



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Blindfolds

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
- Game Slide Word #1 – Monitor (Don't say Screen, Computer, Display, View)
- Game Slide Word #2 – Wifi (Internet, Surf, Connect, Signal)
- Game Slide Word #3 – Virus (Sick, Damage, Computer, Hack)
- Game Slide Word #4 – Keyboard (Type/Write, Computer, Buttons, Keys)
- Game Slide Tiebreaker Word #5 – Megabyte (Memory, Data, Information, Store/Storage)

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

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video

What You Do:

- Game slides: This game works very similarly to the board game "Taboo." Partners will use their words to help each other guess the correct word, but they cannot say the words that are listed on the screen. Have blindfolds available to prevent the people guessing from seeing the words.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Cookies
- Sword
- Large Band-Aid®

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Altered Images 1a-3b
- Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- Collect props and have them backstage, ready for the communicator to bring on stage.

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:

- This is Living
- Alive Again

What Would You Say?

Bible Story: What Would You Say? (Choose Your Words Carefully) • Proverbs 12:18

Bottom Line: Choose your words carefully.

Key Question: Why are your words so important?

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

HOST: “What’s going on, my people! We have such a great day in store for you. And that day starts with . . . an amazing game. I need four contestants!”

Host chooses two teams of two.

“Okay, you two will be partners, and you two will be partners. Here’s how you play the game. All month we have been talking tech—computers, phones, motherboards, data—you get it. We have a whole vocabulary just to talk about our tech, and today, we test how much of that vocabulary you know. In just a moment, one of the partners will be blindfolded. On the screen, a tech word will appear. Your job, (partner #1) is to get your partner to say that word by giving them clues to guess what it is. Here’s the trick, though. You will have to choose your words carefully because on the screen will also be a list of several words you may NOT say. And if you should accidentally say one of them, the entire room will make a buzzer sound to let you know. *(To the audience)* Let’s hear your buzzer sound!”

Audience makes a buzzer noise.

“Well done! Alright, let’s get started. You will have one minute to try to get your partner to guess the word. Be sure you don’t say any part of the word or any words on the list. Here we go!”

Host blindfolds the first contestant and displays the slide on the screen. The partner begins sharing clues when instructed. After a minute, the other team goes. Then back to the first team but the other partner is blindfolded. Finally, the second team goes again. Declare a winner if there is one.

CG: Game Slide Word #1 – Monitor (Don’t say Screen, Computer, Display, View)

CG: Game Slide Word #2 – Wifi (Internet, Surf, Connect, Signal)

CG: Game Slide Word #3 – Virus (Sick, Damage, Computer, Hack)

CG: Game Slide Word #4 – Keyboard (Type/Write, Computer, Buttons, Keys)

CG: Game Slide Tiebreaker Word #5 – Megabyte (Memory, Data, Information, Store/Storage)

If Tiebreaker is needed:

HOST: “For our tiebreaker, both teams will go at the same time. One from each team will be blindfolded. Both partners will talk at the same time. Listen to whomever you want. It will be chaos. But the first team that gets the answer right wins.”

“(After the game) That was tricky! Very well done, friends!

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!

This is Living

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!

Alive Again

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

Introduction

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everyone! Glad to see you all here today. (*Hold up cookies*) Anybody else here like to bake? There is nothing like fresh-baked cookies out the oven! So I was following this recipe to make these cookies. A cup of butter, a cup of sugar . . . oh, let me just show you.”

CG: Altered Image 1a

“But when I got to the end of the recipe, this is the way I read it instead.”

CG: Altered Image 1b

“Anybody see the difference? Yeah, instead of chocolate chips, I used potato chips. Chocolate . . . potato . . . not a big deal, right? (*Pause for reaction*) Yeah, it’s a big deal! Who wants to dip a piping hot potato chip cookie into milk?!”

Sets cookies aside.

“Or what about driving. Now, I know you don’t drive yet, but my guess is you are pretty familiar with street signs. What does this mean?”

CG: Altered Image 2a

“Yeah, that one is pretty easy. It means STOP. When you see the red octagon, you are supposed to stop. But what if you drove up to the red octagon at an intersection and it looked like this?”

CG: Altered Image 2b

“Would this matter that much? Of course it would matter! You’d have all sorts of crashes and vehicles just dangerously flying through the intersection.”

“Okay, I have one more for you. Have you ever had to assemble something while using the instruction manual? Maybe a toy, or maybe you helped put together a bookshelf? Check out these instructions for building a bookshelf.”

CG: Altered Image 3a

“Check out step 3. ‘Nail the plywood shelves to the side panels at equal spacing.’ What if it said this instead?”

CG: Altered Image 3b

“Any problems there? Can you image what happens when you set books on the shelves? I don’t think that tape will hold for long!”

“In all of these scenarios, what do you notice?”

Pause for responses.

“The instructions included the wrong words. And those words would come with some pretty bad consequences. In short, words matter. Chocolate vs. potato. Stop vs. go. Nail vs. tape. The outcome of each of these dramatically changed because a word was changed. That is because the words we use have power.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “With that in mind, think about this. If words have power, why do we sometimes use words without thinking about what they might do? Along with that, do our words only have negative consequences if they’re bad words or mean words? Or is there more that we need to talk about? The average person uses about 12,000 words every day. Maybe we should think about how we can make sure those words are doing something positive.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “To help us figure that out, let’s get back into Proverbs. If you’ve been hanging out with us the last couple weeks, you’ll remember that Proverbs is a book in the Old Testament of the Bible that is full of wise sayings that king Solomon learned because of the wisdom God gave him. These proverbs have a lot to say about life, and this month we’ve been talking about self-control in a lot of

areas of our lives. And one of these areas that the Proverbs can share wisdom with us is in the way that we speak—how we use our words.”

“Check out Proverbs 12:18. *(Read directly from Proverbs 12:18 NIRV)* **‘The words of thoughtless people cut like swords. But the tongue of wise people brings healing.’**”

“That’s good, right? Here we have a contrast. Anybody know what it means to have a contrast?”

Pause for responses.

“Exactly. A contrast is where two opposites are compared. This thing is not like this thing, and here is why. For example, oranges are not like apples . . . because, among other things, one has seeds throughout it and one has its seeds in the core. Proverbs are full of contrasts, and this one is about our words. So we have the words of a thoughtless person versus the words of a wise person. It said that the words of a thoughtless person were like what?”

Pause for responses. Communicator takes out a sword.

“That’s right—a sword. *(Hold up the sword.)* Now what do we know about swords? What is their purpose? *(Pause for responses)* They destroy. They cut. They damage. *(Pause)* Have you ever heard words used like that? Have YOU ever used words like that? To destroy . . . to cut . . . to damage? Don’t answer that. But, yeah, the wrong words can really hurt others.”

“But then, we read about the words of wise people. And what do the words of wise people do?”

Pause for responses. Communicator takes out a large Band-Aid®.

“‘*The tongue of wise people brings healing.*’ Swords and Band-Aids, two very different things that serve very different purposes. And our words can be like one *(Hold up Band-Aid.)* or the other *(Hold up sword.)*.”

“Let’s see how this might work in real life.

“I’ll read a scenario that might happen to you, and then I’ll ask you to TURN AND TALK to your small groups. As a group, consider how you might respond in that scenario like a sword. What might you say that would cause damage to the situation? Then flip the script and consider what it would look like to be a wise person that uses your words like a Band-Aid. What might you say that would bring healing? Then you’ll share some of your responses.”

“First scenario. You have a friend, and this friend always . . . I mean ALWAYS gets A’s. It’s actually pretty annoying sometimes. One day you are between classes and your friend is walking your way. Her eyes are red as if she’s been crying, and she is starting to hyperventilate a bit. Clearly something is wrong. As you investigate, your friend begins gushing, ‘I got a B+. Wahhhhh!!!!!’”

“TURN AND TALK. What would be a SWORD response? What could you say that would cause more damage? Then what would be the BAND-AID response? How could you bring healing?”

Turn and talk. Have several groups share before moving on to the next scenario.

“Great responses! Let’s do another. You are at home, and your brother or sister walks up holding the many pieces of what used to be your smart device. He was playing with it when he wasn’t supposed to, and he accidentally dropped it . . . off the deck. SMASH!”

“TURN AND TALK. What would be a SWORD response? What could you say that would cause more damage? Then what would be the BAND-AID response? How could you bring healing?”

Turn and talk. Have several groups share before moving on to the next scenario.

“Alright, let’s do one more. It’s the final minute of your soccer game. Your team is down one goal, but you are driving up the field. You pass it to your teammate, who has a habit of being a bit of a ball hog. He or she dribbles past one defender but then is attacked by two other players. You are wide open by the goal, but he or she tries and be the hero. The ball gets stolen and the buzzer sounds. Game over.”

“TURN AND TALK. What would be a SWORD response? What could you say that would cause more damage? Then what would be the BAND-AID response? How could you bring healing?”

Turn and talk. Have several groups share.

“Great responses, everyone! But can I be honest with you for a second? The hardest part is not brainstorming responses. The hardest part is actually doing it and responding with a Band-Aid when all you want to do is start swinging a sword.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Remember, your words have power, the power to destroy or the power to heal. But sometimes it is not just the actual words. Maybe it is the WAY you say it. You can say, ‘I’m so sorry that happened’ (*sincerely*) or ‘I’m SO sorry that happened’ (*sarcastic*). Or maybe it is your motivation. The person who did something wrong and wants to be forgiven might say, ‘I’m sorry that I offended you’ (*sincerely*), but he or she might also say, ‘I’m sorry that YOU were offended’ (*snarky*) as if it is your fault for being so easily offended!”

“You get it—the actual words matter, but so do our motivation and our tone. We need to use them all together to build and heal, not to tear down and destroy. Words are gift from God; now let’s use them to bless other people!

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “We’ve talked a ton about the importance of words this morning. But as you go to small group today, I want you to think about this on a personal level.

CG: Key Question Slide

“Why are *your* words so important? Why do your words matter to your friends and family, your teachers and coaches? You’ll have a chance to talk more about this in small group, but let me just say this: if you’re having trouble using the right words, there’s Someone Who can help. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us have self-control. Whenever you’re not sure what to say or if you should say something, ask God to help you! In fact, why don’t we do that 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.