



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Paper grocery bags filled with the following (one for each small group):
 - Roll of quilt batting
 - Scotch tape/glue
 - Hole punch
 - String
 - Construction paper
 - Markers

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide

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

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Host dressed as a shepherd
- Volunteers dressed up like sheep (from the Opener)
- Paper plate
- Slice of pie (any kind)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- 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.
- Place the slice of pie on the paper plate. Have this backstage for the Host to bring out.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Through It All
- Every Beat

Between You and Me

Bible Story: Between You and Me (The Lost Sheep) • Luke 15:1-7

Bottom Line: God wants to have a relationship with me.

Key Question: What does it mean to have a relationship with God?

Memory Verse: "How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well." *Psalm 139:14 (NirV)*

Life App: Individuality—Discovering who you are meant to be

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: MADE: Discover who you're meant to be Theme Slide

Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Loop Video

Optional CG (Media Package): Countdown Video

Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Video

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 openings: *Captain Marvel, Dumbo, Wonder Park, 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. This would also be a good time to encourage students and their families to pray for (and possibly sponsor) a child through *Compassion International*. (See the "Getting Ready" section above.)

Opener

HOST: "Hey everyone! So good to see you here today. For those who missed it last week, all month long we're talking about how God made all of us in His image to do something amazing in the world. And to celebrate, each week we have a maker challenge that gets us thinking about how God made each of us! And we have a great one today . . . A maker's challenge for everyone!"

"In just a moment, we'll break up into groups. Each group will come up to the front and grab a bag. Inside you'll find a bag of wool/batting, some scotch tape, construction paper, markers, and some string. You will have five minutes as a group to dress up someone in your group as . . . a sheep. The most convincing and creative sheep will win a prize for your group. Now, I want all of you to spread out with your small group. Then, send one kid up to grab a bag, but no peeking until I say go. (Allow time for kids to get into groups.)

Ready? Set? And . . . GOOOOOOOOO!"

Groups work to dress someone up as a sheep. Host provides color commentary as the groups work. Afterwards, present each sheep up on stage and vote. Winning groups receive a prize.

"(After the game) That was so good it was baaaaaaaad. Seriously, though, well done! Now, everyone, let's stand and worship together!"

Leave the volunteers dressed up like sheep. They will be used during the story.

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!

Through It All

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!

Every Beat

WORSHIP LEADER: *PRAY*

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

Introduction

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everyone! Good to see you all. I want to know: How many of you have been in a car when the driver got lost? I mean REALLY lost? Maybe it was a parent or sibling? Anyone? Yep. Me too! And in fact, this one time . . . I was actually the driver.”

Tell a similar story as the following, whether it is about you or someone else.”

“I was driving home from a trip, a route I had taken hundreds of times before. This time, though, the roads were under construction. My normal way home was closed. So I did what any driver in the 21st century does. I pulled out my trusty GPS device, plugged in the address, and let it guide me home.”

“Now it is a GPS . . . you do not question the GPS. You do not correct the GPS. You simply follow the GPS mindlessly and let it do what it was made to do. Right? And that is what I did. For 30 minutes I mindlessly followed the GPS . . . turn left . . . stay right . . . sharp right . . . slight left. Turn after mindless turn. But soon the main roads became side roads. Then the side roads became dirt roads. And then . . . the GPS did something I had never seen it do before. Words flashed on the screen: “Route unknown.” WHAT?! We made so many turns that even the GPS got lost! Somehow we made our way back to civilization and eventually back to a road that would take us home.”

“But you know what the craziest part of the whole thing was? I was lost long before I knew I knew I was lost. It just took seeing ‘Route unknown’ on the GPS to realize it.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, that’s a funny story that worked out fine in the end. Obviously I eventually made it home—I’m here. And maybe you’ve had a time when you’ve gotten lost in the woods or at the mall. But . . . have you ever wondered if you could be lost even when you’re in a familiar place? Like being lost in just about the location you’re in? What if there is a way to be lost that is not just physical? What if we can actually be lost when it comes to God? And is it possible to be lost in our relationships with God and not even know it?”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “I know that I’ve had questions like that before. And when we have big questions about our faith, the best thing to do is talk about them with people we trust. Then look to God’s Word for some answers to those questions.

“Let’s do that now and check out the book of Luke, the third book in the New Testament of the Bible. When Jesus spoke to the people who followed Him, He often spoke in parables. A parable is simply a fictional story used to illustrate something important about God and what it means to follow Him.”

“Luke includes many of Jesus’ parables throughout his book, including the one we’re diving into today, which features, you guessed it, SHEEP! Can we have our sheep from earlier come on up?”

Volunteers dressed as sheep from Opener come out on stage.

“You all look so lovely. Alright, so now we have our sheep. But if we have sheep, what do we also need? A pooper scooper! No . . . a shepherd! Where’s my shepherd?”

Host enters dressed as a shepherd. He is eating a slice of pie off a plate.

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey [*Host’s name*]. What are you eating?”

HOST: “Shepherd’s pie.”

COMMUNICATOR: “I should’ve known. Okay, well, thanks for being here.”

HOST: “Sure thing. It’s nice to see you. And (*looking at the sheep*) it’s nice to see EWE. Get it? EWE! E-W-E is another name for a sheep? But seriously . . . you all look great. Very gLAMBorous! Get it? Okay, sorry, I’ll quit WOOL I’m ahead.”

COMMUNICATOR: “I can tell I’m going to regret this.”

HOST: “Okay no more jokes. I HERD you loud and clear.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Anyway, thanks for helping out. This is a pretty familiar parable of Jesus, but I thought you could help me tell it.”

HOST: “Between EWE and me . . . this is one of my favorite stories. I’m a shepherd . . . so of course I’m glad to help EWE.”

COMMUNICATOR: “There’s no stopping you is there?”

Host stares expectantly at Communicator.

COMMUNICATOR: *(Reluctantly obliging the Host)* “There’s no stopping EWE, is there?”

HOST: “There it is. See . . . that just feels right, doesn’t it?”

COMMUNICATOR: “Okay . . . so, whenever we read one of Jesus’ parables, we should try to understand WHY He told it in the first place. Jesus usually didn’t just tell stories to tell stories. Usually they were connected to something that was happening or a point that Jesus was trying to make. Let’s check out what is happening before Jesus tells this parable.”

“The tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were whispering among themselves. They said, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”” *Luke 15:1-2 NIV*

“So, here we have Jesus, and He is surrounded by people who . . . well . . . make other people nervous, including tax collectors and people with the reputation of being sinners. In Jesus’ day, these were the LOST people, the ones who were far away from God. Tax collectors were often scam artists who cheated people out of money. They were thieves. And sinners . . . well, that word kind of speaks for itself. And Jesus surrounds himself with all of these pretty questionable people . . . and it has everyone else talking—And NOT in a good way. In fact, they are starting to question Jesus because of the people who hung out with Him.”

“Now what could Jesus do? Well, He could have turned around and blasted them with a powerful speech about how He is right and they are wrong. But instead, He chose to tell a story. Check it out . . .”

“Then Jesus told them a story. He said, “Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them.”” *Luke 15:3-4a NIV*

“Now before we go any further and hear the rest of Jesus’ story . . . let’s imagine for a second how Jesus COULD HAVE finished this parable. *(Gesture to “sheep” volunteers)* We have our own flock of sheep here. And let’s imagine for a second that one of you wanders off.”

Communicator separates one of the sheep from the rest and puts him/her on the other side of the room.

“Let’s start the story over and imagine what Jesus COULD HAVE said. *(Read directly from Luke 15:4a NIV)* ‘Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them . . .’”

Host walks over to his flock of sheep.

HOST: “Hey, sheep! How are EWE all doing? *(A look of concern)* Wait . . . where’s Phil? Have you guys seen Phil? Phil was just here!”

Host looks around briefly and then back at the sheep.

HOST: *(Concern vanishes)* “Eh . . . it’s just Phil. And I still have all of EWE left. What’s one sheep? Now who wants some alfalfa!”

COMMUNICATOR: “*(Pretending to read from the Bible)* Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. You should be happy you have others because it is probably long gone. *(Beat)* Okay, that’s one way Jesus COULD HAVE finished the parable. But there is actually more to it. Check this out.”

“Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Won’t he leave the 99 in the open country? Won’t he go and look for the one lost sheep until he finds it?” Luke 15:4 Nlrv

Host walks over to his flock of sheep.

HOST: “Hey sheep! How are EWE all doing? *(A look of concern)* Wait . . . where’s Phil? Have you guys seen Phil? Phil was just here!”

Host looks around briefly and then back at the sheep.

HOST: “I gotta go find Phil!”

Host searches all over the room and finally finds the lost sheep.

HOST: “Phil! I found you. Now I have something to say to you . . . *(Host is going to be angry, but it should be humorous)* SHAME. Shame. on. you! How dare you leave the flock like that and go get yourself all kinds of lost. Why can’t you be like the other good sheep who stayed right where I put them. For shame! *(Getting emotional)* And what about me? How do you think this makes *me* feel? All of the time and effort I put into raising EWE. And *this* is how you thank me? Well no more . . . NO MORE I say! You have made your bed, and now you have to lie in it. Enjoy the open country . . . for you no longer have a place with us!”

Host storms off.

COMMUNICATOR: “OR . . . *(Pretending to read)* Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Won’t he leave the 99 in the open country? Won’t he go and look for the one lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, wouldn’t he make it feel really bad for getting lost in the first place? *(Beat)* Okay, that’s one way Jesus COULD HAVE finished the parable. But there is actually more to it. Check this out.”

“Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Won’t he leave the 99 in the open country? Won’t he go and look for the one lost sheep until he finds it? When he finds it, he will joyfully put it on his shoulders . . .” Luke 15:4-5 Nlrv

Host walks over to his flock of sheep.

HOST: “Hey sheep! How are EWE all doing? *(A look of concern)* Wait . . . where’s Phil? Have you guys seen Phil? Phil was just here!”

Host looks around briefly and then back at the sheep.

HOST: “I gotta go find Phil!”

Host searches all over the room and finally finds the lost sheep.

HOST: “Phil! I found you. Now I have something to say to you . . . *(If possible, put pick the volunteer up and put him/her on your shoulder—you’re excited)*. You did it! You forged your own path! You left the flock to make something of yourself in this world! You know what they say – E-OLO!”

COMMUNICATOR: “*(Confused)* Don’t you mean ‘YOLO’?”

HOST: “No, E-OLO . . . Ewe only live once!”

COMMUNICATOR: “Wow. Just wow. *(Pretending to read)* Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Won’t he leave the 99 in the open country? Won’t he go and look for the one lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he will joyfully put it on his shoulders and celebrate the sheep’s decision to leave the flock behind and make a name for itself, no matter what the cost. *(Beat)* Okay, that’s another way Jesus COULD HAVE finished the parable. Let’s actually read the rest. But first, let’s thank our volunteers for helping out.”

Host and volunteers exit. Host yells “See EWE later” while leaving.

COMMUNICATOR: “One last time, let’s read the story Jesus told. But this time, let’s read the WHOLE story.”

“Then Jesus told them a story. He said, “Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Won’t he leave the 99 in the open country? Won’t he go and look for the one lost sheep until he finds it? When he finds it, he will joyfully put it on his shoulders and go home. Then he will call his friends and neighbors together. He will say, ‘Be joyful with me. I have found my lost sheep.’”” Luke 15:3-6 NIV

“What is the shepherd’s reaction to finding the lost sheep?”

Pause for responses.

“That’s right! He is overjoyed! He is so happy because he has found what was lost that he can’t help but celebrate. He calls his friends and neighbors because they should celebrate to!”

“Now remember . . . Jesus didn’t just tell stories to entertain. He told them to make a point. And look at what He says next. **“I tell you, it will be the same in heaven. There will be great joy when one sinner turns away from sin.”” Luke 15:7 NIV**

“Why is Jesus hanging out with tax collectors and sinners? Because, as his story illustrates, that is what a good shepherd does! He goes and looks for lost sheep!”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “And that’s the thing about lost sheep, sometimes they might not even know they are lost. They wander away, and before they know it, they don’t know their way back. But thankfully they have a good shepherd who leaves everything behind to go find the lost sheep.”

“Here is the truth in the story Jesus tells: God wants to have a relationship with every single person . . . no matter what that person is like or how lost that person might be. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, out to find the lost sheep so that He can rejoice and bring them home.”

“God sent Jesus after you and after me, and because of that, we can have a relationship with God. Amazing right?”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Today as you go to groups, think about this:

CG: Key Question Slide

“**What it means to have a relationship with God?** Think about this parable and how Jesus is the good shepherd searching for the lost sheep. What does it mean to be found by the shepherd and brought home? And how does that make you feel about God’s love for you? You’ll get a chance to talk more about all of that in Small Group. But let’s pray first before you head out.

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

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