



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Two sets of two kids with their Small Group Leader
- Helmet (adult-size)
- Furniture Dolly
- Rope; at least 8 feet long
- Masking tape
- Cardboard boxes
- Stopwatch or timer on Host's phone
- Checkered flag

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat music to use as kids race through the course

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- AMPED Theme Slide
- Confidence Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Find the center of the rope and tie it to one of the handles of the scooter, creating two long ropes from which to pull the scooter.
- Put the scooter and rope backstage or hidden somewhere on stage, easily accessible to the Host.
- Using the masking tape, mark off a “go-cart” course for the scooter. Keep in mind kids will be pulling the dolly by the two ropes. If possible make the start and finish lines in the same general location and include at least one turn. On the outside of the turn, put something for the scooter rider to intentionally run into that won’t hurt, like a “wall” of cardboard bricks or giant beanbag.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Two Small Group Leaders
- Bible
- Large plastic tub or box
- Baby doll
- Long hair wig
- Fun, short hair wig
- Baseball bat
- Small workout weight
- Cat plush
- Piece of rope
- Barbie® doll
- Small G.I. Joe® figures
- Ball of yarn
- Piece of fabric
- Blindfold or sleeping mask
- Gold necklace or piece of chain
- A silly, random prop (like a rubber chicken, Darth Vader mask, “That Was Easy” button, etc.)
- Other random props and costume pieces from your prop/resource closet

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Except the Bible, place all the listed items along with the specific silly prop and a few random other props from your prop/resource closet in the box. Place the box backstage.
- Run through this Bible story once before the kids arrive in order to get a feel for the pacing of how this will work with the Host choosing random props for the story.

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.

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 is on stage welcoming the kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: “Hello, everyone! I’m so glad to see you. We’re in for a totally AMPED day here at [your environment’s name]. I’m confident that it’ll be awesome! That’s what we’re talking about this month: confidence.

“Tell me, what is confidence?”

CG: *Confidence Slide*

“Yes! Confidence is living like you believe what God says is true. When we believe what God says is true, that gives us the strength to obey Him and do what He says.

“You can have the confidence to climb a mountain if you trust that the ropes are secure. You can have the confidence to get on a skateboard if you trust that your helmet and pads will keep you safe. Life is like that, too. If you want to follow God and live the way He wants you to, then you need to have EXTREME confidence that He’s with you and that He’ll be right there to help you along the way.

“Today we have a test of strength. Two teams will take on our racetrack. (*Reference the course in the room.*) But we’re amping it up because our competitors won’t just be running this race. Oh, no. Instead, I’ve constructed my very own go-cart!

Retrieve the “go-cart” (gym scooter with rope) and show it to the audience.

“It may not look like much, but this go-cart will test the strength of two volunteers as they pull our racer through the course. I need a Small Group Leader and two kids from their group.

Choose two kid volunteers and their Small Group Leader and bring them up front. Put the bicycle helmet and pads on the adult volunteer.

Help the team get positioned at the starting line with the rope in the front of the scooter and the adult Leader sitting cross-legged on it. Have each kid take hold of one of the ropes. Get your timer ready.

(To contestants) “[Kid’s name] and [kid’s name], when I say ‘Go,’ each of you will start pulling on your rope and lead [Leader’s name] through our course. Be careful going around those turns! [Leader’s name], make sure you hold on tight.

(To contestants) “Let’s see how strong you are! *(To audience)* Do you think they can pull their Small Group Leader? *(Pause for response.)* Let’s find out! On your marks, get set . . . *(pause)* wait a minute. I almost forgot! I need my extreme horn!

Retrieve the stadium horn (and optional checkered flag) from backstage.

“Now we’re ready. On your marks, get set . . .

Blow the stadium horn and start the timer.

SFX: Play high-energy music as volunteers race through the course.

Encourage the kids to cheer on the racers. When they finish, stop the timer, wave the flag, and congratulate them. Announce their time, collect the helmet and pads, and dismiss them to their seats. If needed, re-set the course.

“We need another team that thinks they can beat their time!

Choose two different kid volunteers and their Small Group Leader and bring them up front. Put the bicycle helmet and pads on the adult volunteer. Help the team get positioned at the starting line.

“On your marks, get set . . .

Blow the stadium horn and start the timer.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the volunteers race through the course.

Encourage the kids to cheer on the racers. When they finish, stop the timer, wave the flag, and congratulate them. Announce their time and the winner of the game.

Collect the helmet and pads from the volunteer. Dismiss the racers to their seats.

“Wow! It took a lot of confidence for our Leaders to trust their kids to keep them going in the right direction. And our friends needed a lot of strength to pull their Leaders. It also takes a lot of strength to live like we believe what God says is true. I can’t wait to hear today’s Bible story, but first let’s stand and sing to God!”

Worship Leaders enter. Host exits.

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.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hey, everyone! Did you know that the Bible is divided into two sections? (*Hold up Bible.*) The second half is called the New Testament, and it begins when Jesus was born. The New Testament is about how Jesus saved us and changed everything. The first half of the Bible is called the Old Testament, and it’s full of stories about God coming through for His chosen people, the Israelites.

“The problem is, the Israelites had a habit of not obeying God. They would believe God for a while, but then they would lose confidence in Him and start going their own way. They would end up getting themselves in trouble. When that happened, they would call out to God for help, and because God loved His people, He would send someone to save them.

“That’s where our story picks up for today. I thought it would be fun to get [Host’s name] to help us tell it. Come on out, [Host’s name]!”

Host enters.

HOST: “Hey there! How can I help?”

STORYTELLER: “I’ve got some props for you right here. (*Hold up prop box.*) As I tell the story, dig through this box and pick out props that you think fit with what I’m saying. Using the props, you’ll act out the story as I’m telling it. You don’t have to use everything in the box, but there’s a catch. There’s one prop you **HAVE** to use.

From the prop box, remove the silly, random prop and show it to the crowd.

“I don’t know how you’ll do it, but somehow you have to use this prop somewhere in the story. Good luck.

Host kneels down facing the audience, ready to dig through the prop box.

In the box are some specific props and some random ones. Host can choose props randomly to help tell the story. When Host uses the silly prop, Storyteller should acknowledge it.

(*To audience*) “Like I was saying, when the Israelites got themselves in trouble, they would turn to God for help. In today’s story, the Israelites had been serving as slaves to the Philistines for 40 long years. God wanted to set His people free, so He sent someone to rescue them.”

GOD CALLS SAMSON

STORYTELLER: “An Israelite man named Manoah and his wife were unable to have children. An angel . . .

Storyteller looks to Host, who finds props to represent an angel and holds them up.

(*To Host; amused, not annoyed*) “Really? That’s what you’re going with for an angel? Well, this will be interesting. (*To audience*) Anyway, an angel appeared to Manoah’s wife and told her she would become pregnant and give birth to a son. This son was special. The angel said he was never to cut his hair, and that someday he would rescue Israel from their enemy, the Philistines.

Host kneels and returns the props to the box.

“Just as the angel had said, Manoah and his wife had a baby boy, and they named him Samson.

Storyteller looks to Host, who finds props to represent having a baby boy. Host shows the props and then returns them to the box.

“As Samson grew into a man, God’s Spirit began to work in his life. Samson obeyed God’s command to not cut his hair, and he became very strong.”

Storyteller looks to Host, who finds props to represent Samson as a strong man, including the wig. If Host doesn’t choose the wig, Storyteller should prompt him to put it on.

Host puts on the props and struts around the prop box. He keeps wearing the Samson props for the remainder of the story.

SAMSON'S TRIUMPHS

STORYTELLER: “One day, as Samson was walking, a young LION attacked him!

Storyteller looks to Host, who finds props to represent the lion.

“Samson easily defeated the lion with the strength God had given him.

Storyteller looks to Host, who quickly acts out Samson defeating the lion prop. Host returns the lion prop to the box.

“Samson also showed his strength when he captured 300 foxes, tied torches to their tails, and sent them into the Philistine fields. Of course, the Philistines didn’t like an Israelite destroying all their crops, so they attacked the Israelite people. When the Israelites learned why the Philistines were attacking them, they found Samson, tied him up, and took him to the Philistines. God gave Samson strength and he broke free from the ropes!

Storyteller looks to Host, who quickly acts out Samson being tied up and breaking the ropes. Host returns the props to the box.

“Samson found a jawbone of a donkey, and with great strength, he defeated 1,000 Philistine soldiers all on his own! For 20 years, Samson didn’t cut his hair, and God blessed Samson as he led Israel with great strength.”

Storyteller looks to Host to quickly act out Samson having long hair and being strong.

SAMSON'S FALL

STORYTELLER: “While Samson was strong, he wasn’t always wise. He fell in love with a Philistine woman named Delilah.

Storyteller looks to Host, who finds props to represent Delilah.

“The Philistines paid Delilah to betray Samson and find out the secret to his strength so they could trap him. When Delilah asked Samson where his strength came from, he lied to her and said he would become like a normal man when someone tied him up with seven new bowstrings. *(To Host)* Bowstrings. Got that in your box?

Storyteller looks to Host, who finds props to represent bowstrings.

(To Host) “Close enough. *(To audience)* While Samson was sleeping, Delilah tied Samson up just like he said. A Philistine hid in the house, and Delilah pretended like the Philistines were attacking. Samson woke up and easily broke free of the bowstrings.

Host acts out being tied up, sleeping, waking, and then being freed (and in the next paragraph as well).

“Again, Samson told her to bind his hands, and then he would become as weak as a regular man. She shouted that the Philistines were attacking . . . but he broke free! Next, he told her to weave his hair into the cloth on a loom, and THEN he’d be as weak as a regular man. But when she shouted that the Philistines were attacking, once again he broke free.

“Delilah was more determined than ever. She begged and pleaded and begged some more for Samson to tell her the truth. Finally, Samson gave in and told her the secret to his strength was his long hair. Delilah told the Philistines to come hide in their house one more time, and while Samson was sleeping, one of the Philistine soldiers shaved Samson’s head.

Storyteller looks to Host, who removes the wig.

“When Samson woke up, he didn’t realize his hair had been cut and that God’s strength had left him. The Philistines captured Samson, tied him up with bronze chains, poked his eyes out, and took him to jail.”

Storyteller looks to Host, who puts on props to represent the story.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “While Samson was in prison, his hair started to grow back. Slowly his strength was returning to him.

Storyteller looks to Host, who puts on props to represent the story.

“The Philistines were planning a great festival. They brought Samson so they could make fun of him. They told Samson to put on a show for them, and they put him on display between two pillars that supported the roof of the building. Really quick, let me get two Small Group Leaders to act as pillars.

Storyteller chooses two Small Group Leaders and guides them to stand on stage with Host between them.

“Samson prayed to God.

Storyteller opens the Bible to Judges 16:28, 30 and reads.

“He said: *Lord and King, show me that you still have concern for me. Please, God, make me strong just one more time. . . . Let me die together with the Philistines! (NIRV).*

“God did as Samson asked, and with one final act of strength, Samson pushed against the pillars and brought the entire roof down on the Philistines.

Storyteller looks to Host and waits for Host and SGLs to act out the story.

“The Philistines had been defeated, and God came through again for the Israelites! Let’s give a round of applause for [Host’s name] and our two pillars!

Host exits. Leaders go back to their seats.

“In his last moments, Samson remembered that it wasn’t his hair that gave him strength. His strength came from God alone. Samson had relied on his own strength before, but it was only strength from God that could set the Israelites free.

“Here’s what we can learn from Samson’s story.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God is stronger than anyone. We need to obey God and depend on HIS strength—not our own.

“Let’s pray.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, You are stronger than anyone or anything. Thank You for showing us how strong You are through the story of Samson. Thank You for saving Your people over and over again. And thank You for saving us through Your Son, Jesus. Help us to trust You and rely on Your strength each day. We love You and we pray in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Storyteller exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “Samson had some pretty extreme strength! He was able to defeat lions and break through ropes like they were nothing. But where did His strength REALLY come from? *(Pause for response.)* Right, it came from God. Samson trusted in his own strength instead of remembering that God had given it to Him to begin with.

“You and I can live with confidence when we remember how strong God is. We can ask Him for His strength whenever we have to face something tough. And we can trust Him in the good times and the tough times. **[Basic Truth] We can trust Him no matter what!**

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

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God is stronger than anyone. That truth gives me confidence! I can do what God

says because I know He is stronger than anyone. Let's talk some more in Small Group about how God's strength amps us up and helps us live with confidence. See you later!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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