



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Six brown paper bags
- Six plastic bags (to place inside paper bags to keep from leaking)
- Eight volunteers
- Four blindfolds
- Table
- Food combos suggestions for each bag (use simple BUT SMELLY items)
 - Pop-tarts and Vienna sausages
 - Raisin bread and raw onion
 - String cheese and sour pickle candy
 - Dr. Pepper and kombucha
 - Canned tuna and pickled halibut
 - Cookies/cream chocolate bar and goat cheese

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
- The Brown Bag Special Title Slide

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:

- Set up a table on the stage. Place two foods in each of the brown bags. The food needs to be in containers easy for the kids to access. Consider placing a small bite in a Dixie cup with a fork/spoon when applicable. Once each bag is packed, fold the top of the bag over so kids cannot see the contents inside the bag.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Bag of groceries
- Cell phone
- Preselected Small Group Leader with an untied shoe

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Social Media Slides 1-3
- Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- Prior to large group, communicator needs to preselect a Small Group Leader to untie his or her shoe during large group and sit near the stage.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Let Go
- Never Gonna Stop
- Wide Open

Secret Service

Bible Story: Secret Service (Give in Secret) • *Matthew 6:1-4*

Key Question: What would happen if you never got credit for serving?

Bottom Line: Serve others without looking for applause.

Memory Verse: “Jesus sat down and called for the 12 disciples to come to him. Then he said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone.’” *Mark 9:35, (NirV)*

Life App: Service—Lending a hand to help someone else

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*

Opener

HOST: “Generally speaking, I think we can all agree that when it comes to food, no one like surprises. No one wants to order French toast and find it loaded with habanero peppers. I, for one, would be pretty unhappy if I bit into my burger and found it loaded with mushrooms. I mean, come on, that’s a FUNGUS!”

“However, that . . . is only in ‘real life’ and does not apply to us in this room. Culinary surprises are never disappointing in *[Name of Environment]*. That’s why I thought we’d mix things up a little bit with a game I like to call THE BROWN BAG SPECIAL.”

CG: *The Brown Bag Special Title Slide*

“To play this game, I need several volunteers who have a really, really (REALLY!) good friend in the audience. And when I say ‘really,’ I really mean a really, really good friend whom you really, really trust! Anybody got a really, really good friend sitting nearby? Raise your hand if that is you AND you don’t mind helping me out for this game.”

Host selects four volunteers for the game. Those four volunteers bring their really, really good friends with them to the stage, giving you eight volunteers. Be sure to make sure there are no food allergies or intolerances before the game is played. Optional: preselect all four teams and explain how the game will work. Adjust the above script accordingly.

“I hope your taste buds are properly warmed up, friends, because today you’ll be participating in a taste-testing game! In each of these bags, there are TWO food items: one delicious, the other . . . well, not so much. I will blindfold the first volunteer I selected. Next, his or her really, really good friend whom they *really*, *REALLY* trust will pick one of the brown bags on the table without seeing what’s inside. Then the volunteers will look inside and pick one of the two foods for their blindfolded friends to taste. That’s right, your trusted friends will have the option to select a really delicious food for you to try or choose to feed you a less delicious food option. But I’m sure you have nothing to worry about . . . because you really, *really* trust these friends, right?”

“Whatever food they choose, the volunteers hand it to their blindfolded friends. The blindfolded volunteers will taste the food and guess what it is. Does everyone understand the rules? (*Pause for response.*) Then let us commence the tasting!”

SFX: High-energy game music

Brown bag special craziness starts. Volunteers will go one at a time so the audience can see the drama play out with each pair of friends. Options for food matchups could include: Pop-Tarts and Vienna Sausages; raisin bread and a raw onion; String cheese and Sour Pickle Candy; Dr. Pepper and Kombucha; Canned Tuna and Pickled Halibut; Cookies/Cream Chocolate Bar and Goat Cheese.

“WAHOO! That was awesome. Some of you folks have awesome friends, and others of you need to find new friends. Regardless, all of you have stomachs of steel and deserve a rousing round of applause. Let’s give it up for all of our volunteers! And while you’re at it, let’s welcome [*Name of Worship Leader*] to the stage.”

Host exits while Worship Leader enters.

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!

Let Go

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!

Never Gonna Stop

WORSHIP LEADER: *PRAY*

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

Communicator enters carrying a big bag of groceries. They are a little distracted and uncharacteristically full of themselves.

COMMUNICATOR: “Oh hey! Didn’t see you all there. I was just on my way to the local food pantry with all of these groceries that I’m planning to donate to families in need. (*Falsely modest*) Oh, you know how I do, I just like to get out there in my community and spread the love a little bit. And speaking of spreading the love . . .”

Communicator pulls out phone, aims up for a selfie with groceries in hand.

“There we go. Let me just fire this off to Instagram really quick . . . caption . . . *(typing)* ‘spreading . . . the . . . love . . . hashtag service . . . hashtag food bank . . . hashtag ain’t I the sweetest . . .’ and . . . post. Oh, you know, while I’m here I should document the work I’m doing at the church; my followers will definitely want to know about that!”

*Communicator turns to take a selfie with the audience.
Communicator encourages audience to smile.*

“Wow, great smiles everyone! Well, except for a couple . . . you know who you are. Let’s post that one too . . . *(typing)* ‘working in *[name of environment]* always brightens my day . . . hashtag good person . . . hashtag props to me . . . hashtag service life’ . . . and . . . post.”

*Communicator looks out into the audience for planted SGL
with untied shoes.*

“Oh, hey! Looks like your shoe is untied! Let me take care of that for you . . .”

*Communicator leaves the stage to tie shoe and has phone
handy for another selfie.*

“There ya go! Now hold still for just a second so I can snap a selfie with your shoe . . . *(take selfie)*
Wow, you could be a shoe model! Hold on a sec . . . *(typing)* ‘just tied . . . shoe for . . . less-fortunate . . . small group leader . . . hashtag s/he needs help . . . hashtag old stinky shoes . . . hashtag serving the community . . .’ and . . . posted.”

*Communicator returns to stage. False modesty is dropped,
and Communicator is back to normal self.*

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Okay, clearly I’m being ridiculous. No one on my Instagram or Facebook accounts needs to know that I just helped someone tie [his or her] shoe. But the unfortunate truth is that we live in a culture where we LOVE to get credit for the good things we do.”

“When we do something good, we tend to want people to know about it. But why? Maybe we want to feel appreciated, or maybe we just want props for the effort. But what happens if we don’t tell people? Is it still service even if no one knows about it? If you make an anonymous donation and no one ever knows that it was you . . . is it still worth it? If you anonymously clean up a mess in the hall without anyone seeing your effort, will you miss the kudos? Really think about it. If you didn’t get credit for your service, would you still serve?”

“Today we will be looking at some verses that will completely flip our natural desire to get credit for serving others . . . on its head. Let’s get to it.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Today we head to the book of Matthew where Jesus was talking to a large crowd on a mountainside near Capernaum. Historians believe Jesus spoke to the group over the course of several days where He covered subjects like anger, prayer, worry, and, of course, giving in secret. In chapter 6, (*Open Bible and read Matthew 6:1-2a*) we can read how Jesus said, “*Be careful not to do good deeds in front of other people. Don’t do those deeds to be seen by others. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you. When you give to needy people, do not announce it by having trumpets blown.*””

“Now, we realize Instagram is not the same as announcing it by blowing trumpets, but it is not all that different either. Jesus continued, (*Open Bible and read Matthew 6:2*) “*Do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They announce what they do in the synagogues and on the streets. They want to be honored by other people. What I’m about to tell you is true. They have received their complete reward.*””

“In other words, Jesus is explaining some people serve only to look good, and that will be the extent of their reward.”

“Let’s put some action to these words. I’m going to show you guys a few social media images of people giving in a very public way. Then we will give you time to brainstorm with your small groups on ways to achieve the same spirit of service without making it an opportunity to show off. But first, check out this picture.”

CG: Social Media Image 1

“Looks like we’ve got a guy loaning some cash to a friend in a tight spot. The caption says, ‘Bro needed me to spot him, who am I to say no?’ Maybe some of you have been there. Tummy starts grumbling after school, and you don’t have any cash for a snack at the snack bar. What are you to do? Well, this guy went to a friend, and it worked—definitely a nice thing to do! However, when the person loaning the money posts about it on social media . . . the good will maybe be a little less nice. So let’s take a few moments to think about how we could change this into a less public, more private experience. Everyone gather with your small groups to think of one, CREATIVE way you could secretly pass the money to your friend in need.”

Communicator allows small groups time to discuss the scenario. Encourage groups to come up ideas other than give the friend money when nobody is looking or just not posting about it online. Once groups finish, call on several groups to share their ideas.

“Great thoughts, everybody. You’re exactly right! You could drop off the cash in their yard using your drone. You could slip an envelope of money anonymously in their locker. There are tons of ways you could distribute money to your pal without letting the world know about it. How about another image?”

CG: Social Media Image 2

“Alright! We have someone cuddling up with a cat. I’m not sure that animal looks totally cool with the affection. The caption says, ‘Animal shelter serving today! Furry friends are friends, too!’ There is absolutely nothing wrong hanging out with animals at the animal shelter. However, is there a way to do serve the animals of our town without trying to get some props online? Talk this over with your small groups. What could be done at the animal shelter where you aren’t in the limelight?”

Communicator allows small groups time to discuss the scenario. Encourage groups to come up ideas other than not posting about it online. Once groups finish, call on several groups to share their ideas.

“You are all right! You could drop off chew toys and kitty litter before the shelter opens. Instead of serving in the front, you could quietly help in the back by cleaning out the crates and leave your phone with your mom. Very good. How about we look at one more image?”

CG: Social Media Image 3

“Look at all those Christmas presents. Even though it’s only been two months, anybody else missing Christmas right now? *(Pause for response.)* Me too! The caption says, ‘#TBT remembering my HUGE donation to Toddlerland back at Christmas this year. They were so STOKED when I walked in!!’ I love their willingness to help young kids. Could they have been a little more discrete about their donation? How could this person have served these kids without making [himself or herself] out to be the star of the show? Take a couple minutes to talk it over with your groups.”

Communicator allows small groups time to discuss the scenario. Encourage groups to come up with creative, out-of-the-box ideas. Once groups finish, call on several groups to share their ideas.

“Yes! Great thoughts. Dressing up in an elf costume as a disguise would be an awesome solution. Quietly passing the gifts to the teachers so their leaders can get the love from their kids would be great! There are so many great ways we can serve the community in secret; thank you all for your excellent ideas!”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Serving others is an awesome way to help someone out. When we serve others in secret, it prevents our mindset from being all about us. Being ‘all about us’ is the danger when we tell our friends about how generous we are or when we post all of our good deeds online. We can start to believe we are ALL THAT and get a little self-absorbed.”

“This is exactly what Jesus was talking about when He spoke to the crowd on the mountainside. Let’s look at what Jesus said one more time. He said, *(Open Bible and read Matthew 6:1-2)* “Be careful not to do good deeds in front of other people. Don’t do those deeds to be seen by others. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you. When you give to needy people, do not announce it by having

trumpets blown. Do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They announce what they do in the synagogues and on the streets. They want to be honored by other people. What I'm about to tell you is true. They have received their complete reward, (NirV)."

"If you make the service all about you, that little praise you get will be your ONLY reward. Jesus is being pretty clear. You should give in secret and serve WITHOUT taking the credit."

"You're probably thinking, 'If I am serving in secret, what do I get out of it?' Great thought. Jesus continued and said (*Open Bible and read Matthew 6:3-4*), "*When you give to needy people, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Then your giving will be done secretly. Your father will reward you, because he sees what you do secretly, (NirV).*" Not only will you get to see firsthand how you've helped someone else, but also Jesus says your reward will come from God! It doesn't matter if others notice because God will notice. We're not always sure what God's reward will look like, but God's reward will be so much better than what we could receive from others."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "But what would it look like or what would it feel like to not receive the props? As we wrap up in here, we want you to think about it. Try to answer this question in your head."

CG: Key Question Slide

"What would happen if you never got credit for serving? No pats on the back. No high fives. No warm thanks. What would happen? Think about it. You'll have a chance to chat with your Small Group about that in moment. Before you head to group, let's pray and ask God to help us remember that we don't need any credit for serving others. People just need help, and we can do that whether anyone finds out it us or not."

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

Worship Leaders enter during prayer. Communicator exits.

Worship #3

Wide Open

WORSHIP LEADER: "Thank you guys for being here today. You guys can head to your small groups now."

Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SFX: Play slower worship music as the kids exit.