



## GETTING READY

### 1. Welcome/Opener

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Prize for the game winner (candy bar, etc.)
  - Mt. Dew
- More or Less secret prize they can trade in
  - Small box with nothing in it (the box is the prize)

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

- More or Less Theme Slide

#### What You Do:

- **More or Less Game:** Each week this month, the Host will lead a game where the person or people playing win a prize. In “Let’s Make a Deal” fashion, the winner(s) will then have the option to keep that prize or choose another unknown prize that is either more or less than what he or she won in the first place. Each week, you’ll need a prize for the winner and an optional prize for the More or Less game.

### 2. Communicator Script

#### What You Need:

- Communicator
- Remote control car with an action figure in the driver's seat (or pretend if it is a closed car)

*Large Group Visuals:*

- Key Question Slide
- Picture of car (see "What You Do")
- Clip of Black Friday shoppers (see "What You Do")

**What You Do:**

- Do an Internet search for "Black Friday shopping crazy videos" There are plenty of safe videos to choose from, but preview them ahead of time to be sure they are appropriate for your environment. Have the clip ready to play during the communicator script.
- Do an Internet search for a picture of a car of your choosing and place it in your presentation for the Truth section.
- Borrow or purchase a remote control car and have it either on stage or backstage where the Communicator could easily access it during the Truth section.

### **3. Worship**

**What You Need:**

- Every Beat
- Unshakeable Love

# Just Can't Get Enough

**Bible Story:** Just Can't Get Enough (Don't Be Controlled by Money) • *Hebrews 13:5*

**Bottom Line:** Stuff can't keep you happy.

**Key Question:** Why do you still want stuff if it can't keep you happy?

**Memory Verse:** "Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has.'" *Luke 12:15 (NirV)*

**Life App:** Contentment—Deciding to be okay with what you have

**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.*

### **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 the World Series or a big sports game in your community, movie opening, or 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.*

**CG:** Theme Slide

### **Opener**

**HOST:** "Hey everybody! So good to see you this week. Welcome back for another edition of *More or Less*, where we play a game that seems very similar to a game we would play any other day at [Name of Environment], BUT in *More or Less* we give the winner the chance to win MORE . . . or walk away with LESS.

Let's get started. How many of you have played Simon Says? Sweet! *(Pause)* Well, that's not what we are playing. But it is kind of like that—only better . . . and more difficult . . . and did I say better? I mean, after all, you're not little kids who play Simon Says anymore, are you?! That's right! All right, so listen

up. Some of you might have played this before, but just in case, here's how it works: this game is called JIGGLEPUFF

*Before you play, lead the kids through each motion and have them practice. Once they have it, play until you have a winner.*

**Nibblety-Bibble instructions: ASK DAN FOR CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS! HE'S THE MAN AT THIS GAME**

- *Host will say "3-2-1-JIGGLEPUFF!"*
- *At that moment, the host will throw up one of these 6 moves...*
  - *Elektrolytes (dab)*
  - *Dragon Egg (hold an invisible egg)*
  - *Tourist (both hands hold a peace sign by your face)*
  - *Prayer (praying hands)*
  - *Mind Control (both hands held to your temples)*
  -

**HOST:** "Whew! That. Was. Awwwwesooooome! Great job, everybody. Now I do have a prize for our winner . . ."

*Host gives a prize (candy bar, etc.) to the winner.*

". . . But because this is the *More or Less* show, you have the opportunity to trade in your prize for what is inside this mystery box. Now remember, the prize could be MORE or it could be LESS. What do you want to do . . . would you like to trade your prize or keep it?"

*Winner decides. Reveal what is in the box whether or not he or she chooses to trade or not. Comment on his or her choice.*

"Well, that was fun. I can't wait to see what happens next week when we play More or Less! Alright everybody, let's stand and worship together!"

## **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! It’s always great to be with you. As we get started this morning, check this out.”

**CG:** *Black Friday shopping video*

“That. Is. Crazy! Be honest—have you ever wanted something so badly . . . I mean SO badly . . . I mean SOOOOO badly . . . that you would do ANYTHING LIKE THAT to get it? *(Pause for response.)*”

“Yeah, I hope not. But for the people in this video, the answer was a definite YES! Could you imagine wanting a TV so badly that you run people over to get it? Or yanking a coffee maker or toy out of somebody else’s hands?! OK, maybe you shouldn’t answer that!”

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “But while watching a video like that is funny, it also sheds a bit of light on how much people want stuff. Now, it’s not that money or stuff is actually bad in and of itself. But what happens when it is the ONLY thing you think about or talk about? What happens when it becomes the MOST important thing to you? What happens when it drives you to start thinking about knocking over the person in front of you to grab a 4K TV? That can’t be good for you, right?”

### TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “To answer that question, let’s turn to the Bible. Not sure if you know this, but the Bible includes a lot of verses that talk about how we use our money and the power that money can have in our lives, including this verse that comes from a letter near the end of our Bible. In the letter to the Hebrews, the author says, *(Read directly from Hebrews 13:5a NIV) ‘Don’t be controlled by love for money. Be happy with what you have.’*”

“Seems pretty simple, right? Well, while this might be a simple verse, simple is definitely not the same thing as easy. I know the verse says money, but really it could also say STUFF or THINGS. The person who wrote this verse is talking about money or the things that can be bought with money.”

“Now the verse didn’t say don’t HAVE money or don’t HAVE things, but what did it say? ‘Don’t be . . . *(Pause for responses)*. Yeah! The author said don’t be CONTROLLED by the LOVE of money . . . or stuff. Maybe this will help . . .”

“What’s this?”

**CG:** *Picture of a car*

“Right . . . it’s a car. That was easy. Now, I know you’re not all driving around your neighborhoods yet, but does someone want to explain how you go about driving a car?”

*Call on a volunteer and interact with him/her as he/she*

*explains how a car works. The goal is to make it clear that you tell the car what to do and where to go by sitting in the driver's seat. The driver is in control.*

“Wow . . . that’s a pretty good explanation. Are you sure you don’t drive? Somebody check his/her ID! All right, so basically a car drives because the driver makes it happen. Got it.”

“What about this?”

*Host reveals Remote Control Car.*

“How does this one go? Does this little guy (*pointing to action figure driver*) make it happen?”

*Call on a volunteer to explain how the RC car works.*

“Of course not. This car is controlled by something on the outside. This little guy has NOTHING to do with the direction of the car.”

“Now some of you already see where this is going . . . but what if this is what the Hebrews verse is talking about? No, not RC Cars . . . I’m pretty sure they didn’t have those back then. I mean *control*. ‘*Don’t be controlled by the love of money (or stuff)*.’ Our stuff can be like the car on the screen. WE are the drivers. WE tell our stuff where we are going and what we are doing. WE are in (*pause for response*) CONTROL, yes!”

“Or our relationships with our stuff can be more like this RC Car. We’re sitting here in the driver’s seat, but we really have no say as to where we go or what we do. Why? Because we are being CONTROLLED by something else.”

“And the love of money or stuff can DRIVE us places we never imagined we’d go.”

“What about those people in the video clip shopping? Do they look like they were in control or do they look like they were being controlled? (*Pause for response*) It’s amazing what the love of stuff can do to a person. I bet they didn’t wake up thinking, ‘You know, I’m going to wrestle somebody for a blender today!’ No! But in the moment, stuff became so important that they were willing to do anything to get it, including making the stuff more important than people!”

## **APPLICATION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “When our money or our stuff becomes the MOST important thing, it can make us do some pretty crazy things. But more than that, we also miss out on what we do actually have . . . and, even more importantly, the people around us.”

“Look at that verse again. (*Read directly from Hebrews 13:5a NIV*) ‘*Don’t be controlled by love for money. Be happy with what you have.*’ Notice the second part . . . be happy with what you have. The word ‘happy’ there is probably better understood as content—be *content* with what you have. It is very hard to notice what you DO have when you are driven by what you DON’T have. When you obsess

over the next game, the next gadget, the next fashion accessory, you can miss what's already right in front of you."

"So when you start to obsess over stuff . . . when you start to find that all you can think about is that thing you want . . . I want you to stop and think about the car and ask yourself, 'Who is driving?' Am I in control or is my love for stuff controlling me?"

"Who is driving?"

"Now one last thing. There's actually more to the verse. Let me read it all now. *(Read directly from Hebrews 13:5 NIV) 'Don't be controlled by love for money. Be happy (or content) with what you have. God has said, "I will never leave you. I will never desert you."'* The truth is that money runs out. Stuff breaks, and clothes wear out. But God has made us a promise that He will never leave us, and that is a promise you can take to the bank. *(Pause)* See what I did there?"

"And let's be honest—being content, controlling our actions toward our stuff? That can be really hard, especially when we watch people spend gobs and gobs of money on TV or when see our friend show up to school in new sneakers. But thankfully we don't need to do this on our own. Not only will God never leave us but also He is there to help give us the strength to have contentment. Let's rely on Him for help!"

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** "As you go to small group today, think about this."

**CG: Key Question Slide**

**"Why do you still want stuff if it can't keep you happy?** Have you ever wondered about that? I mean we know that stuff breaks, toys get lost, and even if they don't, over time, we just lose interest in them. It's a good question: **Why do you still want stuff if it can't keep you happy?** Think about that as you head to small group, but before you go, let's pray and ask God for some help with this."

*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.**