



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Dirty jobs themed decorations
- Host
- Mustard
- Whipped cream
- Syrup
- Trashcan full of trash—pizza boxes, butcher paper, cold spaghetti, Jell-O, etc.
- Athletic mouth guard
- Two volunteers
- Two ponchos
- Two pairs of gloves
- Painter's tarp

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Dirty Jobs Theme Slide

What You Do:

- Prepare the trashcan by filling the trashcan liner with dry trash. Optional: Include wet trash such as cold spaghetti and Jell-O in the bag for added mess. At the bottom or hidden in one of the boxes needs to be the mouth guard.
- Place the prepared trashcan on a large painter's tarp to collect any trash that may find its way to the floor.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Host
- One kid volunteer
- Ladder
- Phone
- Trashcan filled with trash from opener
- Prop box filled with the following:
 - Two obnoxious blazers
 - Two sunglasses
 - Two fake mustaches
 - Two pocket watches
 - Dodgeball
 - Water gun
 - Rubber chicken
 - Cue cards (see instructions below in "What You Do")

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Key Question Slide
- Blank Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- For added mess, leave the trashcan with the trash on stage from opener. If some of the trash (or all of the trash) gets dumped on the tarp, leave it on the stage as well.
- Have someone put the ladder up while the Communicator is walking on stage.
- Make the five cue cards for the kid volunteer to read on stage. Four of the cards say the same line, "Yeah, yeah. What he said." The other cue card should read, "Say hello to my little friend."
Optional: Preselect the kid volunteer and run through the script with him/her before large group.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Alive
- Never Gonna Stop Singing

He Came in Like a Wrecking Ball

Bible Story: He Came in Like a Wrecking Ball (Nehemiah and Sanballat) • *Nehemiah 2:19-20; 4, 6*

Key Question: What distracts you from doing what needs to be done?

Bottom Line: Stay focused on what needs to be done.

Memory Verse: “Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.” *Colossians 3:23a, NIV*

Life App: Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

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: Dirty Jobs Theme Slide

Host enters.

Welcome

Before Host enters, there is a large trashcan on stage with a plastic bag liner. In the trashcan are pizza boxes, butcher paper, and various other bulky articles of refuse. At the bottom of the trash bag is cold spaghetti, Jell-O, and an athletic mouth guard. Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host discusses recent/upcoming events: College Football Season Kickoff, NFL Season Kickoff, Labor Day, National Blueberry Popsicle Day, National Cheese Pizza Day, movie opening (Small Foot) 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 walks onstage with an armload of bottles and canisters—syrup, mustard, and whipped cream. Host is in a huff.

HOST: “Guys, you won’t believe it, but I was JUST cleaning out the fridge backstage, and it must be the first time has anyone has thought to clean that thing out in DECADES because ALL of this stuff has gone bad! This syrup, for example? It expired in JULY! Of 2012!!”

Host uncaps the syrup and makes a big show of squeezing it all out into the trashcan.

“And this mustard? Who knew mustard could expire?! It expired back on September 1st . . . of 2008! Some of you weren’t even born yet!”

Host holding nose, uncaps the mustard and drips it all into the garbage can.

“And this whipped cream? The “best by” date was all the way back in February. Hmmm. That’s not too long ago.”

Host squirts cream into his mouth, but gags and then laboriously squirts all the whipped cream into the trashcan.

“Ugh, I can’t believe someone would be so irresponsible as to leave all that nasty food in the fridge . . . disgusting. Anyway . . . in the bottom of that trashcan is a mouth guard. Now, I can’t very well dig it out of there because I’m wearing my favorite shirt today . . . but I can make a game out of it. Can I get a couple of volunteers to help me out?”

Host selects two volunteers, gives each one a poncho and gloves.

“Okay, so the name of the game is simple. All you’ve got to do is get on in there and find the mouth guard. It’s somewhere at the bottom. You’ve just got to get past all the random trash . . . and spoiled mustard . . . and rotten syrup . . . and expired whipped cream . . . but, hey, that’s no problem, right? Oh, and there’s a teeny tiny little catch once you find it, I’m gonna have to ask you to pop it in your mouth and sing a little song . . . just to make sure it’s working properly, you know? The song can be anything you like; just be sure to sing it LOUD and PROUD! Sound like a plan to you? If you win, you’ll get a fantastic prize. Then let’s get this party started!”

SFX: High-energy game music

Dumpster diving commences. Once someone finds the mouth gaurd, encourage her to put it in her mouth a sing a short ditty.

“Wow! That was . . . well, disgusting! Thank you so much for your help. Each of you focused all your efforts into the disgusting pit of nasty in search of the mouth guard! Let’s give them a round of applause!”

Host awards winner a prize and dismisses volunteers.

“Now, why don’t you all get on your feet and welcome [Name of Worship Leader] to the stage?”

Host exits and Worship Leader enters.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Thank you, *[Name of Host]*. Let’s get up and get loud as we sing and dance for who God is and what he’s done for us!

Alive

WORSHIP LEADER: “That was amazing! (*Take a moment to say something about the next song*). So let’s give everything we have and worship God together!

Never Gonna Stop Singing

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Key Question Slide

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

Communicator enters stage and is distracted by clutter all over stage. A ladder should be set up on the stage.

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey everyone! Good to see all of . . .”

Communicator looks around stage.

“Wow, it’s still an absolute travesty around here. Did it get dirtier since last week? That’s crazy. Anyway, it’s super nice to be here today, because . . .”

Communicator pauses and sniffs the air.

“Does it . . . why does it smell like old maple syrup and whipped cream mixed with mustard? What were you guys doing in here? It smells like the sugarplum fairy threw up all over the place.”

Communicator shakes head, as if clearing it.

“Okay, no worries. Back to the point. All month long we’ve been talking about . . .”

Communicator acts as if phone is vibrating in pocket.

“What . . . *(taking out phone)* oh, it’s just a text from *[Name of Host]*. It says . . . “I am backstage and heard your sugarplum joke. LOL.” *(beat)* OK, sorry about all that. Where was I? Oh yeah—I was going to talk to you guys about getting DISTRACTED. Do I seem a little distracted to you guys this morning? *(Pause for response.)* I mean, I was losing my focus over the mess, the sweet stink, my friends blowing up my phone . . . Hey, what’s that?” *(suddenly distracted by something in the mess but stops)*

“Yeah, it’s safe to say I’m distracted. Be honest with me: do you guys ever feel a little distracted? Do you feel like sometimes you can’t focus on what NEEDS to be done because your focus is being taken away by every little thing?”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Of course, you’ve felt distracted at some point or another. Anybody in here have trouble focusing on your homework? How many of you would say your afternoons sound something like this . . .”

“You sit down to knock out your homework, BUT you need a snack. When you get a snack, it makes you want to get a drink of water. When you spill your water on your shirt, you’ve got to change it. When you change your clothes, you spot your new video game sitting on your dresser and play it. When you play your game, it reminds you to call your buddy about a game cheat. When you call your friend, she invites you to her house. When you go to her house, you eat supper with her family. When you finish supper, you come back home to brush your teeth. When you brush your teeth, you decide it’s time for bed. When you get in bed, you are reminded you never finished your homework. Gahh, that sounded a bit like *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, didn’t it?”

“Our distractions come from all different directions. Sure, it can be hunger, video games, or a mouth guard lost in a disgusting trashcan. And a lot of the time the distractions aren’t things but people instead, like a best friend or big brother. In fact, today we’re going to continue our conversation about Nehemiah. More specifically, we will look at a time he was distracted by some people.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “To tell this story, I’m going to need a little help—can I get one volunteer from the audience?”

Host enters with prop box. The box should have two loud, obnoxious blazers, ostentatious sunglasses, false mustaches, pocket watches . . . the desired look is “80’s greasy used car salesman.” Also, it needs a dodgeball, water gun, and rubber chicken. Once the kid is selected, Host helps get him/her dressed up.

“For today’s story, these two (*gesturing to Host and kid*) are going to be our antagonists—Sanballat and Tobiah. And I . . . (*climbing to the top of the ladder to take a seat*) . . . will be Nehemiah. Now, Nehemiah had been moving forward with his plan to rebuild the wall. The plan was coming along. Not only that, the idea was beginning to draw a lot of attention, which was GOOD because it inspired more of the people of Jerusalem to volunteer to help with the effort . . . but BAD because people OUTSIDE the city heard their plans, too, and they weren’t too thrilled with the idea. Enter . . . Sanballat and Tobiah.”

HOST: “Nyeeeeeh! We’re here to cause a ruckus, see? Stir up a little MAYHEM, see?”

Host dramatically hands a cue card to kid volunteer for them to read.

KID: “(*from card*) Yeah, yeah. What he said!”

COMMUNICATOR: “Sanballat, a Horonite, and Tobiah, an Ammonite, were not pleased with the notion that Nehemiah was rebuilding the wall. These two local rulers did not like the idea of this city growing in power because it threatened their own power.”

“Nehemiah heard their jeers, but he was unfazed. He calmly told Sanballat and Tobiah, (*Open Bible and read Nehemiah 2:20a*) ‘*The God of heaven will give us success. We serve him.*’ Nehemiah’s confidence was contagious. Ignoring the taunts of their enemies, they divided up the work between families, priests, merchants, perfume-makers, and every of able-bodied Israelite. Together, they were rebuilding the wall.”

“As construction progressed, Sanballat and Tobiah snuck up to survey the construction and were quick to tell their friends.”

HOST: “What are they doin’ over there, huh? Tryna build a waaaall, huh? A big ol’ stinkin’ WAAAALL? There’s no way they’ll EVER be able to finish that wall, see? It’s too big a project for a bunch’a ding-dongs like them!”

Host dramatically hands a cue card to kid volunteer for them to read.

KID: *“(from card) Yeah, yeah. What he said!”*

COMMUNICATOR: “Rumors began to swirl once the wall reached about half height. The enemies of Jerusalem were plotting to fight and stir up more trouble for the Israelite families. At the center of all this drama was . . . you guessed it . . . Sanballat and Tobiah.”

HOST: “Why, those no-good, dirty-rotten, toot-sniffin’ dingle-dongs! They are making too much progress, see? Maybe before they get that purty wall finished up, me an’ my boys should knock it all back down, see? Yeah, yeah! Tobiah, get yer dukes up! It’s fightin’ time, see?”

Host dramatically hands a cue card to kid volunteer for them to read.

KID: *“(from card) Yeah, yeah. What he said!”*

Host hands a dodgeball to kid and tells him to hurl it at Communicator. Host and kid act victorious even if the dodgeball misses Communicator.

COMMUNICATOR: “Um, *[Name of Host]*, throwing dodgeballs is not in the script.”

HOST: *(Breaking character)* “Yeah, BUT if Sanballat had a dodgeball, he would have, no doubt, chunked it at Nehemiah.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Whatever. Moving on. The Israelites heard the threats from the enemy and turned to God. They asked God for His protection and to destroy their enemies. After they asked God to protect them, they were emboldened to work even harder. This time Nehemiah stationed half the families with weapons like spears, swords, and bows to stand guard while the other families continued to set stones in the wall. If their enemies wanted a fight, they’d be ready.”

HOST: “People ’round this wall are lookin’ a little hangdog, see? Gettin’ a little tired, see? Tell you what—since I’m such a nice guy, I’ll wake everyone up! Ain’t I a peach?”

Host dramatically hands a cue card to kid volunteer for them to read.

KID: *“(from card) Say hello to my little friend!”*

Host and kid shoot Communicator with Super Soakers then run off.

COMMUNICATOR: “Although neither Sanballat or Tobiah used a water gun to intimidate anyone in this story, they did try a number of tactics to disrupt the progress of the wall. Despite their best efforts, the

wall was completed, but the gates were not finished yet. Desperate, their enemies had one more trick up their sleeves.”

HOST: Pretty cool wall, see? Looks nice and sturdy, see? A little TOO sturdy, if you ask me! Makes me think that you people of Jerusalem are . . . UP to something, yeah? Makes me think that our boy Nehemiah is conspiring against the king, see? And it's not just me, yeah? ALL the nations around here think so too, see! Ain't that right?”

Host dramatically hands a cue card to kid volunteer for them to read.

KID: “(from card) Yeah, yeah. What he said!”

Host and kid pelt Communicator with rubber chickens for good measure and exit off stage.

COMMUNICATOR: “The trick was not rubber chickens, but rather they sent messages to Nehemiah filled with threats and lies. Five messages to be exact. In Nehemiah 6:9, we can see what Nehemiah thought about all the messages. He said, (Open Bible and read Nehemiah 6:9) ‘All of them were trying to frighten us. They thought, “Their hands will get too weak to do the work. So it won't be completed.” But I prayed to God. I said, “Make my hands stronger.”’ Nehemiah was so focused on his work that he refused to allow any threats to distract him. After more than a century, Jerusalem and the Israelites were once again protected from their enemies. The wall was built in just 52 days!”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, everybody think back with me to a few weeks ago when Nehemiah first heard about the needs of Jerusalem. His heart was broken, and he knew something needed to be done. When he realized the magnitude of the job, Nehemiah needed unwavering focus to complete the task. Sanballat and Tobiah were really big distractions for Nehemiah. Not only did they bother him with their words, but they threatened to destroy his work and his people! But Nehemiah looked past these two very obnoxious, rubber-chicken-throwing distractions and kept his focus on the goal.”

“Likewise, it is so easy for us to get distracted from trying to do something that needs to be done. Reading a book is SO much harder if you're sitting next to your favorite gaming device. Cleaning the table is SO much harder when your favorite TV show is on in the background. Finishing your worksheet is much more difficult when your little sister wants you to play tea party with her. This won't change as you get older. There will always be things in our lives and people in our way distracting us from what's important. But if you keep your head up and fix your eyes on the goal, you can overcome those distractions and move forward.”

“It's important to remind yourself to focus on the task at hand. To do this, you can always go to God and ask for His help to stand strong when others or things are distracting you. You can also ask a parent or really good friend to work with you. However, once the task is completed, allow yourself to be completely distracted and have some fun!”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “As you head off to Small Group this morning, think through your daily routine and ask yourself this important question.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“What distracts you from doing what needs to be done? If you are able to answer the question and minimize the distraction, think of all the many more ways God could use your help. Let’s pray.”

CG: Blank Key Question Slide

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.

CG: Dirty Jobs Theme Slide

Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Loop Video