



## GETTING READY

### 1. Welcome/Opener

#### What You Need:

- Host
- One slingshot/launcher for Ping-pong Balls
- Dozens of Ping-pong balls
- 21 Plastic cups (6 on bottom row)

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

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

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

- Operating System Theme Slide

#### Optional Videos (available for purchase through the 252 Media Package):

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video

#### What You Do:

- For the game, you will need three foam ball launchers such as these: <https://amzn.to/2NY5iNI>. Set the cups up in a large pyramid or consider having multiple cup setups for the contestants to knock over. Place a line for the contestants to stand behind and shoot from. It should be a challenge, so make sure the line is far enough back. *Note: If you only have one launcher, you can have them take turns instead of all going at the same time.*

## 2. Communicator Script

### What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Football
- Host
- Five student volunteers
- Three or four leader volunteers

### Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

### Large Group Visuals:

- Pic #1 – The Great Wall of China
- Pic #2 – The Western Wall in Jerusalem
- Pic #3 – The Pike’s Place Gum wall in Seattle
- Pic #4 – The Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Pic #5 – The Berlin Wall
- Pic #6 – A Screenshot from the game show Hole in the Wall
- \*\*\*Video clips of quarterbacks getting sacked
- Key Question Slide

### What You Do:

- Search for “Best Sacks in Football History Videos” and have the video ready to play during the communicator script. *Note: Be cautious of injuries or really violent hits.*

## 3. Worship

### What You Need:

- We Are Royals
- Through It All

# Busted Stuff

**Bible Story:** Busted Stuff (City with Broken Walls) • *Proverbs 25:28*

**Bottom Line:** Doing what you should can keep you safe.

**Key Question:** When do you lose control?

**Memory Verse:** “God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.” *2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)*

**Life App:** Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don’t want to

**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:** *Operating System 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 a big sports game, 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.*

### **Opener**

**HOST:** “Hey everyone! Happy New Year! I am so pumped for another month—dare I say *another year*—here at [Name of Environment]. Let’s start things off right away with a game. I need three contestants. Who is in?”

*Host selects three volunteers and brings them up onto stage.*

“Alright . . . As you can see before each of you, we have a plastic cup wall. Now don’t breathe too heavily—it took a long time to set up. Anyway, in just a second, it will be up to you to knock down the wall. Now before you think I’m going to let you just walk over there and kick it over . . .”

*Host pulls out slingshot and ping-pong balls. Also, have one or two leaders set up a cup wall (21 Plastic cups - 6 on bottom row)*

“You will be using one of this and working together as a team you’ll have 30 seconds to knock down as many cups as possible. I’m going to have you stand behind this line as well.”

*Host arranges the contestants, each across from his or her wall of cups.*

“Alright, is everybody ready? Set? And . . . GOOOOOOO!”

**CG: 30-second game timer video**

*Contestants fire at the cup walls while the Host provides commentary.*

“(After the game) That was amazing. Well done! Now everyone, let’s stand and worship together!”

*Worship Leader enters as Host exits*

## **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 and get a high-five! Your group leaders are here almost every week... they’re pretty amazing. 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. At the core of who we are as a church, we believe that **JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE!**”

“I have just a few announcements for you all today...”

*Share any/all announcements.*

“One of the things we do each week to help us focus on God is to sing... some of you will know the words to the songs, so we want you to shout and sing them out really loud. If you don’t know the words... they’ll be on the screen for you. Feel free to clap, jump, sing and shout along with us! The best part about this is the message of the song and how good God is! Let’s all stand up and sing together!”

*Worship Leaders enter. Host exits.*

## **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.*

## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey everybody! Great to see you. I’m so excited to begin another month together. As we get started this morning, I have some pictures to show you. If you know what’s featured in the picture, call it out.”

*After each picture, wait for responses.*

#### **CG: Pic #1 – The Great Wall of China picture**

“The Great Wall of China—correct! Look at that thing . . . it is incredible. Alright, here’s the next one.”

#### **CG: Pic #2 – The Western Wall in Jerusalem picture**

“Yes—the western wall in Jerusalem. Maybe you’ve seen people praying there in pictures before, but that is the last remaining portion of temple wall that was there in Jesus’ day. Pretty amazing. Alright, the next one.”

#### **CG: Pic #3 – The Pike’s Place Gum wall in Seattle picture**

“Not sure if you can see what that is, but that . . . all of that (*Point to the image*) . . . is gum. Seriously. Anybody seen that before? It is a wall in Pike’s Place Market in Seattle, Washington, and apparently at some point people started sticking their gum to it, and from there, well . . . it became a wall of extreme grossness. Now this next one is more serious.”

#### **CG: Pic #4 – The Vietnam Veterans Memorial picture**

“Yes, that is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC, listing the names of those who gave their lives in the Vietnam War. A pretty powerful place. Alright, I have two more. Leaders might need to help out on this next one . . .”

#### **CG: Pic #5 – The Berlin Wall**

“That is the Berlin Wall, which used to separate East Germany from West Germany. Destruction began in 1989. Some of your small group leaders might remember that this was the big news of the day as people watched footage of large concrete sections of the wall being torn down by the crowds. Alright last one.”

#### **CG: Pic #6 – A Screenshot from the game show “Hole in the Wall” picture**

“I love this one! Yes—this is from the game show Hole in the Wall. If you aren’t familiar, you have to check it out. These walls with strangely sized cutouts move toward contestants while they have to try to fit through the hole. If they can’t, they are knocked into a pool of water. Classic.”

“Alright, so why am I showing you these pictures? Well, here’s the question: what do these pictures all have in common?”

*Pause for response.*

“Exactly . . . they are all walls of some kind or another, and in just a second, we will see what those walls have to do with anything. But this month we are talking about self-control.”

### **TENSION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “But what’s the big deal? I mean, why does it matter if we have self-control? Is it really that important?”

### **TRUTH**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “To answer that, we are going to spend time each week of this month in a book of the Bible called Proverbs. Is Proverbs in the Old or New Testament of the Bible?”

*Pause for responses.*

“Right, it is in the Old Testament just after the largest book, Psalms. Proverbs is a different book because it is not filled with stories or songs or prophecies. Proverbs is 31 chapters of wisdom from God about how we can follow Him in how we live. Does anybody know who wrote most of the Proverbs?”

*Pause for responses.*

“Solomon! You see, Solomon was an Israelite king who had asked God for wisdom, and God granted his request. Solomon was one of the wisest men to ever walk the face of the earth, and the book of Proverbs is a written collection of Solomon’s wisdom that he received from God. He talks about life and money and decision-making and laziness and relationships . . . and that’s just the start of it! But one of the things Solomon also talks about is self-control—what happens when we show it AND what happens when we don’t. See, if we don’t have self-control, we may find ourselves in situations where we feel stuck . . . or maybe even in danger. We say or do things that we regret. It is really important for us to soak up some of this wisdom about self-control. Let’s dive in!”

*“(Read directly from Proverbs 25:28 NIV) ‘A person without self-control is like a city whose walls are broken through.’ Short and sweet! But there is so much wisdom here for us to unpack together starting with cities during Solomon’s time.”*

“Solomon said that a person without self-control is like a city whose *(pause for response)* WALLS are broken through. There it is from earlier—walls! Now we looked at a variety of walls but here, this proverb mentions city walls. This is a little strange to us because I’m guessing most of us do not enter or exit our city through walls. No, we usually just start driving on a road and it says “Welcome to *[Name of your city]*” or “Thank you for visiting *[Name of your city]*,” and that’s it. But in the ancient world, all major cities had walls around them? Any guesses why?”

*Pause for responses.*

“Great answers! The ancient world was a dangerous place. Cities didn’t have organized law enforcement, safety lights and cameras, or neighborhood watch programs. You had walls—big walls—and that is often the only thing that kept you from being attacked easily by a neighboring city that wanted to make their territory a little larger or just wanted to cause some trouble. Now listen to the proverb again with that context in mind . . .”

*“(Read directly from Proverbs 25:28 NIV) ‘A person without self-control is like a city whose walls are broken through.’”*

“Now before we take a shot at what that means, I want to give you a bit of a different take on a wall. How many of you are football fans? We are about a month away from the biggest football game of the year. So even if you are not a fan, you’ll be seeing a lot of commercials and advertisements for the big game, and my guess is that many of you will end up watching it.”

“When we think of football, most of us think of the wide receiver jumping up to make an incredible catch or a running back juiking and spinning his way through tacklers or maybe even a quarterback throwing a bomb down the field to a receiver in stride. We love stuff like that. But do you know who the unsung heroes are on the football field? The line. Let me show you. I need five volunteers and *[Host’s name]*.”

*Communicator selects five volunteers while the Host comes out on stage.*

“Alright, so I’m going to line you five volunteers up in a row. The center guy, your position is called . . . well, center. Your job is to snap the ball to the quarterback and then protect the middle. The person to the left and right of the center, you are both called guards. Do you know what your job is?”

*Pause for responses.*

“It is not a trick question—you are to guard the quarterback. And finally, these two outside guys are called tackles, which is kind of confusing because your job is really the same as the rest . . . you are to guard. To guard whom?”

*Communicator pulls Host over.*

“This guy. The quarterback. And, more importantly (*put ball in the quarterback’s hands*), to guard the ball that the quarterback holds. Now when the line works together to do what it is supposed to, it is a beautiful thing. But when the line breaks down . . . well, check these out.”

**CG: Video of quarterbacks getting sacked**

“Ouch! That hurts just watching. So the line is not just a line. They really are like a what? They’re a wall! Their job is to keep out anyone who would want to break through and hurt the quarterback or take what is not theirs—the ball. What would that look like? Let’s get a couple small group leaders up here to help us visualize.”



*Communicator calls up three or four big small group leaders. This will be a lot of people on stage, so it must be controlled. Everything is done at half speed or less.*

“Alright, so this is the other team, and their goal is to break through this wall. Now when it goes right, like I said, it is a beautiful thing. Let’s see.”

*Communicator conducts a run through where the center hikes the ball to the quarterback and the line successfully keeps out the defense and protects the quarterback.*

“But . . . sometimes the wall breaks down. Let’s see what that looks like.”

*Communicator conducts a run through where the center hikes the ball to the quarterback and the defense pushes through the line and grabs the quarterback.*

“And thankfully for our Host here, they were merciful. Now what does this have to do with the proverb we read? Well, remember, it said that a person without self-control is like a city whose walls are broken through. But we’re using another example. We would say that a person without self-control is like . . . *(get everybody set to hike again but pull all the lineman over and makes a huge hole for the defense)* . . . a wall that is broken down. What’s going to happen now?”

*Pause for response.*

“Exactly! The defense will be through that hole in a second and the quarterback is going to be in some real danger then. Let’s consider a couple scenarios.”

*For these scenarios, the Communicator will talk through them while directing the volunteers to run a play and demonstrate.*

“Maybe you’ve been really into this video game lately. All you want to do is play it all the time. The problem is that you have other things you need to do that aren’t getting done. Like this line, you are having a very hard time showing self-control *(moves the line so there is a huge hole)* and after a while *(Hike!)* you find yourself in trouble *(Defense breaks through and wraps up the quarterback)*. Maybe you didn’t finish a project on time. Or you forgot an important family responsibility. And suddenly you realize your walls have broken down and you are in trouble.”

*Reset the line.*

“Or maybe you lied to a close friend. You know you shouldn’t, but you just couldn’t hold it back. You were nervous about what he or she would do if you told the truth. Your wall of self-control broke down *(move the line so there is a huge hole)* and then you found yourself *(Hike!)* saying something you

shouldn't have said. (*Defense breaks through and wraps up the quarterback.*) Now your relationship with your friend has been impacted, and it is going to take some time to repair the damage."

"Hey, would you give our volunteers a hand?"

### APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "There are a lot of times like this . . . am I right? Times where we KNOW what we should do—we KNOW what the right choice is—but we let our walls break down and just can't control ourselves. Pretty soon we find ourselves regretting our decision. Maybe it was a video game or lying to a friend or family member. Maybe it was just the decision to eat WAY too much candy or stay up too late and now you're sick and tired."

"Just like it would be really important in the ancient world to walk around the city walls and look for weak spots, it is equally important for us to understand ourselves and where the weak spots in our walls are. In other words, where are we most likely to struggle with self-control? Is it in what we do? What we say? Is there a particular way we struggle? All month long, we are going to focus on a few different areas. Examine your walls. See where they are weak. And let's ask God to help us trust Him more."

### LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Today as you go to groups, we want to try to get a check on where we are at with this whole self-control thing. As you head to Small Group today, think about this."

### CG: Key Question Slide

**"When do you lose control?** In other words, where are the weak spots in your own wall? When you're able to identify the times you struggle with self-control, you'll be able to prepare yourself better and rely on God to help you. After all, Jesus promised us someone to help with all of this: the Holy Spirit. In times when you're finding it hard to find self-control, the first thing you should do is pray and ask God for help. How about we pray and talk to God right now? 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.