



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

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#### What You Need:

- Host
- Three pre-selected Small Group Leaders
- Table
- Three cups of hot chocolate (these don't actually need to be hot; warm is fine)
- Tray
- Ice cube tray (with ice cubes)
- Three drink stirrers
- Three small containers of cold milk (like school-sized cartons)
- Three small bags with 2 jumbo marshmallows in each
- "Hot Chocolate Champ" hat (see "What You Do")

#### **Music and Sound Effects (SFX):**

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- "Hot Chocolate" from *The Polar Express*

#### **Large Group Visuals:**

- Theme Slide
- Self-control Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse 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:**

- Select the three Leaders ahead of time, and talk to them about the game so they know what to expect.
- Set up the table on stage.
- Prepare the hot and cold items so they're ready right as Large Group starts.
- Write a sign that says "Hot Chocolate Champ" and put it over a regular baseball cap.

## **2. Bible Story**

### **What You Need:**

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Prop box
- Batteries
- Gymnastic leotard
- TV remote

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Proverbs 16:32 Slide

### **What You Do:**

- Put the props in the prop box.

## **3. Worship**

### **What You Need:**

- Every Beat
- Unshakeable Love

# Fool to Think

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

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

**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 need to make the wise choice.

## **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:** “Hey, everybody! I’m so glad you’re here today. Last week we talked about how all of the technology around us has to update from time to time. That’s true for computers, tablets, phones, and video games. When we get an update, it means we’re getting a newer, safer, and better version.

“Updates aren’t just for technology, though. You and I need updating, too. We need to update our operating systems to make sure our responses and reactions are wise. We need to update the way we react—with self-control!

**CG:** *Self-control Slide*

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

“I mean, what if your sister took something that belonged to you, so you said something mean that hurt her feelings? That wouldn’t be good! What if your mom or dad asked you to set the table, but you got frustrated because you really wanted to finish your TV show? Those are the moments when we need to remember to choose self-control. We need to update our operating system because we want to be the very best version of ourselves.

“In fact, I’ve got a really fun game for us today that’s all about self-control. I need three Small Group Leaders who want to be part of a hot chocolate drinking contest!

**SFX:** *“Hot Chocolate” from The Polar Express*

*Bring up the three Small Group Leaders you spoke to in advance. Have them stand behind the table.*

“Here’s how this works. Each of these three awesome Leaders will get a cup of hot chocolate. We’ll see who can finish their hot chocolate first, and that person will be declared the Hot Chocolate Champ!

*Give a large cup of hot chocolate to each contestant.*

“Now, obviously, hot chocolate can be VERY hot. You would never want to try to drink something that’s really hot. It would definitely burn your mouth. You usually have to use some self-control to wait until your hot chocolate is cooled down enough to drink. Luckily, this is more like ‘warm chocolate,’ but I still think we should cool it off, just in case. I’ve got some things that might help.

*Pick up the tray of hot chocolate cooling supplies.*

“First, I’ve got an ice cube here for each of you.

*Give each contestant an ice cube (from the tray) and a stirring stick.*

“That should help. Now check it with your finger. Still too hot? Oh, man! It’s so hard to wait for this yummy goodness to cool down so you can drink it! Deep breath . . . okay, no problem. I’ve got some ice-cold milk for each of you.

*Give each contestant a small cup of cold milk.*

“Just pour some of that ice-cold milk into your hot chocolate and stir it around. How about now? Is your hot chocolate cool enough to drink yet? It is? Great! Okay, let’s count down to start this contest. When we say ‘Three, two, one, go!’ you’ll drink your hot—I mean warm—chocolate as fast as you can! The first person to finish and put their cup down is the Hot Chocolate Champ!

“BUT WAIT!!!! Hot chocolate wouldn’t be hot chocolate without the ultimate topping... two jumbo marshmallows!

*Give each contestant bag with two jumbo marshmallows.*

“YOU MUST FINISH ALL OF IT!!! Audience, let’s cheer them on. Three, two, one, go!

**SFX: Bring up music**

*Contestants guzzle down the hot chocolate.*

“Wow! That was incredible! It looks like we have a winner!

*Give the winner the hat that says “Hot Chocolate Champ.”*

“Let’s give all our contestants a round of applause.

*Dismiss contestants 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!

### ***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!"

### ***Unshakable Love***

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *PRAY*

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### ***CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide***

## SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, everyone! We’ve got another great verse from the book of Proverbs to look at today. (*Hold up Bible.*) The book of Proverbs is full of wisdom that mostly came from King Solomon, one the wisest people who ever lived. King Solomon was inspired by God to share these important ideas that can be so helpful for us today.

“Like this one from Proverbs 16:32.

**CG: Proverbs 16:32 Slide**

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

**CG: Proverbs 25:28 Slide**

***“It is better to be patient than to fight. It is better to control your temper than to take a city.***

“That’s some pretty good wisdom right there. It’s definitely better to be patient than to fight. I don’t think I’ve ever tried to take over a city, but I know that it’s always better to have self-control than it is to get mad and do something I might regret.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

## THE BIG BLOW-UP

**STORYTELLER:** “Have you ever woken up in a great mood—ready to make great choices and have a great day—but then something unexpected happens? It throws you off, and you lose your temper. Raise your hand if that’s ever happened to you. (*Pause for response.*)

*Hold up the batteries.*

“Maybe you wanted to play with one of your favorite toys, but the switch had been left on and the batteries were dead. You checked and found out you didn’t have any extra batteries in the house. You got so angry that you threw your toy across the room!

*Hold up the gymnastics leotard.*

“Or maybe you were at gymnastics practice and you got distracted by some other girls on your team and made a mistake in your routine. You lost your temper and said some mean things that you wish you hadn’t said.

*Hold up the TV remote.*

“Or maybe you were looking forward to a lazy Saturday morning, watching TV in your pajamas. But then your mom or dad walked in and told you to get dressed and go outside for a family workday in the

yard. You got so mad that you stomped around the house and the yard, being rude to everyone.”

### **THE AFTERMATH**

**STORYTELLER:** “Maybe one of those things has happened to you. Or maybe you can think of some other times when you got really angry about something. When we think things will go one way and then something changes the plan, it can be really frustrating. If we’re not careful, we’ll lose our temper, and that can cost us big time.

*Hold up the batteries.*

“Remember the toy with the dead batteries? If you threw that toy across the room, what do you think might happen to it? Right. It might break, and then you wouldn’t have it to play with at all.

*Hold up the gymnastics leotard.*

“What if you said those mean things at gymnastics practice? Well, if you lose your temper like that, your coach might tell you that you have to sit out of practice and watch everyone else have fun.

*Hold up the TV remote.*

“And what about family workday in the yard? If your parents see you stomping around and having a bad attitude, you’d probably have a consequence. You might not be able to watch TV for a week!”

### **STOP and THINK**

**STORYTELLER:** “We’ve all been frustrated. We’ve all lost our temper. And we’ve all had to face the consequences of our actions when we’ve lost control. So how can we fix it? How can we update our operating system to keep that from happening again?”

“Let me tell you: self-control! Remember, self-control is choosing to do what you should even when you don’t want to. And I’ve got a great way for us to remember how to do that. Say this with me: ‘Stop, think, and pray!’”

**KIDS and STORYTELLER:** “Stop, think, and pray!”

**STORYTELLER:** “When you say, ‘Stop,’ put both hands out in front of you, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Then, when you say, ‘Think,’ use both hands to point to your head. Finally, when you say, ‘Pray,’ fold your hands together in front of you. Got it? Let’s try it.”

**KIDS and STORYTELLER:** “Stop, think, and pray!”

**STORYTELLER:** “Good! So when you feel really angry because the batteries died in your favorite toy . . .”

**KIDS and STORYTELLER:** “Stop, think, and pray!”

**STORYTELLER:** “When you feel embarrassed because you got distracted and made a mistake at gymnastics . . .”

**KIDS and STORYTELLER:** “Stop, think, and pray!”

**STORYTELLER:** “When you feel irritated because your parents want you to help them with something when you have other plans . . .”

**KIDS and STORYTELLER:** “Stop, think, and pray!”

**STORYTELLER:** “That’s right! If we want to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**, we’ve got to stop, think, and pray first. If we do that, we can give ourselves a chance to calm down and stay in control.”

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Unfortunately, this is a lesson that a lot of people have to learn the hard way. They only understand after they’ve lost their temper way too many times, and they have to face the consequences. But you don’t have to learn it the hard way! You just need to stop, think, and pray before you do something you might regret.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “Think before you lose your temper.

“That’s what Solomon was saying in the verse we looked at earlier. We need to stop and think so we can control our temper. And we need God’s help to do that, don’t we? That’s why we pray! Let’s do that right now and ask God to help us.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### **Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, we know You want us to have self-control, but it can be really hard when we start to feel angry or frustrated. Please help us to remember to stop and think before we lose our temper. Thank You for promising to always be with us and to help us do what we can’t do on our own. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

### **CLOSER**

**HOST:** “I think all of us have lost our temper from time to time. When something happens that makes us mad, we forget to be patient. If we’re not careful, we can let those angry feelings take over. We can lose control.

“But it doesn’t have to be that way. There’s a BETTER way. God wants us to stay safe. He wants us to choose self-control. The next time you feel that anger rising up inside you I want you to do this.



**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “Think before you lose your temper.**

“Remember, other people can see the way we act. When we choose self-control, they notice!

“How do we do that? How can we choose self-control when we feel things getting out of control? Well, we can stop, think, and pray. We can get control BEFORE we say or do something we’ll regret. We can take a second to think about what the consequences of our actions might be. And we can pray and ask God to help us to think before we lose our temper. God loves us very much, and He wants the very best for us!

“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 (NlrV).**

“With God’s help, you can have self-control. You can *[Bottom Line]* think before you lose your temper, and so can I! You’ll get to talk about that some more back in Small Group. Have fun!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

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

**CG: Theme Slide**