



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

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#### What You Need:

- Host
- Host's phone
- Three kid contestants
- Table
- Three clear plastic jars with an opening that's not as wide as the jar (like this: <http://bit.ly/2O98TbA>)
- Enough ping-pong balls to almost fill each of the three jars
- Three bowls

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

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

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

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

#### What You Do:

- Set up the table so the volunteers can stand behind it for the game.
- Pre-set the jars of gumballs and the bowls on the table.

## **2. Bible Story**

### **What You Need:**

- Storyteller
- Bible

### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Proverbs 25:16 Slide
- Bible Story Images #1-4

### **What You Do:**

- N/A

## **3. Worship**

### **What You Need:**

- Alive
- Never Gonna Stop

# Too Much

**Bible Story:** Too Much (Too Much of a Good Thing) • *Proverbs 25:16*

**Bottom Line:** Know when to stop.

**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! It’s so great to see all of you today. We’ve had a fun month talking about how we can update our operating system with self-control.

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

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

“When things don’t go our way and we get frustrated, we need to update the way we react. We need to ask God to help us choose self-control so we can be the very best version of ourselves.

“I’ve got a fun game to help us practice some self-control. Are you ready for a game? (*Pause for response.*) Okay, let’s do it! I’ll need three volunteers. Who wants to play?

*Choose three kids who have their hands raised. Bring them on stage, behind the table.*

(*To contestants*) “On the table in front of you, each of you has a large jar of ping-pong balls and a bowl. In just a minute, we’ll set the countdown clock for 30 seconds. You’ll reach in with your hand and grab as many ping-pong balls as you can and put them into the bowl. You can reach into the jar as many times as you want, but the person who has the MOST ping-pong balls in their bowl at the end of 30 seconds wins. Are you ready? Okay! Let’s put 30 seconds on the countdown clock . . . and GO!

*Set a timer on your phone for 30 seconds.*

**SFX: High-energy music**

*Comment on the action. Lead the audience in cheering for the contestants.*

“Way to go, contestants! You did great! Which technique seemed to work best for you? Did you grab handfuls or one at a time? *(Pause for response.)* Interesting! You all can have a seat.

*Dismiss the contestants to their seats.*

“It’s funny how that game worked, isn’t it? If you tried to grab TOO many at a time, then you couldn’t even get your hand out of the jar. But if you grabbed just enough, you were a lot more successful. That’s kind of like what [Storyteller’s name] will be talking about today.

“But before that, it’s time for us to sing to God together! Go ahead and stand up and get your voices ready.”

### **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!

**Alive**

**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**

**SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, everyone! That was some really great singing. I know God loves hearing all of you sing songs to Him!

“We’ve been talking all month about some really wise sayings from King Solomon in the book of Proverbs. (*Hold up Bible.*) Solomon talked a lot about why self-control is so important.

“Did you know that God appeared to Solomon shortly after he became king and told him to ask for anything he wanted? Can you imagine what THAT must have been like? Most people in that situation would ask to be rich or famous, but that’s not what Solomon asked for. He asked for wisdom. God had made him king over a huge nation of people, and Solomon wanted to be wise in the way he ruled over them. Sure enough, God gave Solomon the wisdom he asked for. Pretty cool, huh?

“The verse we’re looking at today is definitely full of the wisdom that God gave Solomon. You might be surprised that even though this verse is absolutely true, it’s also absolutely funny! Look at this. It’s Proverbs 25:16.  
*Open the Bible to Proverbs 25:16 (NirV) and read.*

**CG: Proverbs 25:16 Slide**

**“If you find honey, eat just enough. If you eat too much of it, you will throw up.”**

“Whoa! Let me read that again.

**“If you find honey, eat just enough. If you eat too much of it, you will throw up.”**

“Now, let me ask you something. Do you think Solomon was only talking about honey? (*Pause for response.*) No. He was talking about ANY good thing God has given us. We can enjoy it just enough. But we also need to **[Bottom Line] know when to stop.**”

## MEET JOE

**STORYTELLER:** “Let me introduce you to someone. This is Joe.

**CG: Bible Story Image #1: Joe**

“Joe’s a pretty regular kid. He’s eight years old, and he’s a lot like most of you here today. Joe likes playing with LEGOs® and video games. He likes reading books and eating ice cream and gummy worms. For the most part, Joe really tries to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.**

**CG: Bible Story Image #2: Gummy worms**

“For example, sometimes when Joe goes to the movies, his Dad buys him that really HUGE bag of gummy worms. He knows not to eat too many, so he saves some for later.

**CG: Bible Story Image #3: Video game controller**

“When Joe wakes up on Saturday morning, the first thing he wants to do is play video games. But Joe knows it’s not good to sit in front of a screen all day, so after an hour or so, he puts his game system away and goes outside to play.

**CG: Bible Story Image #4: LEGO set**

“When Joe’s grandparents take him shopping in the toy aisle at the superstore, and they tell him he can get anything he wants, Joe usually just picks out one small LEGO set. Of course there are TONS of awesome toys there, but he knows he can be happy playing with one thing.”

## WANTING MORE

**STORYTELLER:** “Would you be able to do that, too? Would you be able to do what Joe did—to NOT eat the whole bag of gummy worms, to choose to put away the video games after a while, or to only choose one LEGO set without wishing you had every toy on the toy aisle? That’s really tough, right?”

“Joe did a good job of showing self-control. But let’s be honest. Sometimes that’s really hard to do.

“Joe really has to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** when he’s tempted to have MORE.

**CG: Bible Story Image #2: Gummy worms**

“Why? Well, because gummy worms taste really great.

**CG: Bible Story Image #3: Video game controller**

“Playing video games is really fun.

**CG: Bible Story Image #4: Lego set**

“And it’s exciting to get one new toy, so wouldn’t it be even MORE exciting to get two or three?”

“It’s hard to say no to something we really want, but saying yes could be much worse. Let’s look at our verse again.

**CG: Proverbs 25:16 Slide**

**“If you find honey, eat just enough. If you eat too much of it, you will throw up.”**

“Too much of a good thing can become a bad thing.”

### **TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING**

**STORYTELLER:** “So, what about Joe?”

**CG: Bible Story Image #1: Joe**

“What if Joe gave in? What if he decided to overdo it?”

**CG: Bible Story Image #2: Gummy worms**

“What if when Joe’s dad took him to the movies, he ate the whole bag of gummy worms, and then he asked his dad for some popcorn too? What could happen? *(Pause for response.)* That’s right. He could get a really bad stomachache. He might even throw up!”

**CG: Bible Story Image #3: Video game controller**

“What if Joe decided to play video games all morning long? Like maybe his mom was on an important phone call, and instead of stopping his game, he just kept playing and playing and playing. *(Pause for response.)* He could get a headache, or maybe he might miss out on an opportunity to go on a bike ride or play outside with a friend. If he disobeyed his parents, they might even take away his game system.”

**CG: Bible Story Image #4: LEGO set**

“What if Joe went to the store with his grandparents, and instead of being happy with one toy, he whined and complained about wanting more? *(Pause for response.)* His grandparents might be disappointed that he was being greedy. The next time, they might not offer to buy him anything at all.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Too much of a good thing becomes a bad thing. When we overdo it, things don’t turn out the way they’re supposed to.”

“What about you? When do you find it hard to stop? When are you tempted to overdo it? Maybe you’re tempted to overdo it when you have your favorite snack. Maybe you’re tempted to overdo it when it

comes to screen time or video games. Or maybe you're tempted to overdo it when you get an opportunity to go shopping for a new toy. Think about the situations when you're tempted, and ask God to help you have self-control.

"This isn't something you want to learn the hard way. **[Bottom Line] Know when to stop** so you don't have to regret it later. Say this with me."

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**KIDS and STORYTELLER: [Bottom Line] "Know when to stop."**

**STORYTELLER:** "But knowing when to stop can be hard, so let's pray and ask God to help us."

### **Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** "God, thank You so much for giving King Solomon so much wisdom. Please help us to **[Bottom Line] know when to stop**. Thank You for loving us and for always knowing exactly what we need. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

### **Closer**

**HOST:** "Wow. King Solomon really knew what he was talking about."

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

"We need God's help so we can **[Bottom Line] know when to stop**."

"You probably have some favorite things that are hard for you to stop. They may be GOOD things, but if you're not careful, you can end up having too much of a good thing. The things we struggle with might be different for each one of us, but all of us struggle to know when to stop when it comes to our favorite things."

"It can be hard to know when to stop and even harder to actually stop ourselves. But remember, God is always with us and He wants to help us. Let's take a look at our memory verse, 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 (NIRV)."**

"When you believe in Jesus and put your faith in Him, He gives you the gift of His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can help you each day as you choose to have self-control."



“As you head to your small groups today, be thinking about some of your favorite things and how you can **[Bottom Line] know when to stop**. Enjoy your time together!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

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

**CG: Theme Slide**