



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Christmassy attire and accessories for the Host to wear all month (Christmas sweater, battery-powered lights, Christmas hat, scarf, etc.)
- 2 Laundry baskets, including the following items:
 - Jacket
 - Winter socks
 - Gloves
 - Winter hat
 - Scarf
- Decorated Christmas tree on stage (leave up all month)

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Compassion Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Two small groups (or two Leaders with three kids each)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Theme from *Family Feud*
- SFX: Ding
- SFX: Buzzer

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- “What You Want” Slides
- “What You Need” Slides

What You Do:

- Download the weekly SFX that are provided and have them ready to use.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- We Are Royals
- Through It all

The Greatest Love of All

Bible Story: The Greatest Love of All (God Loves the World) • *John 3:16*

Bottom Line: God did something about our greatest need.

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: Theme Slide

Host enters dressed in Christmassy attire and accessories.

Opener

HOST: “Hello, everyone! Happy December! Do you know what happens at the end of this month? Something SO fun and SO joyful and SO merry that I look forward to it all year long? *(Pause for response.)* Right—Christmas! *(Look at your outfit.)* Can you tell that I’m a fan of Christmas? I just love it so much. I love seeing my family. I love eating delicious treats. I love giving and getting gifts. I love snuggling on the sofa while watching Christmas movies. Christmas is the BEST!

“The best part of all is the reason we celebrate Christmas in the first place. Can anyone tell me who’s birth we celebrate at Christmas? *(Pause for response.)* Yes! Jesus, God’s Son. God showed us compassion when He sent us Jesus. Have you heard that word before—compassion? Here’s what it means.

CG: Compassion Slide

“Compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else’s need.

“God loves us so much that He did something amazing FOR us. He sent us Jesus. That’s why we celebrate at Christmas!

“We can show compassion, too. We can make this Christmas an Undercover Christmas. We can think about the things other people need, and we can come up with a top-secret plan to help!

“For example, have you noticed that it’s getting cold outside? *(Insert joke here if you live in a climate where you don’t get much of a winter.)* Well, a great way to show compassion would be to help your friends bundle up for the winter weather. So I thought we could kick things off today with a game where YOU get to bundle up your Leader!

So I need 2 small groups and their leader to come up here and get ready!

SFX: Fun Christmas music (suggestion: "Let It Snow")

Hand out the laundry baskets full of winter clothing

"This game is pretty simple. Both groups has a laundry basket with five different items. (*Hold up each item as you mention it.*) A jacket . . . winter socks . . . gloves . . . a winter hat . . . and a scarf. When I say, 'Go,' you'll work together to put all five items on your Leader. When you're all done, your Leader has to do ten jumping jacks. The first Leader to finish wins the game!

"Leaders, you can go ahead and take off your shoes. (*To audience*) Are you all ready? Are you set? Then go!

SFX: Bring up music

Comment on the action during the game. Declare the winner when the first Leader finishes her jumping jacks.

"That was amazing! Great job, everybody. (*To the winning Leader*) [Leader's name], are you toasty warm? (*Pause for response.*) I'm so glad. Well, we're just warming up!

"Leaders, you can go ahead and put your winter gear back in your laundry baskets while we get ready to sing and worship God together. Everybody stand up!"

Worship Leaders enter. Host collects the laundry baskets and exits.

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

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!

We are Royals

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!

Through It All

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, there! I'm so glad that I get to be with you today. I know all of you are excited about Christmas, and I am too! Christmas is when we celebrate how God sent us His Son, Jesus. It was the greatest example of compassion the world has ever known.

"There was a man named John who wrote the book of John in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) He was one of Jesus' closest friends, and he had actually traveled with Jesus for almost three years. He told a story about a religious leader whose whole life was based on one thing: following rules. When this religious leader met Jesus, Jesus completely changed his whole way of thinking. Jesus showed him that we get to have a relationship with God—not because of the rules we follow, but because we believe in Jesus.

"Listen to what it says in John 3:16. This is actually our Memory Verse that we'll be learning all month.

Open the Bible to John 3:16 (NIRV) and read.

CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide

CG: Memory Verse Slide

"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.

"That's what we celebrate at Christmas! We celebrate how God loved us enough to send us Jesus.

“To help us understand this super-important verse, I’ve got a fun game for us to play. Does that sound good to you? *(Pause for response.)* Great! If you’ve ever seen the *Family Feud* TV show, this game is kind of like that. We’ll have two small groups up here playing the game together. Which groups want to play ‘Christmas Feud’?”

SFX: Family Feud Theme

Select two small groups (including Leaders) to participate and bring them onto the stage. (Note: If your stage space is limited, you can use two Leaders plus three kids from each of their groups.)

WHAT YOU WANT

STORYTELLER: *(To contestants)* “All right, contestants. Welcome to ‘Christmas Feud.’ In this first round, we’re trying to come up with the top five answers to this question: ‘What do you want most for Christmas?’ So, if we asked 100 kindergarten through fifth graders what they wanted most, these would be their top five answers.

CG: “What You Want” Top 5 Blanks

“We’ll take turns, giving each group a chance to come up with an answer. Talk it over and tell your Leader what you want to say. Your Leader will give me your best guess, and then we’ll see if it’s on the board.

“If you guess something that’s not on the board, you’ll hear this sound.

SFX: Buzzer

“If you get three strikes, then we’ll reveal the missing answers that you didn’t get. But let’s see if you can guess all five of them together! Are you ready to play? *(Pause for response.)* Okay!

“*[Leader’s name]*’s group, you can go first. Can you tell me one thing that kids your age would want for Christmas?”

Get the group’s answer and then see if it’s on the board (“Show me _____!”). Alternate between the two groups, giving them a chance to guess all five answers before they get three strikes. (This isn’t a competition; the groups are working together to guess all five answers.)

The answers are general, but you can give kids credit if they say something specific (for example, a subscription to Xbox® Live would be a correct answer for “video game”).

CG: #1: Video Game

CG: #2: Bike

CG: #3: Tablet

CG: #4: Pet

CG: #5: Movie

CG: “What You Want” Top 5 Blanks (in between answers)

SFX: Ding (as needed)

SFX: Buzzer (as needed)

If the teams guess all five answers, congratulate them and move on. If they get three strikes before guessing all five, reveal the ones they didn't get—starting at five and moving up to one.

CG: “What You Want” Top 5 Answers

“Great job, contestants! You really worked well together. (Look at the screen.) This is a super-fun list. I would love to get any of those things as a gift!”

WHAT YOU NEED

STORYTELLER: “So those are all things we WANT. All of us have a list of things we want, right? But round two is a little different. This time, we're trying to come up with things we NEED. Let's say we asked 100 kids your age what they need. What do you think they would say? Remember, a ‘want’ is something we'd really like to have. A ‘need’ is something we absolutely HAVE to have.

“The top five needs are on the board.

CG: “What You Need” Top 5 Blanks

“[Other Leader's name]'s group, you can go first this time. Tell me one thing that a kid your age might NEED.

Get the group's answer and then see if it's on the board (“Show me _____!”). Alternate between the two groups, giving them a chance to guess all five answers before they get three strikes.

As before, you can connect a specific answer to a general category. Friends or family could be a correct answer for “love,” for example.

CG: #1: Jesus

CG: #2: Love

CG: #3: Food

CG: #4: Water

CG: #5: Place to Live

CG: “What You Need” Top 5 Blanks (in between answers)

SFX: Ding (as needed)

SFX: Buzzer (as needed)

If the teams guess all five answers, congratulate them and move on. If they get three strikes before guessing all five, reveal the ones they didn't get—starting at five and moving up to one.

CG: "What You Need" Top 5 Answers

"Great job, everyone! (*Look at the screen.*) Those are definitely things people need. Some of those are things we can see—like food, water, and a place to live. Some of them we can't actually see—like love and our relationship with Jesus.

(*To contestants*) "Contestants, you all can have a seat. Thanks for playing 'Christmas Feud!'"

Dismiss both groups to their seats.

OUR GREATEST NEED

STORYTELLER: "Look at that number one answer: Jesus.

CG: #1: Jesus

"He is the number one, most important thing that we need!

"You see, we all have the same greatest need because we all have the same big problem. We all sin. Sin is what we call it when we do something wrong.

"Let me ask you a question. Do you think God ever does anything wrong? (*Pause for response.*) No. God is perfect! He's 100 percent good—always. That's why when we do something wrong, it's like a wall between us and God. (*Hold up both palms and act like there's a wall between them.*) Sin separates us from God.

"Our sin is a BIG problem. God knew we couldn't tear down the wall between us, so He made a way FOR us. He showed compassion to us. He **[Bottom Line] did something about our greatest need.**

"God sent Jesus to be our perfect hero and pay the price for our sin. Do you remember what it says in John 3:16?

This time, read the verse from the screen.

CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide

CG: Memory Verse Slide

"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.

"God loved us so much that he gave his only Son, Jesus. When we believe in Jesus and put our trust in him, we receive forgiveness for our sins (*clasp your hands*) . . . AND we get to live forever in heaven with God! God gave us the greatest gift, Jesus, to meet our greatest need. Because of that, **[Basic**

Truth] we can trust God no matter what.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “God loves us so much! That’s why He sent Jesus for us. That’s why we celebrate at Christmas.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God did something about our greatest need.

“And you know what? We can follow God’s example and show compassion to the people around us. God cared enough about us to do something about our greatest need, so we can care about the people in our lives and do something about THEIR needs. We can make it our undercover mission to show love to them.

“Let’s take the time to be kind to the people around us and show them we care. Let’s make it our mission to show God’s love this Christmas.

“Let’s pray.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for knowing all of our needs—but especially, thank You for knowing our greatest need and doing something about it. Thank You for loving us enough to send us Jesus so we can have a relationship with You without sin being in the way. Please help us to follow Your example. Help us to show compassion and love others the way You love us. We ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “It’s true! Christmas really is the most amazing example of compassion we could ever imagine.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God did something about our greatest need.

“God loves us so much that He did something about our sin problem that separates us from Him. God sent Jesus to rescue us. When Jesus died on the cross, He took care of our sin problem so we could have a relationship with our perfect God. All we have to do is believe—to decide for ourselves that we believe Jesus died for us. When we do, our sin is no longer in the way. We have the promise of eternal life.

“God sent Jesus for you. He sent Jesus for me. He sent Jesus to take care of our greatest need.

“God’s compassion makes me want to show compassion, too. How about you? *(Pause for response.)* That’s great! Did you know that when we show love and compassion to people, we show them how much God loves them too?”

“It can be so simple. (*Hold your palm flat above your eyes.*) Just keep an eye out and see if you can figure out what people need. Think about how you might be able to help. Maybe it’s sharing your jacket with someone who’s cold, sharing your lunch with someone who’s hungry, or sharing a kind word to encourage a friend.

Note: We suggest giving your kids and families a tangible way to show compassion by connecting them with a project through Compassion International. Take time before dismissal to promote a project of your choice, such as raising money for items in the [Compassion Gift Catalog](#).

“Remember your undercover mission: to show compassion and share God’s love. I know all of you have great ideas about how you can do that. Be sure to tell your friends about them in Small Group. You can head that way right now. I’ll see you later!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide

Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Loop Video