



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Five kid volunteers
- Host's phone
- Five-gallon bucket
- Tri-fold presentation board
- 100 ping-pong balls
- Ten gallon-sized zipper bags
- Permanent marker
- Large sheet of plywood (also used in Bible Story)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- High-energy music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Self-control Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
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Optional Videos (available for purchase through the 252 Media Package):

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video
- Life App Video
- Theme TransBack Video

What You Do:

- Use the permanent marker to write numbers on the ping-pong balls. Write the number 1 on 20 of the ping-pong balls, the number 2 on another 20, the number 3 on another 20, the number 4 on another 20, and the number 5 on the last 20.
- Put ten of the same-number ping-pong balls into a gallon zipper bag. You'll end up with two bags of ten #1 ping-pong balls, two bags of ten #2 ping-pong balls, and so on.
- Put the bags of ping-pong balls, the bucket, and the tri-fold presentation board on the stage where the Host can easily get them for the Opener.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table
- Two Jenga® sets
- Two trays
- 10-20 beanbags
- Large sheet of plywood

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Proverbs 25:28 Slide

What You Do:

- Place the pieces of the first Jenga set loose on one of the trays.
- Pre-assemble the second Jenga set as a tower on the other tray. Keep this backstage until you need it.

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.

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: Theme Slide

Host enters with smartphone, tablet or computer in hand.

Opener

HOST: “Welcome, everybody! I’m so glad you’re here in [your environment’s name] with us today! My name is [Host’s name], and I love hanging out with you all. We’ve got some really awesome things planned, so I know you’ll be glad you were here, too.

“Raise your hand if you’ve ever played a video game before. (*Pause for response.*) Maybe your parents let you play a game on their phone or tablet, or maybe sometimes you get to play your older brother or sister’s game system. Have you ever gone to play a game and you see that spinning wheel that says ‘updating’?”

“What do you think that means? What does it mean when your device is updating? It means you’re getting a newer, safer version. When you get an update, you’re getting the very best version.

“You know, sometimes we need to update ourselves. Sometimes we’re not the very best version of ourselves, so we need an update. That’s why we’re talking about self-control this month.

CG: Self-control Slide

“Self-control is choosing to do what you should even when you don’t want to.

“That can be tough, right? The good news is, God can help us. He can help us update the way we react. He can help us choose self-control!

“We’ll talk about that some more in a minute. But first, let’s play a game together! I need five volunteers.

Choose five kids and invite them to join you on the stage. Guide them to stand side by side about eight feet away from the tri-fold board. Set the bucket behind the board.

(To contestants) “Okay, contestants! Here’s the challenge. I’ll give each of you a number from one through five, and I’ll give each of you a bag of ping-pong balls with your number on them.

Hand out a bag of ping-pong balls to each contestant, identifying their numbers while you go (“[Kid’s name], you’ll be number one.”).

“When I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll have 30 seconds to try and throw your ping-pong balls into the bucket on the other side of the wall.

Go behind the “wall” (tri-fold board) and hold up the bucket. Then set it back down.

“The person with the most ping-pong balls in the bucket at the end wins! Ready? Go!

Set a timer on your phone for 30 seconds.

SFX: High-energy music

Cheer for the kids as they try to throw balls into the bucket. Most likely no one will get any in—but if they do, hold up the ball and show which number is on it.

“Wow, yeah, that was pretty tough, huh? Okay, let’s try that again. I’ll give each of you another bag of ping-pong balls.

Hand each contestant a new bag of ping-pong balls with their numbers on them.

“And this time, I’ll remove the wall.

Move the wall away from the bucket.

Now let’s try again and see how you do. Ready? Go!

Set a timer on your phone for 30 seconds.

SFX: High-energy music

Cheer for the kids as they try to throw balls into the bucket. If no one is getting any in, let them take a few steps forward.

“Wow! That made a huge difference. Let’s count up the ping-pong balls to see who our winner is.”

Count the ping-pong balls that made it into the bucket to determine the winner.

“ALL of you did a great job, but our winner is [winner’s name]! Way to go! Let’s give all of our volunteers a big hand.

Dismiss kids to their seats.

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

WORSHIP LEADER: *PRAY*

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! Like [Host’s name] said, this month we’re talking about self-control—choosing to do what you should even when you don’t want to.

“If that sounds like it would be hard, well, it IS! But God can help us have self-control. In fact, God thinks self-control is really important. There’s a verse in the Bible that shows us just how important it is for us to stay in control.

“This verse comes from one of the wisest people who ever lived: King Solomon. God made Solomon really wise, and then God inspired him—and others—to write down some of the wisdom God had given him. You can find this verse today in the book of Proverbs. It’s Proverbs 25:28.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 25:28 (NirV) and read.

CG: Proverbs 25:28 Slide

“A person without self-control is like a city whose walls are broken through.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

TARGET PRACTICE

STORYTELLER: “Now, why would a city need walls? Can you think of any reasons? (*Pause for responses.*) That’s right! Back then a city would need walls to protect it if an army tried to attack. Let me show you what I mean.

“[Host’s name] here has been building a pretty awesome tower. But I want to know if there are any Small Group Leaders who think they could throw some beanbags and try to knock it over. Any takers?”

Hand beanbags to any Leaders with their hands raised.

“Let’s see what happens.

Let the Leaders throw beanbags until they knock the tower down.

"Wow, [Host's name], I'm afraid your tower is toast. That was too easy!

"Let's try this again. I think we've got another tower backstage.

Host brings out the second (pre-built) Jenga tower and sets it on the table.

"This time, I need two more Small Group Leaders to help me out.

Bring up two Small Group Leaders.

(To the two Leaders) "I need you to hold this up in front of [Host's name's] Jenga tower—you know, to protect it.

Bring out the piece of plywood. Give it to the two Leaders to hold up in front of the Jenga tower.

"Now let's see if our other Leaders can knock down the tower.

Hand the beanbags back to the Leaders in the audience. Let them throw a few of them. They won't be successful because of the plywood "wall."

"Okay. That was a lot harder with that wall protecting the tower, wasn't it? In fact, it was impossible!

Let the Leaders move the plywood to show that the tower is still standing.

(To Leaders) "Thanks for your help, Leaders. Thanks, [Host's name] *(To audience)* Let's give them a round of applause."

Leaders go back to their seats. Host exits.

WORD PICTURE

Point to the intact Jenga tower.

STORYTELLER: "Why was this tower safe? Because there was a strong wall in front of it.

"That's what Solomon was talking about in the verse we read earlier. He was using a word picture to help us understand something important. You see, a city back then needed walls to protect it. We need walls around us, too.

Point to the plywood wall.

“We need walls that will protect us and the people around us. Those walls will help us stay strong instead of crumbling.

Point to the destroyed Jenga tower.

“Sometimes we say things without thinking, and our words can really hurt someone. Sometimes we get angry and we don’t react with love. And sometimes when we hurt others, they want to hurt us back. If we don’t have walls of protection, we can experience and maybe even cause a lot of hurt and pain.”

A WALL OF SELF-CONTROL

STORYTELLER: “So what kind of wall could we have to protect us? Probably not a plywood wall like this one, right?”

Point to the plywood wall.

“The kind of wall King Solomon was talking about is self-control—choosing to do what you should even when you don’t want to. When we don’t use self-control, we open ourselves up to all kinds of problems.”

“Remember what Solomon said?”

CG: Proverbs 25:28 Slide

“A person without self-control is like a city whose walls are broken through (NIRV).”

“Self-control is what keeps us from making bad decisions—like saying something mean to your brother or sister or friend. Self-control keeps us from hitting or pushing someone when we’re mad. Self-control is stopping to take a breath and calm down before you react. Self-control is the very best kind of protection. It’s like a strong wall that keeps you safe.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “So what can you do to choose self-control? Well, when you feel like doing something that might not be good for you or for another person, you can pause and think and pray. Don’t just do whatever pops into your head; ask God for help. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to help us. God can help you find a way to calm yourself down and *[Basic Truth]* make the wise choice. Some people like to listen to music to calm down. Others like to go for a walk. Some people even like to yell into their pillow to get their anger out.

“I don’t know what types of things will help you calm yourself down, but God does. Talk with Him about it, AND definitely talk to your mom or dad about this. They can help you figure out what will help you show self-control.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Remember, *[Bottom Line]* doing what you should can keep you safe.

“We need to have self-control because it’s best for us and best for everyone around us. Let’s talk to God right now and ask Him to help us have self-control.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for giving Solomon so much wisdom to share with us. It’s so good to know that You’re always with us and that You can help us have self-control. Please show us how we can stay safe by doing what we should. Help us to control ourselves and stay safe. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

CLOSER

HOST: “Walls are important. They protect us from getting hurt. Kind of like how this wall protected the tower from those bean bags . . .

Point to the plywood wall.

“. . . or like this wall blocked the ping-pong balls during our game.

Pick up the tri-fold cardboard wall from the Opener.

“Self-control is like that, too. It’s like a wall that protects you.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Doing what you should can keep you safe.

“Self-control helps you to do what you SHOULD do instead of what you FEEL like doing. You might feel angry when your mom or dad asks you to clean your room, but self-control can help you to be respectful and do what you’re asked to do instead of getting frustrated or upset.

“We all struggle to have self-control from time to time. That’s why we need an update. We need to be the very best version of ourselves, and self-control can help us do that. We need to remember that God can help us choose to have self-control. We need to trust Him and believe that He knows what’s best for us. After all, *[Basic Truth]* we can trust Him no matter what!

“Our memory verse this month is 2 Peter 1:3a.

CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life (NirV).

“Do you think you can memorize that verse if we practice it all month? I bet you can! It’s such a great reminder that God’s power can help us stay in control.

“Now it’s time for you to head back to Small Group and talk some more with your Leader and your friends about how you can choose self-control. I’ll see you later!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

CG: Theme Slide