



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- 1950s-style waiter or waitress costume for Host (this could be a full costume, or accessories like a striped apron and a paper diner hat)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun diner-style instrumental music

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Service Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Game Slides for Diner Trivia (coming later)

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:

- Game slides: Use DYM Game and host it like a boss.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Two gift cards
- Box of a dozen doughnuts
- One more doughnut on a napkin
- Dark clothes and a beanie for the Host

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- SFX: Applause
- “Mission: Impossible Theme” by Michael Giacchino

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Download slides and music.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Never Gonna Stop
- Wide Open

Secret Service

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

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: “Well, hello, everyone! It’s a great day to be here in the [your environment’s name] Diner. I’m your server, [your name], and I’m so glad you’re here today.

“This month we’re talking about service!

CG: *Service Slide*

“Service is lending a hand to help someone else.

“We’ve talked about lots of ways to serve others, and hopefully you’ve already been able to see what a difference it can make when we do.

“You are going to LOVE this week’s game. EVERYONE GETS TO PLAY!

SFX: *Fun diner-style music (instrumental)*

“This is going to be a Trivia Game about the costs of food from back in the glory days of Diners! We all get to participate... I’ll ask you which multiple choice answer you think is correct.

“Here we go...”

Play game... asking kids to respond by raising hands for the multiple choice answer they think is correct.

“Great job everyone!

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!

Never Gonna Stop

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!

Wide Open

WORSHIP LEADER: *PRAY*

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Setting up the story

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! Today I want to tell you something really important that Jesus said about service.”

Host enters.

HOST: “Hey, [Storyteller’s name]! You’re just getting started, right? Well, I was just thinking that I’m really getting the hang of this serving thing. We’ve been talking about service all month, and I just wanted to show everyone how good I am at it.

(To audience) “I’ve got a gift card to give to [Small Group Leader]—just because! Isn’t that awesome?”

Host gives the gift card to the Leader.

“And I brought some doughnuts to give to our team in the tech booth. They work so hard, and I’m sure they’re hungry.

Host gives the box of doughnuts to the tech team.

(Sighing contentedly) “Wow. I’m just really good at serving. I mean, I’m really better than I even THOUGHT I was, and I already thought I was pretty great at it. Do you think I should get a round of applause?”

SFX: *Applause*

“Yes! I thought so, too! *(To tech team)* Thanks for noticing, friends. Maybe I should get a serving trophy, too.”

STORYTELLER: “Ummmmm, [Host’s name], that was really nice of you. I mean, you DID come up with some great ways to serve. But at the same time, the WAY you serve is important, too. That’s kind of what Jesus was talking about in the verses I want to share today.”

HOST: “Oh. Okay!”

STORYTELLER: “This comes from the book of Matthew *(hold up Bible)*, from a message that Jesus shared with His followers while He was sitting on a mountainside. [Host’s name], could you read what Jesus said?”

HOST: “Of course!”

Host opens the Bible to Matthew 6:1-4 (NIRV) and reads.

“Be careful not to do good deeds in front of other people. Don’t do those deeds to be seen by others. . . . When you give to needy people, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. . . . Your Father will reward you, because he sees what you do secretly.”

STORYTELLER: “You see, we should serve others to SERVE them—not to get applause. Our goal shouldn’t be trying to get other people to see how great we are. Our goal should be to lend a hand and help!”

HOST: “Ohhhhhhhh. Wow. Yeah, I think I understand. I’m going to have to go give this some thought.”

Host exits, resolved to figure this out.

WE love to be loved

STORYTELLER: “All of us love to get applause, right? All of us love to get high-fives. All of us like it when other people notice that we did something good. It’s very normal to feel that way.

“I mean, it feels really GOOD to be recognized. It feels good to get a reward when you get something right. It feels good to know that other people think you’re a kind person.

“But that’s not the reason we serve. When we choose to serve, we’re not doing it to be noticed. We serve because we want to lend a hand to help someone else. We want to show God’s love to people by the way we treat them. We **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated** so that we can make things BETTER for them, not to get attention or applause for ourselves.

“That’s what Jesus was talking about in those verses. We shouldn’t do good things just to be seen by others. We should serve the people around us because it’s a great way to show them God’s love.”

servicing in secret

STORYTELLER: “Have you ever done something to help someone without getting any credit? Let’s say you noticed that the living room was really messy, so you cleaned it up without being asked. Now, how would you feel when your mom or dad came in and discovered that the room had been cleaned up? I bet you would be SO excited to see how happy they were—even if they never found out you were the one who did it!

“How about this one? Say you’re walking through the grocery store with your parents and you notice some trash on the floor. What if you picked it up and threw it away, without even saying anything about it? Wouldn’t it feel so good to know that you had done something to help—even if no one ever saw you do it?”

our secret mission

STORYTELLER: “We’ve all been given a ‘secret mission’ from God. He’s given us the secret mission of serving others without looking for applause. We might never get the credit, and that’s okay! But no matter what, we can choose to do something to help the people around us.

“Speaking of secret missions, what if we invited [Host’s name] back out to try serving again? Do you think he could be a little sneakier about it this time? Let’s see.

(Speaking loudly) "Oh, [Host's name], would you like to try serving again? (Beat.) I said, [Host's name], would you like to try serving again?"

SFX: "Mission: Impossible Theme" by Michael Giacchino

Host enters, wearing dark clothes and a beanie. He sneaks around and delivers a gift card to another Leader. Then he gives a doughnut to Storyteller and sneaks back offstage.

wrapping up THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Wow. That was quite a difference! I think he's got it; don't you?"

"Here's the thing about serving. God sees what we do, even if others don't. Even if it feels like no one notices the good things you do, or the good choices you make, God ALWAYS does. You can always feel good inside knowing that you're doing something to help someone else. And you can be sure that God will always be proud of you when you do.

"We should serve to help people, not to be noticed. We serve others because we know God wants us to.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "Serve others without looking for applause. Let's pray and ask God to help us with that."

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for loving us and for knowing exactly what we need. Thank You for teaching us how to serve others and for helping us to remember that we don't do it to be noticed. Help us to find secret ways to serve the people around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

Host enters as Storyteller exits. (He can still be dressed in his dark clothes since he won't have much time to change back.)

Closer

HOST: (Taking off the beanie) "Wow. I learned a lot today!"

Open the Bible to Matthew 6:1 (NIRV) and read.

"Jesus said: **"Be careful not to do good deeds in front of other people. Don't do those deeds to be seen by others."**

“He’s right—we need to be careful. If we’re NOT careful, we might end up serving others just to be noticed or to be liked. Instead, we should serve in secret. We should be happy to lend a hand, even if we don’t get the credit.

“When we serve that way, we can feel good because we know deep inside that we’ve helped someone. Jesus also said that when we serve in secret, God will reward us—because even when no one else notices, He does!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Remember to **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause.**

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

“This week, look for ways you can serve others in secret. Maybe you could help your mom by putting away the groceries while she’s in another room. Maybe you could take out the trash instead of just piling one more thing on top of the can. Maybe you could help your teacher clean up and organize the classroom supplies while she’s busy looking at everyone’s homework.

“One of the ways you can serve RIGHT HERE AT MISSION is by being a personal who is welcoming to NEW KIDS each week in your groups. Find ways that you can help your Small Group Leader every week... maybe it’s helping clean up after group time... or setting a good example by listening well during large group time.

“Also, each month, we have a chance to give to a ministry called Open Arms and we bring in food for our 3rd Sunday Charities that we support... you can bring something the 3rd Sunday of each month... that’s this weekend! Check out the tents outside and see what items you might be able to bring next month.

“Whatever you do, just know that God loves to see you serve others—even if you don’t get the applause. You can head to Small Group now and talk about more ways that you can serve in secret!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide