



## GETTING READY

### 1. Welcome/Opener

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Four furniture dolly's
- Four Laundry baskets
- Lots of ball pit balls

#### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

- AMPED Theme Slide
- 60-Second Timer (see "What You Do")

#### What You Do:

- This game needs some space. To avoid injury, make sure that those who are pushing do not let go of the kids who are being pushed. You may want to consider having the Small Group Leaders do the pushing.
- Set up a start line in each corner. All four teams will move to the middle to get the tennis balls and pull them back to their own corner.
- Have a few people (Small Group Leaders) who are resetting tennis balls to the middle that get moved but aren't brought to a team's corner.

## 2. Communicator Script

### What You Need:

- Communicator
- Paper with “21” written on it in big numbers (in back pocket of Communicator)
- Blank paper with a marker (for volunteer in Introduction)
- Wood to build two campfires (Anthem)
- Kiddie pool or tarp underneath
- Water bottles
- Two bull or cow stuffed animals

### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room
- Songs about fire, such as “Light my Fire” by the Doors, “We Didn’t Start the Fire” by Billy Joel, “Ring of Fire” by Johnny Cash, or other songs you might want.
- *SFX*: Bonfire crackling

### *Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):*

- Key Question Slide

### 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.
- Download songs about fire from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- Download the weekly SFX from the download site.
- The climax of the Bible story is the lighting of Elijah’s altar. If possible, aim a stage light at the altar that will shine when the altar lights. Otherwise, use a high-powered flashlight or a clamp-on work light to aim at the altar.

## 3. Worship

### What You Need:

- Alive
- Never Gonna Stop Singing

# They Didn't Start the Fire

**Bible Story:** They Didn't Start the Fire (Elijah and the Prophets of Baal) \* 1 Kings 18

**Bottom Line:** God can do the impossible.

**Key Question:** How would you live if you believed God could do the impossible?

**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 week (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, everybody! I can't believe June is almost over. The good news, though? We still have plenty of summer left! Today let's kick things off with a spin on one of my favorite childhood games. How many of you have ever played Hungry Hungry Hippos? So great, right? All the marbles and the noise that drove our parents crazy! The best! Well, I've thought how we can add a bit of an extreme twist to this classic!"

"I need 8 volunteers!"

*Host chooses 8 volunteers (4 sets of partners) for an active game.*

"Alright, here is how it will work. In just a moment, each duo will go to their assigned corner. One person needs to lie down headfirst on the scooter/skateboard and hold the hula-hoop in front of you. When I say go, the other person will grab your ankles and push you on the scooter to the middle. The person on the scooter will use the hula-hoop to trap as many tennis balls as possible. No using your

hands! Then your partner will wheel you back to your corner with the tennis balls. You'll have 60 seconds to get as many tennis balls as you can to your side of the room. The team with the most tennis balls in their corner wins."

"Everybody get it? Any questions? Okay! Ready, set, and . . . GO!"

**CG: 60 Second Timer**

*After game, declare a winner and give a prize.*

"That was the best! Well done with this extreme version of Hungry Hungry Hippos. Alright, everybody. Let's all stand and sing together!"

*Host exits and Worship Leader enters*

### **Worship**

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hey, everybody! Stand to your feet. Let's get loud and celebrate how wonderful He is. Sing with me!"

**ALIVE**

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "It's so fun to celebrate our super wonderful God with all of you. When we sing to God and let the words get down deep in our hearts, we remember what He says is true. That makes us strong and confident—like it says in Philippians 4:13: *'I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength, (NirV).'* Let's sing it together."

**NEVER GONNA STOP SINGING**

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### **COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Hey, everybody! How are you all doing today? Alright, I need a volunteer."

*Choose a Small Group Leader or older leader.*

*(To volunteer)* "This morning, I'm hoping to do the impossible . . . read your mind! But don't worry; your secrets are safe with me."

*Communicator hands volunteer a blank sheet of paper and a marker.*

*(To volunteer)* "Here is a blank paper and a marker. Write down your age but don't say it out loud!"

"Take your age and *add 3.*"

“Now take that number and *subtract 5*.”

“Now take your new number and *add 7*.”

“Take this new number and subtract *your age*.”

“Almost done . . . you’re doing great. Now take this new number and *add 5*.”

“Take this new number and *multiply by 2*.”

“Last step: take this number and *add 1*. Now write the answer nice and big on the back of your paper but don’t show me, okay?”

“Now who thinks I can guess the number? Nobody? *(To volunteer)* Okay show us your number.”

*Volunteer reveals number.*

*(Looking at the number)* Yep, that’s what I thought it was. 21. See, I read your mind.”

*Letting everyone groan and complain.*

“You don’t believe me? Well...”

*Communicator reaches into their back pocket and pulls out the folded paper. Unfolds it to reveal “21.”*

“Ta da! Pretty cool, right? Give it up for my volunteer!”

“Okay, so even though that seemed like it was impossible, there is actually a trick to it. *(Beat)* I won’t tell you what it is though right now, BUT my guess is that we all have been in situations when life just felt really difficult. Maybe it was an opponent in sports, a project at school, or a family situation.

### **TENSION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “When it comes to situations like those, have you ever felt like there was NO WAY the situation would go your way? You thought to yourself that it was downright impossible . . . no can do . . . not today, sir . . . to the point that you thought whether or not it’s even worth praying about because it is not going to happen. Maybe you felt like not even God could help you through that time in your life. Maybe some of you are going through something like that right now.

Well, first let me tell you that I understand why you might feel this way. Sometime we face what seem like impossible situations, and when we do, it’s easy to look at it and think there’s no way any of this will work out. And in those situations, we can either run from God or run to God.

Thankfully, we have examples of people in the Bible who can help us make the wise choice and trust God when it comes to impossible situations.”

### **TRUTH**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “With that in mind, let’s head to the Old Testament of our Bibles during a time

when the nation of Israel was ruled by kings. Now, some of these kings were good kings . . . guys like David—yes, as in David and Goliath—and Hezekiah. But unfortunately, many of the kings who ruled Israel were pretty bad, and the one who shows up in today’s story might have been the wickedest king who ever ruled. His name was Ahab, and he is often remembered as one of, if not THE, worst king Israel ever had!”

“One of his most wicked accomplishments was building a temple in Israel where people could worship. Now, you’re probably thinking, ‘What’s wrong with building a temple for the people to worship? Isn’t that a good thing?’ Well . . . it is not so much about the temple he built but who the temple was FOR. It was a temple to a false god named Baal, and Ahab made a place where the Israelites could come and worship this false god INSTEAD of worshipping the one TRUE God! Like I said . . . this was a bad dude, and sadly there were many other ways that he led the people away from God.”

“Thankfully, we have another person in our story. His name is Elijah, and Elijah was a prophet. Now we often hear the word ‘prophet’ and think that means they were these special people with the ability to see the future. It is true that they told about what was GOING to happen, but even more than that, a prophet was somebody sent by God to tell the truth about what was happening NOW. They were like messengers, delivering God’s messages to people who really needed to hear the truth. And can you guess who needed to hear the truth in our story today? *(Pause for responses.)* That’s right: Ahab. King Ahab needed to hear the truth that God did NOT like what he had been up to and how he had led God’s people far from God.”

“Elijah and Ahab had a little face-to-face encounter. You can imagine how this might have gone. *(Read directly from 1 Kings 18:17-18, NIV)* ‘When Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him, “Is that you? You are always stirring up trouble in Israel.” “I haven’t made trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “But you and your father’s family have. You have turned away from the LORD’s commands. You have followed gods that are named Baal.”’”

“Elijah told Ahab the truth. And now it was time for a showdown. Elijah told Ahab to have all of the people of Israel meet at Mount Carmel—I know; it sounds delicious, but it’s not what you think. He also told him to bring the prophets who worked for Baal and Asherah, the female version of Baal. There were over 850 prophets for these gods! Shows us just how much of a problem Baal worship was in Israel. And why God was taking it so seriously.”

“Okay for this next part, I need some help. Can I have a few volunteers?”

*Communicator chooses a few volunteers to help on stage.*

“Elijah and the prophets of Baal gathered at Mount Carmel, along with the people of Israel. And Elijah stepped forward and challenged the people. Listen to what happened, *(Read directly from 1 Kings 18:21, NIV)* ‘Elijah went there and stood in front of the people. He said, “How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the LORD is the one and only God, worship him. But if Baal is the one and only God, worship him.”’”

The people weren’t convinced, though. So . . . it was time for a little head-to-head battle. It may seem like this was Elijah vs. Ahab . . . but this whole situation was really about God vs. Baal.”

*(To volunteers)* “How are your campfire building skills? Alright, over here, I have wood for making two

campfires. Why don't you work on that and I'll tell everybody what they are for?"

*Volunteers begin building (consider having a leader supervise and help).*

"Elijah set the challenge. They would each take a bull (*pulls stuffed bull props out*), cut it in pieces—which we won't do this time . . . the lion from last week was never the same—and placed it on the altar. (*Looks to volunteers*) We'll wait until our builders are done. So, what were they all doing there? Actually, they were doing a pretty common thing in that day. They were offering a sacrifice to God, which was often a burnt offering, meaning there was fire involved. So . . . what would you expect them to do after placing the bull on the altar? (*Pause for responses.*) Right—set the altar on fire. Not this time, though. Check it out."

*(Read directly from 1 Kings 18:23b-24, NIV, emphasis added) "Then let them put it on the wood. But don't let them set fire to it. I'll prepare the other bull. I'll put it on the wood. But I won't set fire to it. Then you pray to your god. And I'll pray to the LORD. The god who answers by sending fire down is the one and only God." (Emphasis ours.)"*

*(To volunteers)* Great job. Just hang out over here for a second. I've got another important job for you in a moment."

"Now before we go on . . . why fire? I mean, why did the challenge involve lighting a fire? There were several times throughout the Bible when fire was a picture of God's presence. Moses talked to God through a burning bush. God led the Israelites through the desert in a pillar of fire. But Baal was also pictured with fire. The statues of Baal often had him holding a lightning bolt as his weapon. Baal lit things on fire! So if one or the other altar started catching fire, it would be a sign that either God or Baal was showing up."

"Okay, so the prophets of Baal went first. They chose their bull (*Take one of the stuffed animals*), prepared it, and placed it on the altar. (*Set the bull on one of the campfires*). The prophets of Baal started to pray from morning until noon. No fire. No Baal. (*To the volunteers still on stage*) I need your help again. Come gather around the altar here. They couldn't get Baal to answer when they called out. So . . . they tried another approach. (*Reads directly from 1 Kings 18:26 NIV, emphasis added*) '*They prayed to Baal from morning until noon. "Baal! Answer us!" they shouted. But there wasn't any reply. No one answered. Then they danced around the altar they had made.*' (Emphasis ours.)

*(To volunteers)* Start dancing!"

**SFX: Fire songs medley ("Light my Fire," "We Didn't Start the Fire," "The Ring of Fire")**

*Communicator encourages the volunteers to dance around the altar.*

*(While still dancing)* Elijah started taunting them a bit. 'Dance more! Shout louder! Maybe Baal can't hear you!'"

*Communicator stops volunteers and sends them back to their seats.*



“How long did they do this for? Until late in the afternoon! Hours and hours of calling for Baal, buuuuuuuut . . . nobody was home. Nothing happened.”

“Now it was Elijah’s turn . . . or should I say God’s turn. Elijah stepped up and prepared his altar. He placed a bull on it. (*Set the other stuffed animal on the altar*). Then Elijah did something a little strange. He dug a big ditch around his altar. He then had some people fill four large jars of water, and had them pour the water (*Communicator pours a water bottle*) on the wood of his altar. He then had them do it two more times. TWELVE large jars of water poured on the wood, to the point that the water filled the ditch, too.”

“Okay, so have you ever been camping and tried to start a fire with wet firewood? Not a lot of fun. Probably not a lot of success. So what in the world was Elijah doing?”

*Allow for responses.*

“Yes! Elijah was making the situation seem impossible! Lighting a fire with soaking wet wood from 12 large water jars? No way. If this actually happened, it could only be God! No tricks. No stunts. Only God doing the impossible.”

“Elijah stepped up. No shouting. No dancing. No Cuban shuffle. No gimmicks. He just prayed a simple prayer we have the prayer recorded for us in 1 Kings. Check it out. (*Read directly from 1 Kings 18:36-37, NIV*) ‘He prayed, “LORD, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel. Let them know I’m your servant. Let them know I’ve done all these things because you commanded me to. Answer me. LORD, answer me. Then these people will know that you are the one and only God. They’ll know that you are turning their hearts back to you again.”’”

“And guess what happened?”

**Lights: Lights out in the room and light shining on the altar.**  
**SFX: Bonfire cracking**

“God showed up! The fire came down and burned up the entire altar and even dried up all the water in the ditch!”

“Check out how the people responded. (*Read directly from 1 Kings 18:39, NIV*) ‘All the people saw it. Then they fell down flat with their faces toward the ground. They cried out, “The LORD is the one and only God! The LORD is the one and only God!”’”

“God did what seemed impossible, and everybody in Israel knew that God is the one true God.”

## **APPLICATION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Okay, so our situation is a bit different than this one. We’re not on the top of Mount Carmel having a showdown with the prophets of Baal. We’re not asking God to rain down fire from heaven to ignite a waterlogged altar. But as we talked about earlier, we face times when we find ourselves in situations that seem pretty impossible. We’re not sure that God is going to show up or if there is really anything He can do at all. Maybe your family is in a bad situation right now with a job or an illness and it seems like a pretty impossible place for God to show up. But what if there is still a way



for Him to work in those situations? What if God can do the impossible?”

“Or maybe you’re in a bad spot with a friend right now and it doesn’t seem like you’ll ever get along well again. But what if there is still a way for God to work there? What if He can do the impossible?”

“Now, I need to be honest. Not every impossible situation will end up the way we want it to every time. But what may happen is that God gives you His peace while you go through a tough time . . . and sometimes having peace seems like an impossible thing when situations are not going the way we want them to.”

### **LANDING**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As you head to small groups, think about this:”

#### **CG: Key Question Slide**

“How would you live if you believed God could do the impossible? Would it change how see your impossible situation or give you the courage to keep trusting God throughout the situation? If you’re not sure how you’d answer this question, your Small Group Leader can help. Before you head to group, let’s pray and thank God that He can do the impossible and ask for His help to trust Him with our impossible situations.”

*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.*