



## GETTING READY

### 1. Welcome/Opener

#### What You Need:

- Host
- One pen for each small group
- One pad of paper for each small group

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

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Song: “You Can’t Stop Me” by Andy Mineo
- Song: “Heavenbound” by DC Talk
- Upbeat music to use during the game

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

- Jam Session Theme Slide
- Rap-Libs Game Slide

#### What You Do:

- To illustrate the evolution of Christian rap, you will need a copy of Andy Mineo’s “You Can’t Stop Me” (or some other modern Christian rapper’s song such as Tripp Lee or Lecrae). In addition, you will need an audio sample of “Heavenbound” by DC Talk (or another Christian rap from the 1980s/90s).

## 2. Communicator Script

### What You Need:

- Communicator
- Worship Leader
- Host
- Three kid volunteers
- Walking stick
- Tape to split the room

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

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room
- Switchfoot song samples from “Float,” “Only Hope,” and “Dare You to Move” (See What You Do below for options)
- Upbeat instrumental dance music as Israelites dance
- Grungy upbeat instrumental dance music as Amalekites dance

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

- Key Question Slide

### What You Do:

- **Switchfoot songs:** During the Communicators intro, he/she references his/her favorite band, Switchfoot. We used this band because (a.) we really do love them and (b.) they fit the idea we were trying to communicate. Feel free to edit this section based on the Communicator’s actual favorite band, but use a band that fits the description in the script for the sake of the storyline.
- **Dance Battle Music:** We have created a sample playlist on Spotify. Search “orangeleaders” and the playlist “November Preteen W2 Story.” Due to Spotify licensing restrictions, you are unable to play this during Large Group, but this can serve as examples of the songs you can use during the story.
- If the space is conducive for the entire group to join in the dance battle, place tape on the floor to distinguish the Israelites’ and Amalekites’ side of the room. If the space is not conducive for the entire group joining in the dance battle, consider bringing up several kids to the stage to dance battle in front of the broader audience.

## 3. Worship

### What You Need:

- Every Beat
- Unshakeable Love

# We Could Be Heroes

**Bible Story:** We Could Be Heroes (Joshua Wins the Battle Over the Amalekites) • *Exodus 17:8-13*

**Bottom Line:** Work together to help someone succeed.

**Key Question:** Who could you work with to help someone succeed?

**Memory Verse:** “Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.” *Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NirV)*

**Life App:** Cooperation—Working together to do more than you can do alone

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## **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:** Jam Session 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 discusses recent/upcoming events: Thanksgiving in the U.S., National Saxophone Day, International Tongue Twister Day, World Kindness Day, College Football, NFL, movie opening (*The Nutcracker and the Four Realms*, *Dr. Seuss’ The Grinch*), 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:** “You know, all month long we’re going to be talking about JAMS, and it’s really got me thinking about how much music has evolved over the years. Like, sure, ‘I’m a Little Teapot’ is undeniably the greatest song ever composed by human hands and heard with human ears—no one can disagree with that—but it’s insane to listen to certain genres of music and seeing how they’ve evolved over the years. Take Christian Rap, for example: these days rap is all about flow and lyricism and clever wordplay . . . check this out.”

**SFX:** “You Can’t Stop Me” by Andy Mineo

“But thirty years ago, back in the late 1980s, one of the most popular rap groups was a group whose beat didn’t drop quite as hard as Andy Mineo, but was TOTALLY fresh and new at the time. Don’t believe me? Take a listen!”

**SFX:** “Heavenbound” by DC Talk

“Pretty crazy, right? Anybody else feeling inspired by those synthesizer trumpets at the beginning of the track? *(Pause for response.)* Yep! That song was the JAM back in the day! But I digress; this morning I thought we could do a bit of a rap battle. You up for that? *(Pause for response)* Awesome!”

**CG: RAP-LIBS Game Slide**

I call this “RAP-LIBS.” To play this game, we need everyone to gather up in his or her small group!”

*Host allows a few moments for kids to move into their small groups.*

“This game is pretty easy. When we start the game, I’ll recite HALF the lines to a rap song. Your job is to work with your small groups to come up with the OTHER half of the line. For example, if the line I gave you was “My name is [HOST] and I’m here to say . . .” you and your small group would work together and might come up with a rhyming line . . . maybe something like “I like to pet dogs all night and day.” I’ll give you FOUR lines in total, which means you’ll have to come up with FOUR rhymes.”

“Once every group has its rap put together, they’ll send up a ‘RAP-representative’ from their small group to perform their rap onstage . . . but I want their small group to shout all the rhyming words along with them. Make sense to everyone? Well, then let’s get going!”

**SFX: High-energy game music as background music**

**[SAMPLE LINES]**

- “My name is [HOST] and I’m pretty fly . . .
- On sunny days, I’ll wear my hat . . .
- My game is real, my style ain’t fake . . .
- Check me out and you will see . . .

*Once small groups have been allowed to write all four of their lines, their representatives will perform their raps. STRONGLY ENCOURAGE audience participation. Feel free to determine a “winner” by applause.*

“And there you have it! Brilliant rhymes, my FRIENDS! Let’s see what happens next as this rapping time ENDS! *(Pause)* Did you see what I did THERE? Be honest, do you even CARE? Ok. Ok. I’m getting off this STAGE before someone locks me in a CAGE!”

*Host drops the mic and exits as Worship Leader enters.*

## 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 starts talking about a band with a well-known lead singer. Modify the band to fit your audience, but use the following as a template.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** “There is nothing finer than a really, *really* good band. For me, there’s no one better than Switchfoot. Now, I’m old, so you might be thinking . . . (Mockingly) ‘[Name of Communicator], that is the number one lamest thing you’ve ever said.’ But hear me out! They have a ton of hit songs, like . . .”

**SFX:** Play clips of the songs as they are listed: “Float” clip; “Only Hope” clip; “Dare You to Move” clip

“‘Float’ . . . ‘Only Hope’ . . . ‘Dare You to Move’ . . . and the list goes on! They’ve even made a movie about the making of their album *Fading West*. Plus, the lead singer, Jon Foreman, has got to be one of the most respected songwriters in the music business in the last two decades! But that’s just it—EVERYONE knows their lead singer . . . but does ANYONE know the other members of the band? There’s the guy on the drums . . . and the dude with the guitar . . . and a keyboard player . . . a bass player, right? They probably have a bass player?”

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “How is it fair that all the band members work REALLY HARD and collaborate to put together an album, yet the lead singer is always the one that’s front and center, getting all of the attention? How would you feel if you were the drummer? You’ve laid down this smooth but catchy beat, stayed up late night after night perfecting your rhythm, but it’s ALWAYS the front man on the talk shows and on the album cover? If there is a movie, it’s probably about the lead singer . . . not the man on keys . . . unless he’s the lead singer. You put in the work; it only makes sense that you want to get the credit!”

“Maybe you’ve felt like that in your life, too. You help your sister make a super cool birthday card for your grandma, but she only signs HER name on it! Not cool! Or you work with your mom to make brownies for her Bible study, but when they get passed out, no one thinks to thank YOU!”

“Everyone has times in his life when he didn’t get the credit he felt like he deserved. What if we aren’t always supposed to get the praise? What if it’s not always about us? What if God has us play support roles simply to help someone else?”

“Those are some pretty big questions. And like we often say, when we have a big question, the first place we should look for an answer is The Bible, God’s Word! And today is no exception.”

### TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As we get started, I need everyone to move to one side of the room or the other. Split the room right down the middle. (*Pause while audience splits*) Perfect! Now, you guys on the left side of the room are going to be the heroes of our story . . . the ISRAELITES.”

*Worship Leader enthusiastically joins the Israelite team in the front of their group. Worship Leader sets the example for how the group should be dancing. If they are losing, Worship Leader has no enthusiasm in their dance but is over the top when winning.*

“Let’s hear some Israelite noise! Shout it out! Let’s see a 30-second dance!”

**SFX: Briefly play upbeat instrumental dance music**

*Communicator allows Team Israelite to dance and shout.*

“But what’s a hero without a good villain? Right side of the room, you’re the AMALEKITES.”

*Host enthusiastically joins the Amalekite team in the front of their group with a “villainous swag.” Host sets the example for how the group should be dancing. If they are losing, Host has no enthusiasm in their dance but is over the top when winning.*

“Let’s hear your battle cry! Let’s see some 30-second slam-dancing!”

**SFX: Briefly play grungier but still upbeat instrumental dance music**

*Communicator allows the Amalekites to dance and shout.*

“Now, it probably goes without saying, but the Amalekites were not big fans of the Israelites. We talked last week about how, after escaping slavery in Egypt, the Israelites were trekking through the wilderness with Moses’ leadership, living off the food and water that God provided for them. How you feelin’, Israelites? Let me hear you!”

**SFX: Briefly play upbeat instrumental dance music**

*Communicator allows Team Israelite to dance and shout.*

“Well, the Amalekites LIVED in the wilderness. They were a nomadic tribe living in the desert. Which means that they were always packing up and moving around—didn’t stay in one place for too long. They had a reputation for raiding other settlements, stealing their wealth, and killing for pleasure. They were a nasty bunch that did NOT take kindly when the Israelites came through on their turf. What do you think about these intruders, Amalekites? Shout it out!”

**SFX: Briefly play grungier but still upbeat instrumental dance music**

*Communicator allows the Amalekites to dance and shout.*

“Wow! It’s getting a little tense. How about we have everyone settle down for a minute and take a breath . . . Everyone, take a seat for moment.”

*Communicator directs both groups to take a seat.*

“One day, the evil Amalekites ATTACKED the Israelites. Moses quickly drew up a plan to defend themselves. Moses, where are you at? Oh, there you are!”

*Communicator brings up random kid to represent Moses from the Israelite side of the room. Communicator hands kid a walking stick.*

“Then Moses called on a young leader by the name of Joshua and told him (*Open Bible and read Exodus 17:9 NIV*), ‘Choose some of our men. Then go out and fight against the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill. I’ll stand there holding the walking stick God gave me.’ And the next day, Joshua led his team of Israelites in fierce skirmish against the Amalekites, and Moses went to the top of the hill with two other Israelites: Aaron and Hur.”

*Communicator picks two more volunteers to join onstage to represent Aaron and Hur.*

“Israelites, Amalekites . . . today the two of you clash on the field of battle . . . a DANCE BATTLE. But, like any battle, there are rules to how the tides turn. Moses had the staff of God in his hands, and so long as Moses held that staff over his head, the Israelites were winning. (*Have ‘Moses’ hold staff aloft*) Israelites, you are in the lead! Let me see your crazy moves! Let me hear your victory screeches!”

**SFX: Briefly play upbeat instrumental dance music**

*Communicator allows Team Israelite to dance and shout.*

“But . . . whenever Moses lowered the staff, the Israelites started losing and the Amalekites began to gain some ground. (*Have ‘Moses’ lower the staff*) Amalekites, you’re feeling a SURGE of ENERGY. Let it out with some sweet dance moves!”

**SFX: Briefly play grungier but still upbeat instrumental dance music**

*Communicator allows the Amalekites to dance and shout.*

“The battle grew fiercer, and as the day drew on, Moses struggled to keep the staff up. (*Have ‘Moses’ raise the staff*) Israelites, you’re winning! But Amalekites, keep your eyes open . . . once this staff drops, it’s your time to shine.

*Communicator goes through a couple back-and-forths, swapping the music and allowing each side to dance accordingly.*

“The battle raged for SO LONG that there came a point when Moses simply couldn’t keep his arms raised anymore . . . and if he dropped that staff and couldn’t raise it again, it was all over for the Israelites. So, Aaron and Hur sprang into action. The two men got on either side of Moses . . .”



*Communicator gestures for volunteers to move accordingly and hold up the arms of Moses keeping the staff up.*

“. . . and held Moses' arms up FOR him to give him a rest. They stayed like that all the way until SUNSET! And thanks to their valiant efforts . . . Joshua and his army of Israelites won the day! Way to go, Israelites! And the only way to celebrate a successful Dance Battle is, of course . . . MORE DANCING! Let's do it!

**SFX:** Briefly play upbeat instrumental dance music

*Communicator allows Team Israelite to dance and shout.  
Communicator sends volunteers back to their seats.*

### **APPLICATION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Sweet moves, everyone, you can take a seat. And thank you to our volunteers! If the Israelites were a band, Moses would have been the lead singer. Joshua would have been backup vocals and lead guitarist, while Aaron and Hur would have played percussion and bass, respectably. But no doubt, Moses would have received major praise for the win, and rightfully so, as he called upon God's power to turn the tide of the battle. As long as *his* arms were up, team Israel would take the upper hand in the battle. But what about Joshua? Joshua was needed to lead the army on the battlefield. It was Joshua's sword and his men risking their lives. It's possible Joshua got some kudos as well from his men, as he was the general. But what about Aaron and Hur? Without supporting Moses' arms, the stick would not have stayed aloft. It seems unlikely that Aaron and Hur got any thanks for their role. And you know what? That's okay. Because sometimes God's role for us is to stand in the BACKGROUND and help SOMEONE ELSE do well.”

“What if we tried working together to help someone else succeed? What if the job was not about us, but rather it was about helping someone else do really well? If you help your friend study for a test, the teacher isn't going to give you credit for his or her 'A.' In fact, it's possible no one will even KNOW about your efforts. Even, coaches don't always get credit for leading their teams to victory!”

“Sometimes God's role for us is to serve as the drummer . . . as the guitarist . . . or maybe even as the BASSIST . . . to prop up the lead singer and help him or her shine.”

### **LANDING**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “It's okay to be in the background for a little while. As you head to Small Group today, think about this.”

**CG:** Key Question Slide

“**Who could you work with to help someone succeed?** A friend, a complete stranger, a teacher? Who could you help? If you have a hard time thinking of someone, that's okay, too! You'll talk more about it in small group. Let's pray.”

*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.