied up.’”

“Samson continued to dodge the truth with some lies. Samson told her it was actually new ropes, but he broke those, too. Then he told her to try weaving his hair into the cloth of a loom. Huh? Okay . . . and as you might have guessed, that didn’t work either. And day after day, Delilah nagged Samson to tell her the true source of his strength.”

Communicator puts the volunteer’s fingers in his own ears.

“Finally, Samson was SICK of hearing it. He was so annoyed that he blurted out the truth.”

“(Read directly from Judges 16:17, NIV) ‘He said, ‘My hair has never been cut. That’s because I’ve been a Nazirite since the day I was born. A Nazirite is set apart to God. If you shave my head, I won’t be strong anymore. I’ll become as weak as any other man.’”

“While Samson was sleeping, Delilah brought someone in to cut Samson’s hair off. (*Pulls volunteers wig off*) The Philistines attacked, but this time . . . Samson wasn’t able to break free. They wrapped him

in heavy bronze chains and blinded him (*put blindfold on volunteer*). He no longer had the strength (*helps volunteer flex up*) and power (*helps volunteer flex down*) he had before, because the Spirit of the Lord was no longer upon him.”

“Some time later, three thousand Philistines gathered in a temple to their false god for a celebration. They brought Samson in to mock him. But what they didn’t realize was that Samson’s hair had begun to grow back.”

“Samson prayed . . . (*Read directly from Judges 16:28, NIV*) “*LORD and King, show me that you still have concern for me. Please, God, make me strong just one more time . . .*””

“Samson reached his arms out (*reaching volunteers arms out to the side*) and pushed against two of the main temple pillars . . . and through God’s power he brought the entire temple crashing to the ground, killing the Philistines. Even though Samson died that day too, he had used his strength FROM GOD to save his people one last time.”

“Give it up for our volunteer!”

Communicator dismisses volunteer.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “You know, when you have strength like Samson and can do the crazy things he was able to do with his power, it can be easy to forget where that strength actually comes from. Samson got a bit overconfident in his strength and believed that nobody could stop him. I think that was why he finally told Delilah his secret. (*As Samson*) ‘Nobody can ACTUALLY stop me, right?’ But he had forgotten that it really wasn’t *his* strength . . . it was God’s.”

“In the end, Samson got it though. He prayed and asked God for the strength, and God came through.”

“It is easy to become overconfident in ourselves, especially when there is something we are really good at. Like my story at the top, maybe we think we are so good at a school subject that there is no reason to study. Or maybe we are trying out for the school musical. We think (*with attitude*), ‘I’m easily the best singer trying out. The main part is mine,’ and so we don’t prepare. Or we’re on a sports team and we get beat because we thought the other team was going to be so easy that we didn’t take it seriously.”

Here’s the thing, though: if we do this with tests and tryouts and teams . . . is it possible that we do this with God, too? Maybe we have a tough situation we are going through and we think, ‘I’m able to figure this out on my own. I don’t need to pray.’ But if God is more wise and powerful than all of us, why wouldn’t we trust Him?”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “I think this is an important idea to discuss; good thing you’re about to head to Small Group! As you group up today, I want you to think about this:

CG: Key Question Slide

“What happens when you trust yourself more than God? What happens when you decide that your way is better than God’s or that you simply decide not to ask God for wisdom in a particular circumstance?”

Take time to really think about this question. And if you're not sure how you might answer that, don't worry. You'll have time to chat with your small group leader and think about some great ways you can remember to put your confidence in God. Before you head to groups, let's pray.

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.