



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- One index card for each Small Group Leader (See “What You Do” below)
- Pen/marker

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat music to play to start the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Cooperation Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- For the opening activity, Small Group Leaders will hum the melody to a familiar song. To prepare this activity, take the index cards and write down the name of a familiar song on each. Choose songs that you think your Small Group Leaders will be able to hum and kids will be able

to guess correctly. (Songs from Disney movies work well, since they're hummable and easy to guess.) Have the Host give a card to each Small Group Leader as they enter the room.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Four pre-selected Small Group Leaders
- One kid volunteer (one of the younger kids in the room)
- Bible
- Large, thick blanket that can support the weight of a kid

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Choose the Small Group Leaders ahead of time and explain what they need to do.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- This Is Living
- Alive Again

Stand by You

Bible Story: Stand by You (Jesus Heals the Paralytic / Four Friends) • *Luke 5:17-26*

Bottom Line: Work together to help someone in need.

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: *Theme Slide*

As kids and Small Group Leaders enter, Host hands out an index card (for the game) to each Leader.

Opener

HOST: “What’s going on, friends? My name is [Host’s name] and you’re at the coolest place on earth—[your environment’s name]! Would you like to know why this is the coolest place on earth? Because YOU’RE here!

“I love hanging out with all of you, because EVERYTHING is better when we get together. That’s what cooperation is all about.

CG: *Cooperation Slide*

“**Cooperation is working together to do more than you can do alone.** Say that with me.”

HOST and KIDS: “**Cooperation is working together to do more than you can do alone.**”

HOST: “When we cooperate, we get more done faster. We can make a difference in people’s lives by working together.

SFX: *High-energy music*

“That’s our game-time music! Raise your hand if you’re excited to hear about today’s game. (*Pause for response.*) I thought so! Here’s how we’ll play.

“I gave each Small Group Leader an index card on the way in. On that card is the name of a song. When it’s your group’s turn, your Leader will stand up and hum the song. Then you’ll cooperate with your group to come up with the name of the song together.

“Let’s have our first Leader stand up. (*To the first Leader*) Go ahead and hum your song. Keep humming until your group answers. If they can’t guess it, we’ll let the entire room cooperate to see if we can come up with the answer! Aaaaand go!

One at a time, call on the Small Group Leaders to stand up and hum their song. Give every group a chance to play before transitioning to Worship.

“You all did a great job cooperating. Wasn’t that fun?”

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!”

This Is Living

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!”

Alive Again

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everybody! I’m excited to tell you today’s story. (*Hold up Bible.*) It’s about some men who had to decide just how far they’d go to help a friend!”

“This happened during a time when Jesus was in a city called Galilee. He had been teaching people, helping people, and healing people. Many of these people would follow Jesus everywhere He went. People wanted to see Him and be near Him. They wanted to learn from Him. They believed He could help them.

“You’d think everyone would have been happy about what Jesus was doing, right? Well, the leaders in charge didn’t like it one bit. They didn’t believe that Jesus was God’s Son. They thought Jesus was a fake. But you and I know that He wasn’t. He was the real deal!”

PEOPLE CROWD AROUND JESUS

STORYTELLER: “In our story today, some of those leaders had come to Galilee to hear and see Jesus. They had heard that He had the power to heal sick people. They wanted to witness it for themselves. In fact, there were LOTS of people who had come to see Jesus. They crowded around the house where He was teaching. They wanted to see the One everyone was talking about. But all of those people made it impossible to get to the door, much less get inside to see Jesus!”

FOUR FRIENDS

STORYTELLER: “But then four men approached the house where Jesus was. Would my four Small Group Leaders come up, please?”

Bring up the four pre-selected Small Group Leaders.

“These four men were on a mission. They needed to see Jesus. They HAD to see Him. But not for themselves—for someone else! You see, they had a friend who wasn’t able to walk.

(To audience) “Can I get one of you to play their friend who couldn’t walk? We need someone very young.

Pick one of the smaller kids in the room. Stand next to him.

(To kid) “Thanks, [kid’s name]. You can stay sitting right where you are for now.

“Here’s what happened.

Open the Bible to Luke 5:18 (NIRV) and read.

“Some men came carrying a man who could not walk. He was lying on a mat.

“So the men were carrying their friend on a mat. It was kind of like this.

Call the four Leaders over to you. Place the blanket on the ground and guide the kid to lie down on it on his back. Then instruct the Leaders to each pick up a corner of the blanket so they can carry the kid.

“These four men worked together to help their friend. They cooperated and carried him to the house where Jesus was teaching. But when they got there, there was a problem. Listen to this.

Open the Bible to Luke 5:19 (NirV) and read.

“They tried to take him into the house to place him in front of Jesus. They could not find a way to do this because of the crowd.

“What were they going to do? They needed to get their friend to Jesus, but they couldn’t even get to the door!”

FOUR FRIENDS GO TO THE ROOF

STORYTELLER: “Would you like to know what the four men did? They carried their friend up onto the rooftop.

The four Leaders raise the kid (on the blanket) up a few inches.

“That’s right! They were so determined to get him to Jesus that they climbed on top of the house! That’s friendship right there, and it’s also cooperation!

“Can you imagine lifting someone who can’t walk from the ground all the way up to a rooftop? I wonder how they did it! But their cooperation didn’t stop there. Somehow, they figured out a way to lower their friend from the roof down into the house—right in front of Jesus!

The four Leaders lower the kid (on the blanket) so that it’s close to the ground.

“I want friends like that—friends who are willing to work together to help me no matter what it takes!

“Here’s what happened next. Jesus spoke to the man who couldn’t walk. He said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 5:20 (NirV) and read.

“Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

“Then He said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 5:24 (NirV) and read.

“Get up. Take your mat and go home.”

The Leaders lower the mat to the ground. Storyteller prompts the kid to stand up and pick up the blanket.

“It was a miracle! Jesus had healed the man, and now he could walk! (*To kid*) [Kid’s name], can we see you jump for joy? (*Pause for response.*) Awesome! (*To audience*) The man went home, praising God all the way.

(*To kid and Leaders*) “Great job, actors! All of you can head back to your seats. Let’s give them a big

hand.”

Kid and Leaders head back to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “The Bible says that everyone was amazed at what Jesus had done. They praised God and were filled with wonder.

“Think about all the four men did to help their friend get to Jesus. They believed Jesus could heal him, so they cooperated to make sure their friend wouldn’t miss his chance. They worked together to get him on top of the roof AND down inside the house. I can’t even imagine the cooperation that took!

“We can help the people around us just like those four men did.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“We can [**Bottom Line**] **work together to help someone in need.** Can you say that with me?”

KIDS and STORYTELLER: [**Bottom Line**] **“Work together to help someone in need.”**

STORYTELLER: “That’s right! There are lots of people around us who need help. They might be hurt or sick. They might be sad. They might need friends to cheer them up. The good news is, there are so many ways we can help. When we work together, God can help us fix what’s wrong and make it right!

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, it’s so good to know that You’re always there for us. We know that with Your help, we can make a big difference in other people’s lives, and we know we can do so much more when we work together. Help us to be brave enough and loving enough to help people in need, just like the four friends in our story. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “I love that story! It’s amazing to think that Jesus could heal the man just like that! (*Snap your fingers.*)

“When the four men took their friend to see Jesus, they weren’t doing it for themselves. They were doing it because their friend needed help. Nothing could stop them from getting him to Jesus. Not a crowd of people—not even a roof! They found a way—together—to get him all the way up and then all the way down inside that house. They got him all the way to Jesus.

“We can cooperate and help people just like they did. Here’s what we need to remember today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Work together to help someone in need.

“If you think about it, there are people who need our help everywhere: our families, our friends, people who don’t have enough food to eat, people who don’t have homes to live in. All over the world, there are people who need our help. If you try to do it alone, it can feel impossible to make a difference. But together, we can do so much more!

“Maybe your family could work together to do yard work for a neighbor who can’t do it on their own. Or maybe you and your friends could gather the toys and clothes you don’t use and donate them to a shelter so other kids can use them. Just remember—with God’s help, there is nothing we can’t do together to help people in need.

“After all, you’d want someone to do that for you, right? Helping people in need is a great way to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated.**

“Now it’s time for you to head back to Small Group. You’ll get to talk some more about how we can cooperate to help others. 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