



## GETTING READY

### 1. Welcome/Opener

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Sturdy white paper plates (enough for everyone)
- Pens (enough for everyone)
- Package of candy for winner (to share with small group)

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

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

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

- Undercover Christmas Theme Slide

#### What You Do:

- This is an all play game. Have several volunteers pass out one paper plate and pen per kid. When the Host prompts, everyone will place the plate on top of their heads (bottom of plate facing up) and draw above their heads without looking the entire time. The Host will give a series of directions for the kids to follow.

### 2. Communicator Script

#### What You Need:

- Communicator

- Bible
- Paper plates
- Marker
- Small Group Leader volunteer

*Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

*Large Group Visuals:*

- Key Question Slide
- *(Optional)* Picture of Alex from “Alex’s Lemonade Stand”

**What You Do:**

- The Communicator will choose a small group leader to help illustrate the story. The leader will be drawing on top of his or her head in the same style as the Opener. You may consider preselecting your leader, though it may be better if he or she doesn’t really have artistic ability. There is a back and forth between this volunteer artist and the Communicator. Play up the art portion and the results each time.
- *Optional:* Google “Alex’s Lemonade Stand” and download a picture of her to display.

**3. Worship**

**What You Need:**

- Every Beat
- Unshakeable Love

# Someone Like You

**Bible Story:** Someone Like You (Gabriel Appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-56*

**Bottom Line:** God can use anyone to meet others' needs.

**Key Question:** What are you willing to do to meet others' needs?

**Memory Verse:** "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." *John 3:16 (NirV)*

**Life App:** Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

**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:** Undercover Christmas 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. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening (*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*), or a viral video on YouTube, etc. Christmas is coming up, so obviously there is much to talk about there. 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 everybody! So good to see you today! Christmas is only (*insert number of days until Christmas*) days away, and I've got a game to get us into the Christmas spirit. I need everyone for this game that will test your artistic ability. Now don't worry—there is a bit of a twist that will level the playing field. If you win, you have the potential to meet the *candy* needs of your entire small group."

"We have some volunteers coming around with paper plates and pens. Everybody, make sure you have one plate and one pen."

*Pass out the supplies.*

"Alright, we are going to see who can follow my instructions and draw a beautiful Christmas scene on his or her plate. Ready? Oh wait, I forgot to tell you. Please put the plate on top of your head (*upside down so the bottom side of the plate faces upward*). I will give you a series of instructions. At **NO POINT** may you look at the plate until you are done. All the drawing needs to be done with the plate on top of your head. Ready? Plates on heads!"

“First, draw a line for a floor.”

“Second, draw a Christmas tree on the floor. Add decorations if you’re feeling festive.”

“Third, draw a star on top of your tree.”

“Forth, draw a fireplace with a mantel next to the tree.”

“Fifth, draw a stocking hanging from the mantel of your fireplace.”

“Sixth, draw a present below the tree.”

“Finally, draw a gift tag on the present and write the name of who the present is for on the tag.”

“Okay pens down and . . . look at your masterpiece! Now, please trade plates with someone else. We are going to give out points for your work. Tally the points right on the side of the plate.”

“Give the drawing two points if the tree touches the floor. Give it two points if the stocking is touching the mantel. Give one point if the star touches the tree. Give one point if the star is above the tree. Give one point if the fireplace doesn’t touch the tree (that is a fire hazard!). Give out two points if the present is under the tree. Give one point if the tag is touching the present. Give out one point if there is a name on the tag.”

“That is a total of 11 possible points! Now . . . let’s see how everyone did!”

*Find the person with the most points and display his/her work for everyone; giving him/her a prize to share with his/her small group.*

**HOST:** “That was a blast!”

## Announcements

*Use this as an example of what to say. Make it your own and help the kids feel welcomed. Then take a moment to share any/all announcements.*

**HOST:** “I’m so excited to be here with all of you today and get a little crazy! If it’s your first time here, I want to welcome you and I would love to have a chance to meet you, get a high five and show you around. Here at Mission, we believe that this is a place for you and you belong here no matter who you are or what you believe. Mission is for YOU!

I have just a few announcements for you all today...

*Share any/all announcements.*

Now let’s all stand up, get close, give someone a high five and let’s sing and worship together!

*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!

### *Every Beat*

**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!

### *Unshakeable Love*

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey everyone! That art game was so fun . . . I think I’ll use that again in just a moment. I’m so glad you are here, especially as we inch closer and closer to Christmas.”

“I have a question to start us off today: have you ever heard of or watched a story about a kid who did something significant or extraordinary? I love those stories. Some of you might be familiar with Alexandra Scott. *(Pause)* No? Well, let me tell you more about her story. Alexandra was diagnosed with cancer before her first birthday. When she was four years old, she set up a front yard lemonade stand and planned to give the money to the doctors to help find a cure . . . and that was the beginning of ‘Alex’s Lemonade Stand.’ That first day she raised \$2,000! While fighting her own cancer, she continued to set up stands every year so she could help other sick kids. She lost her battle at the age of eight, but by the time she passed away, she had raised more than one million dollars toward finding a cure. Her parents continued the work their daughter started and to this day have raised over \$150 million! And all from a little girl starting a lemonade stand. That’s incredible, right?!”

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Most of the stories you hear about people doing incredible things like that are not kids. They’re maybe teenagers or adults. Sometimes even adults think they don’t have what it takes to do something that significant.

Has that happened to you? Have you ever had a moment when you felt too young to do anything that mattered? Or maybe it wasn’t your age. Maybe you felt too shy, or too small, or too distracted, or too clumsy . . . too whatever. What is it for you that makes you believe you can’t do anything that will make a difference? For me it might be ***[Share an age-appropriate reason they might feel like they couldn’t make a difference]***. But I wonder if those are the sorts of things we should be worrying about when it comes to doing things that matter.”

“Those are big things to think about. And when we have big questions or big thoughts about life, the first place we should look is God’s word. Let’s head there now and check out a person who probably felt the same way and asked how she could be a part of something HUGE that God wanted to do through her.”

### TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Now when I say the name Mary, many of you know who I am talking about. But just in case, let me introduce you. But first, I need some help. Can I get a Small Group Leader to help me out, preferably one who is . . . let’s say . . . artistically inclined?”

*Small Group Leader comes up on stage.*

“I need you to help me tell the story today through art, but I thought you could do it like we did in the all-play game. So here are your plates and a marker. I’ll tell you when to draw.”

“Alright, so back to our story. Let me introduce you to Mary . . .”

*Look at volunteer to draw a picture of Mary. Paper plate should be on top of his/her head like in the Welcome. Each*

*time the leader draws, the Communicator should comment and play it up with the audience.*

*Volunteer reveals drawing of Mary.*

“This is Mary. Mary was just an ordinary kid, probably just a bit older than you all. She lived in a small town called Nazareth.

*Encourage volunteer to add a Nazareth sign to the drawing of Mary—reveal and comment.*

“Because Nazareth was a small town, Mary would have probably been known by everyone.”

“Now there is something else you should know about Mary—she was engaged to be married!”

*Encourage volunteer to add an engagement ring or something signifying engagement—reveal and comment.*

“God was about to do something extraordinary in Mary’s life. *(To volunteer)* I think we need a new plate for this scene. Go ahead and redraw our Mary so that we can see what happens next.”

*Small Group Leader draws Mary on a new plate. Reveal and comment.*

“A masterpiece. Alright, let me read what happens next. *(Read directly from Luke 1:26b, 28 NIV)* ‘God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee . . . The angel greeted her and said, “The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.”’”

“The Lord sent an angel to visit Mary to share some incredible news

*Volunteer draws an angel—reveal and comment.*

“But Mary was scared.”

*Volunteer draws a scared face.*

“She didn’t know why the angel was appearing or what message he had for her.”

“*(Read directly from Luke 1:30-32a NIV)* ‘But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.”’”

“What an announcement! Mary would have a baby, and that baby would be the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus!”

*Encourage volunteer to draw a picture of Mary holding a baby.*

“Now this was confusing to Mary because she was young and had never been married. And even more, this would have the potential to make Mary an outcast in her town. Everyone would have known her situation and, well, how it had changed. But God reassured Mary that He would be with her through it all. Mary’s response? Fear? Terror? Sadness? *(Read directly from Luke 1:38 NIRV) “I serve the Lord,” Mary answered. “May it happen to me just as you said it would.” Then the angel left her.*”

“Hey—thank my volunteer for the amazing artwork!”

“Later on, we read this beautiful song that Mary sang about everything that God was doing. Listen to part of her song.”

*“(Read directly from Luke 1:46-48 NIRV) “My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior. He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important.””*

### **APPLICATION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “For Mary, she was amazed by the fact that God would want to use her. She had a ‘why me’ moment. ‘Why me? Who am I that God would use me?’ I’m sure she wondered why God would want to use an ordinary girl from a small town to do something so extraordinary. Maybe she thought she was too young, too shy, too small, too . . . whatever. And yet, God worked through her in a big way . . . maybe the biggest way!”

“Maybe you feel like that, too. Now, I’m not saying God is going to work through you to bring the Messiah into the world, but maybe there is something big that God wants to do through you, but it is easy to think like Mary, ‘Why me? Who am I that God would use me?’”

“Now there’s another piece to this, too. What God was doing through Mary would meet the need of the world. The need for a Rescuer. The need for a Savior. But meeting this need would cost Mary. This could potentially cost her her reputation. It would cost her her plans. And yet, God would use her in a powerful way to meet the needs of the whole world.”

“Sometimes God’s plans for us can be uncomfortable. Sometimes they can be inconvenient. But if God is in them, we can trust that He’s good and He’ll be with us through it all.”

### **LANDING**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As you go to small group today, brainstorm some ways that God might want to work through you for the sake of others. As you head to Small Group, think about how you’d answer this question:

**CG: Key Question Slide**

**“What are you willing to do to meet others’ needs?”**

“God invites each one of us to help others and show them how much He loves them. Even if it might cost you something, what are some ways you can help others and meet their needs? But before you head to Small Group, let’s take a moment to 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**