



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Four wrapped prizes for While Elephant-Type Game (see “What You Do” below)
 - One good (candy bar)
 - One humorous (rubber chicken)
 - Two bad
- Four blindfolds
- Four slips of paper numbered one through four (for choosing the order)
- More or Less secret prize they can trade in
 - sock

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.

- White Elephant Game: Find four gifts: one good, one humorous, and two bad prizes for the game. These prizes should be about the same size/type and feel like other things since they won't be able to see what they have won. Write one through four on slips of paper and have them ready for the Host to use during the game. Set the four prizes out on a small table before the kids get into the room so everyone can see them as they walk into your environment.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Host
- Prop Box Containing:
 - Crown
 - Scepter
 - Straw hat
 - Bunch of grapes
 - Woman's wig

Large Group Visuals:

- Key Question Slide
- Temper Tantrum videos (See "What You Do" below)

What You Do:

- Do an Internet search for "kids having temper tantrum 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.
- Collect props and place them inside a prop box. Place them on stage as the Communicator comes out after worship.
- *Note: For this script, we do suggesting that the Communicator practice with the Host ahead of time, as there is a lot of quick costume changing.*

3. Worship

What You Need:

- This Is Living
- Alive Again

Sour Grapes

Bible Story: Sour Grapes (King Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard) • 1 Kings 21:1-19, 27

Bottom Line: Wanting what others have can make you miserable.

Key Question: What can you do when all you can think about is what someone else has?

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, a 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 help them feel like they know what’s happening.

CG: Theme Slide

Opener

HOST: “Hey, everyone! Great seeing all of you this week! And now . . . welcome back to the *More or Less* show, where you get the chance to walk away with more . . . or less. In today’s edition, four lucky contestants get the chance to walk away with more . . . or less. Who wants to play?”

Host chooses four volunteers.

“Alright, so here’s how you play. Have you ever played ‘White Elephant’ at a Christmas party? Well, in front of me I have four nicely wrapped presents. In just a moment, you will choose a number. The first person will choose a present and open it quickly. The second person has the choice to then either take a new present or steal what the first person has. Then the third person. Then the fourth person. And the first person gets the last chance to steal. There are no steal backs, meaning you can’t immediately steal back what was just stolen from you. Now sometimes in this game there is a steal limit, but not here! Not that we encourage stealing in general . . . but during this game we will turn a blind eye.”

“Oh, hey, speaking of turning a blind eye, I’m going to need you to put one of these on.”

Host pulls out four blindfolds.

“That’s right—you will not be able to see what you’ve unwrapped, but maybe you can figure it out by feeling or smelling . . . please do not taste! And, audience, please do NOT tell them what it is!”

“Okay, let’s choose numbers and then blindfolds on!”

Play the game until each person has chosen once, and then the first person goes again. Gifts are unwrapped immediately. Play up how they might want what the other person has throughout the game. If a present is stolen, the person from whom it was stolen gets to pick a new present. After everyone is holding a present, have the contestants remove their blindfolds.

“Now that was amazing! Well played, everyone. But we’re not finished yet. Remember, this is *More or Less!*”

Host unveils one last wrapped prize.

“One of you can 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 anyone like to trade your prize or keep it?”

Host chooses first person to raise his or her hand. But reveal what is in the box whether or someone choses to trade or not. Comment on their choice.

“That was great, everyone! You all can take your ‘treasures’ and head back to your seats. Let’s all 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!

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.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey everybody! Great to see you today. I loved watching that game. Well played! And thinking about that game, I have a question for you. Have you ever wanted something so badly that . . . well . . . you kind of lost your cool about it? Maybe you begged and pleaded with your parents. Or . . . maybe you even went this far . . . check this out!”

CG: *Temper tantrums in stores video(s)*

“That’s crazy, right? Okay be honest—how many of you have done that—even as a little kid? Come on . . . *(Pause for response)* I thought so. I have, too . . . last week. *(Pause)* No, just kidding, but I have before. I think all of us, whether or not we remember it, threw some temper tantrums that could have gone viral on YouTube.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, all of us have maybe wanted something from a store or something we saw on TV, but how about this? Have you ever wanted something that somebody ELSE has so badly that it totally ruins your day? Or puts you in a bad mood? Or makes you think less about what you already have?”

“Yeah . . . that can happen, right? We see something that somebody else has, and it just drives us wild! And when that happens, we can start to do some pretty crazy things. But I think that deep down we know that’s not the best way to respond. But maybe we’re just not sure how to respond when we want something that badly. When we have issues like that, the best place to turn is the Bible.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “In God’s Word, we can learn from people who did some amazingly great things with their lives, but sometimes we can learn from those who made mistakes, too. That’s what happens in the story today, but to tell it, I need *[Host’s name]* to help me out.”

Host comes out while Communicator grabs the prop box.

“You can find this story today from 1 Kings, a book in Old Testament that shares some of what happened during a period of time when the nation of Israel was ruled by . . . you guessed it . . . kings. Some of these kings were wise and led God’s people well. Others were not so wise and led the people far away from God. The king in this story, Ahab, was one of the bad ones. In fact, King Ahab was the most wicked king that would ever rule Israel.”

Communicator reaches in the box and grabs a crown and places it on the Host’s head while grabbing a scepter and putting it in the Host’s hand.

“(Open and read from 1 Kings 21:1a NIV) “Sometime later King Ahab wanted a certain vineyard. It belonged to Naboth from Jezreel.”

“So, we’ve got this man named Naboth. He’s just a common Israelite who owns a vineyard.”

Communicator swaps crown for a sunhat and hands Host a bunch of grapes.

“Now this vineyard was close to Ahab’s palace (*Host switches to Ahab costume*). Who knows . . . maybe Ahab went out on his balcony every day and could see the vineyard and just how nice it was. Maybe he walked by it every day. Whatever the case, Ahab wanted it. Badly.”

(Read from 1 Kings 21:2 NIV) “Ahab said to Naboth, “Let me have your vineyard. It’s close to my palace. I want to use it for a vegetable garden . . .” Ahab wants his vineyard! And he doesn’t even want it for the vineyard; he wants to tear that down and plant some kind of vegetable. Can you believe that? Let’s keep reading.”

*(Read from 1 Kings 21:3 NIV) “But Naboth replied (*Host switches to Naboth costume and reads the Naboth part*),*

HOST: *““May the Lord keep me from giving you the land my family handed down to me.””*

COMMUNICATOR: “In other words, Naboth says no. I can’t give up my family’s land.”

“All right, so before we keep going, let me tell you something about how land worked back then. I’m sure that some of you have moved from one house or another, but it didn’t quite work like that back then. In the ancient world, land was an inheritance. Your family’s land had been passed down from generation to generation. Meaning, to lose your land would be absolutely devastating, not only to your family but also to every generation after you who would no longer have a plot of land to call their own.”

“Okay, back to the story. Naboth’s response does not go over so well with Ahab (*Host switches to Ahab*). Listen to this. *(Read from 1 Kings 21:4 NIV) ‘So Ahab went home. He was angry. He was in a bad mood because of what Naboth from Jezreel had said . . . So Ahab lay on his bed. He was in a very bad mood. He wouldn’t even eat anything.’”*

(To Host) “How do you feel, Ahab?” (Host responds, pouting)

“That is when Ahab’s wife comes in.”

Communicator looks at Host and smiles. Then takes wig out of box and puts it on Host’s head.

(Read from 1 Kings 21:5-6 NIV) “His wife Jezebel came in. She asked him,”

HOST: *““Why are you in such a bad mood? Why won’t you eat anything?”*

COMMUNICATOR: *“He (*Host changes to Ahab costume*) answered her,”*

HOST: *(as Ahab) ““Because I spoke to Naboth from Jezreel. I said, ‘Sell me your vineyard’ . . . But he said, ‘I won’t sell you my vineyard.’””*

COMMUNICATOR: “In other words . . . (temper tantrum) I want my vineyard, and I want it now!”

“Does that sound familiar? This guy could be on that video from earlier! Well, Jezebel has something to say about that. *(Looks at Host until he puts the wig back on). (Reads from 1 Kings 21:7 NIV) ‘His wife Jezebel said,’*”

HOST: *(As Jezebel) ““Is this how the king of Israel acts? Get up! Eat something! Cheer up. I’ll get you the vineyard of Naboth from Jezreel.””*

COMMUNICATOR: “And Jezebel puts a plan in place to take the vineyard for Ahab.” She hired two scoundrels to lie and say they heard Ahab curse God and the king. So they took *Naboth (Host switches to Naboth)* outside of the city and got rid of him . . . for good! Yikes!”

Host looks at Communicator with concern. Communicator takes hat and grapes away.

“Once Jezebel *(Host puts on wig)* heard the plan had been carried out, she said to *Ahab (reads from 1 Kings 21:15-16 NIV) ““Get up. Take over the vineyard of Naboth from Jezreel. It’s the one he wouldn’t sell to you. He isn’t alive anymore. He’s dead.’ So Ahab (Host as Ahab) got up and went down to take over Naboth’s vineyard (Communicator hands Host the bunch of grapes).”*”

“Now Jezebel and Ahab probably thought they had gotten away with it. Ahab had wanted a vineyard, he whined about a vineyard, and now he had the vineyard, and nobody knew what had happened. Well, of course, somebody knew. God knew, and God was not happy with Ahab. So God sent a prophet named Elijah to tell Ahab and Jezebel that there would be a consequence for what they had done to this innocent man.”

“(Read from 1 Kings 21:27 NIV) ‘When Ahab heard what Elijah had said, he tore his clothes. He put on the rough clothing people wear when they’re sad. He went without eating. He even slept in his clothes. He went around looking sad.’ Ahab recognized that he had done evil in God’s sight, and he humbled himself before God. God spared Ahab’s life, but Ahab still caused a lot of misery with what he did, all because he was so wrapped up in the one thing that somebody else had that he didn’t.”

Host leaves stage with props

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “But what about us? This seems extreme, right? Hopefully, we’ll never go as far as Ahab. But I can almost guarantee that you will face a time when you want something that someone else has. People have cool things, and it is natural for us to want those cool things for ourselves. Here’s the key, though: HOW you respond in those moments makes all the difference.”

“Do we lose our cools and throw tantrums about it and say things we can’t take back? Do we make life hard on the people around us because we act miserable, like Ahab pouting and refusing to eat dinner? Do we treat stuff like it is more important than the people in our lives who may or may not have anything to do with the fact that we don’t have the latest and greatest thing?”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “As you go to small group today, think about this:

CG: Key Question Slide

What can you do when all you can think about is what someone else has? Think about the times when you’ve struggled with wanting what someone else had. How did you respond? How could you have responded? This question could be answered all sorts of ways, and you’ll have a chance to do that in Small Group. Before we head there, though, let’s pray and ask God for some help. Because the truth is that our source of contentment is God. He’s the One who can change our attitudes as we learn to trust Him no matter what. Let’s 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.