



## GETTING READY

### 1. Welcome/Opener

#### What You Need:

- Oversized cards with the names of random items (see below)
- 8-10 random items (to grab through the holes in the coroplast)
- Large Coroplast piece with holes cut out
- Table
- Two identical sets on food tongs
- Four red solo cups (to set the coroplast on)
- Pre-selected Small Group Leader
- Two student volunteers

#### *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:

- Depending on what you choose to include in your Operation game, you'll use those as the objects on the cards. Print oversized cards (letter size is fine) of the items that have to be extracted from the game: These can be themed items, such as; charging cords, USB memory stick, printer ink cartridge, ear buds, and Bluetooth speaker.

- Pre-select a Small Group Leader to play and as he or she plays they will be visibly frustrated throughout but not over the top.

## 2. Communicator Script

### What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Small waist-high table (same table from game)
- Buzzer
- Bell
- Alarm clock
- Pillow
- Empty box of Lucky Charms™
- Box of Raisin Bran®
- Backpack
- Chair or school desk
- Towel and spray water bottle

### Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

### Large Group Visuals:

- Temper tantrum memes (See “What You Do” Below)
  - Image #1 – The dog and the chair
  - Image #2 – Broken cheese
  - Image #3 – T-Rex
  - Image #4 – Happy birthday
  - Image #5 – New hats
  - Image #6 – The goat
  - Image #7 – Red balloon
  - Image #8 – Bacon
  - Image #9 – Pennies
  - Image #10 - Corndog
- Key Question Slide

### What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange’s permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Search “36 Reasons My Kid is Crying” in your Internet browser. Download or screen capture the following images from the images you find:
  - #1 – The dog and the chair
  - #8 – Broken cheese
  - #10 – T-Rex
  - #11 – Happy birthday
  - #12 – New hats

- #14 – The goat ate the food
- #18 – Red balloon
- #21 – Bacon
- #22 – Pennies
- #32 – Corndog
- *Note: If you don't want to show the images of the temper tantrums, you could have the Host or another volunteer act out different temper tantrums along the same lines as the images and have the kids guess what the temper tantrum is about.*
- Preset the small table on stage before the Communicator enters. Put the buzzer and the bell on top of the table.
- Collect props and have them back stage in a prop box for the Host to bring on stage during the communicator script.

**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:**

- Every Beat
- Never Gonna Stop

# Fool to Think

**Bible Story:** Fool to Think (Slow to Anger) • *Proverbs 16:32*

**Bottom Line:** Think before you lose your temper.

**Key Question:** What can you do to keep your cool?

**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! So good to see you here today. Our game today is a throwback to my childhood and maybe yours, too. How many of you remember playing the game Operation?”

*Pause for response.*

“Yes! That game was, and is, amazing. But what did that game take maybe more than any other game you played as a kid?”

*Pause for responses.*

“(Recite answers) Skill . . . a steady hand . . . patience . . . And maybe even a bit of self-control! Oh, man . . . if you entered into that game with a mindset that you were just going to do it as fast as you could . . . BEEP! You were getting the buzzer!”

“I don’t know if you’ve noticed, but since last week, we’ve had this awesome version we made of Operation. And it is about time for us to get some players up here. I need two volunteers, plus one Small Group Leader.”

*Host selects two kids as well as the pre-selected Small Group Leader.*

“Now, I know you know how the game is played, but just in case, here is how this works. On your turn, you will choose a card from my hand. On that card is a certain item that you need to extract from our game board using on these tongs. If you successfully extract the piece, it is yours to keep until the end of the game. But if you should touch the sides of the game board, you will feel 200 volts of electricity course through your body. Just kidding, it will beep . . . and the next person will have a chance to collect that same piece. The person with the most pieces at the end wins. Got it? Let’s do it!”

*Play the game until there is a winner. Throughout the game, the Small Group Leader should be visibly frustrated and having a difficult time being patient.*

“(After the game) Well that was something else! Well done, everyone. Let’s 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 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!

### ***Every Beat***

**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***

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Well, what a good-looking bunch of people we’ve got here! Good to see you all. January is already off to a great start! So, I’ve got a question for you to get us started today. Have you ever seen someone lose it? I don’t mean their keys or their wallet . . . I mean IT. His cool. Her temper.

“Have you ever seen someone just lose his or her cool and, to be honest . . . it was kind of funny to watch? You know who is the best at this? Toddlers. I don’t know if you have younger siblings or cousins, but nobody loses his or her cool like a toddler does. Check these out—these are actual snapshots from the moment a toddler was having a temper tantrum and why he or she lost his or her cool.”

*Communicator displays the images, reads the tagline, and then comments. Hilarity ensues. Show as many of these as you’d like.*

CG: Image – The dog and the chair

CG: Image – Broken cheese

CG: Image – T-Rex

CG: Image – Happy birthday

CG: Image – New hats

CG: Image – The goat

CG: Image – Red balloon

CG: Image – Bacon

CG: Image – Pennies

CG: Image – Corndog

“Those are amazing! Now, before we get too far, I’m sure we could have a good laugh at some of the temper tantrum stories from the people in this room alone. The truth is that we’ve all done it, right? Just some of us maybe a little more . . . let’s say . . . DRAMATIC than others!”

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “And normally, these temper tantrums make people look downright silly! So why DO this? Why do we lose our cool? Flip our lid? Fly off the handle? Why do we lose our tempers? And . . . maybe the more important question: why does it matter that we learn to keep our cool? These are important questions, and we’re going to track down the answer together. And the best place to look when we have important questions is the Bible. Let’s take a look now!”

### TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Last week we started off in a book of the Bible that has a bunch of wise sayings. Anyone remember the name of the book?”

*Pause for responses.*

“That’s right, Proverbs. Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings mostly written by a king named

Solomon. He learned these after receiving wisdom from God. The Book of Proverbs is a compilation of words to live by. And all month long, we've been discovering what wisdom Proverbs can offer as we explore this idea of self-control."

"Check out **Proverbs 16:32**. (Read directly from Proverbs 16:32 NIV) **'It is better to be patient than to fight. It is better to control your temper than to take a city.'** That about clears it up, right? Okay, we'll get into it. I promise."

"As I was planning this week, I was thinking this about all the times during the day that I am tempted to lose my temper—times where I have a hard time being patient. I mean unexpected things that go wrong almost every day. But then I got to thinking . . . my life is a little different than yours. What about your life? Where might YOU be tempted to lose your cool? Instead of just talking about it . . . let's take a look."

*Host enters.*

**HOST:** "Sup."

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Wow . . . you're looking . . . cool?"

**HOST:** "Cool? Ha! I look dope!"

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Okay, then. Well, I want you to imagine that [*Host's name*] is your typical 5<sup>th</sup> grader. We are going to watch him tackle a few everyday scenarios. When he starts to lose his cool, we're going to hit the buzzer . . ."

*Communicator hits the buzzer.*

"And when the response shows self-control, we're going to hit the bell."

*Communicator hits the bell.*

"Seems pretty straight forward, right?"

**HOST:** "Correct-a-mongo."

**COMMUNICATOR:** "No kid says 'Correct-a-mongo.'"

**HOST:** "Whatevs."

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Alright, let's do this. So, it is a typical school day for [*Host's name*], and he is soundly sleeping."

*Host lies on the stage with a pillow.*



**COMMUNICATOR:** “When all of the sudden, his restful peace is broken by . . . *(putting alarm clock next to HOST and then making an alarm sound with mouth)* BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!”

**HOST:** “*(Startled in a rage)* YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME! HOW CAN IT BE THE MORNING! I’M GOING TO BREAK YOU INTO A THOUSAND . . .”

*Communicator hits the buzzer and Host immediately lies back down on pillow. The Communicator pauses and then beeps the alarm again.*

**HOST:** “*(Rise gently with a stretch and a yawn)* Another beautiful day to be alive, and my alarm clock is making sure I don’t miss a second of it. Thank you, alarm clock. *(Look into the distance)* The birds are already up and singing . . . and so now I *(stand up dramatically)* will arise and sing my song as well . . . my LIFE song.”

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Okay that was a bit of a stretch but . . .”

*Communicator hits the bell.*

*[Host’s name]* quickly got ready and then went down to the kitchen to grab some breakfast.”

*Host acts out quickly getting ready and then walking downstairs.*

*[Host’s name]* then reached for his favorite breakfast cereal . . .”

**HOST:** “Nothing like starting a day with a big, heaping bowl of Lucky Charms™. They are the bomb dot com!”

*Grabs the box and shakes it . . . realizing it is empty.*

**HOST:** “*(Start to rage)* Empty?! Empty?! WHO FINISHED THE LUCKY CHARMS! HOW CAN I START A DAY WITHOUT MY LUCKY CHARMS? DON’T YOU KNOW THEY’RE MAGICALLY DELICIOUS!”

*Host begins stomping on the empty box and throwing a tantrum. Communicator hits the buzzer and the Host immediately puts the smashed box back and restarts the scene.*

**HOST:** “Nothing like starting a day with a big heaping bowl of Lucky Charms. They are the bomb dot com! *(Realize the box of Lucky Charms is empty)*. Oh man, the Lucky Charms are gone. Who finished them and put the empty box on the shelf? *(beat)* Oh, that was me. Well, *(through a painful grin)* I guess I’ll have *(reach for box)* Raisin Bran®. Yummy. They do have two scoops of raisins in every box. So . . . I’ve got that going for me. *(Taking a bite)* Mmmm . . . fiber!”

*Communicator rings the bell.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** “[*Host’s name*] cleaned up his dishes, glanced at the clock in the kitchen, grabbed his backpack, and headed out the door to the bus stop. What [*Host’s name*] didn’t realize is that the kitchen clock was slow . . . and the bus drove right on by. (*Host’s eyes move from left to right as if watching the bus pass*).”

**HOST:** “I missed the bus?! I missed the bus?! I’M SO ANGRY ABOUT MISSING THE BUS THAT I COULD JUST..... JUST.... AHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!

*Host throws backpack to the ground and stomps on it a few times.*

*Communicator pushes the buzzer. The scene resets.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** “What [*Host’s name*] didn’t realize is that the kitchen clock is slow . . . and the bus drove right on by.”

**HOST:** “(*Eyes move from left to right as if watching the bus pass*). Well, there goes my educational transportation service. Kudos to the bus driver for always keeping to a tight schedule and being a good steward of his route and vessel. And now I am grateful for an opportunity to get a little exercise and fresh air with a brisk thirteen-mile walk to school!”

*Communicator rings the bell.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Later that morning, [*Host’s name*] was sitting in science class where he heard those dreaded words that every procrastinating student feared: ‘Please take out your science project and be prepared to share with the class.’”

**HOST:** “Science project?! That was due . . . TODAY. TODAY!? BUT . . . YOU NEVER TOLD US! I GUESS YOU BETTER MARK ME DOWN FOR TURNING IN A VOLCANO . . . BECAUSE I AM A VOLCANO OF RAGE AND I AM ABOUT TO EXPLODE!!!!!!!!!!”

*Communicator pushes the buzzer. The scene resets. The Host sits in a chair like a desk facing the audience.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** “‘Please take out your science project and be prepared to share with the class.’”

**HOST:** “Science project?! That’s due today? This is a perfect example of why a planner would be a helpful accessory for my scholastic life. I will use this as an opportunity to grow as a student . . . and as a person.”

*Communicator rings the bell.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** “In our final scene, [*Host’s name*] is headed to his basketball game (*Host sits on a*

*chair with a towel over his shoulder, holding a water bottle*), where he just learned that he has been benched and another teammate has taken his starting spot.”

**HOST:** “You’re benching me?! You’re benching me?! Well COACH . . . I’M BENCHING YOU! THAT’S RIGHT . . . LOOK AT ME. LOOK AT ME . . . I’M THE COACH NOW. I’M SO MAD . . . I’M RAGE HYDRATING!”

*Host dramatically sprays the entire water bottle into his own mouth. Water gushes everywhere. Communicator pushes the buzzer and the scene resets. Host towels off and sits back down calmly.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** “[*Host’s name*] just learned that he has been benched and another teammate has taken his starting spot.”

**HOST:** “You’re benching me? You’re . . . benching me? (*beat*) Well it’s about time. Johnny has clearly been the better player in practice, and it is a shame for him not to get a shot just because you feel sentimental about my role on this team. Bravo for a tough coaching decision. That takes moxie. Bravo!”

*Host stands up and claps. Communicator rings the bell.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey would you all give [*Host’s name*] a hand for his incredible roleplaying of a 5<sup>th</sup> grader!”

**HOST:** “(*While exiting*) Peace out!”

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Okay, while some of those responses may have been a little dramatic, you hopefully got the gist. Every single day, we are faced with moment after moment where our self-control is tested and our temper has the opportunity to get away from us. Why do we lose our tempers? Sometimes it is because we have to wait . . . and we don’t want to wait. We’d rather explode like a volcano.”

“But check out the first part of that proverb again. (*Read directly from Proverbs 16:32a NIV*) **‘It is better to be patient than to fight.’**”

“It takes a lot of patience to calm down when we get fired up. But there is great value in learning how to control our temper.”

“Check out the second part of the proverb. (*Read directly from Proverbs 16:32b NIV*) *‘It is better to control your temper than to take a city.’* Now that may be a bit confusing, but it is pretty cool if you catch what Solomon is saying. As much power as it would take to conquer an entire city in the ancient world and take it over . . . it’s even MORE impressive to be a person that can conquer your temper and take it over!”

## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “So, maybe some of our ‘day in the life’ scenarios were true for you. But what are some other areas that you have to work really hard not to lose your cool? Think about what happens throughout your day—from the time you get up to the time you go to bed. Where are your frustrations? Where do things go wrong and you are tempted to explode? And what would it look like to pause before you react and conquer your own temper? A lot of times, all it takes is taking a moment to stop, think, and pray. Having self-control can be hard, but God can help!”

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** “So as you go to small group today, think about this question:

### **CG: Key Question Slide**

**“What can you do to keep your cool?”** Taking time to stop, think, and pray will look different for each one of you, depending on what happens throughout the day. In Small Group, you’ll have a chance to talk about this and figure out a plan to keep your cool when the pressure’s on. But before we head there, let’s take a moment to stop and pray. Let’s thank God for giving us Jesus and sending the Holy Spirit to help us. Let’s pray.”

*Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.*