



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host wearing apron
- Five wrapped boxes
- Small table
- Two Sharpies
- Suggested food items: cooked spaghetti & meatballs, mashed potatoes, apple pie, tapioca pudding, chicken quesadilla
- Wipes or paper towels to wipe off hands.

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

What You Do:

- **Game Prep:** Collect five boxes that are large enough for two people to have their hands in. Wrap the boxes with brown craft paper. Cut a hole in the top big enough for both people to put their hands in at the same time. Inside of each box, place a food item and then write that item on the back of the box (for the reveal). Set up the table towards the front of the stage. *Note:* The table should be skinny enough that kids can be on either side of it and still reach their hands into the box.
- Preset the first box on top of the table. Contestants will reach in at the same time and feel around. They will then write what they think the item is on the side of the box (two contestants, each writing on opposite sides). They will write WHILE their hand is still in the box. The real answer will be written on the back (Or have a slot on the back and pull out the item to show everyone). If playing the game multiple times or for multiple services, they can write on sticky notes on the sides.
- **Food Items:** Have prepared food items on hand for the game. These don't have to be warm, just cooked. In fact, it might be funnier if they are cold. *Note:* You can sub out any of the food items for what you have available.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Host
- Volunteer who will be the Host's arms in the skit
- Bible
- Container with the following morning routine supplies:
 - Toothbrush and toothpaste,
 - Bowl of water and wash cloth,
 - Shaving cream and razor without a blade,
 - After shave (filled with water instead), comb or brush, etc.
- Coffee grounds
- Tarp, towel
- Table for supplies
- Several male leaders as David's brothers
- A kid volunteer as David
- Plastic crown

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- Preselect the volunteer to play the Host's arms. Explain how the activity will work and how they will help during the Communicator's Script. *Optional:* Have the Host and volunteer run through their part without the props so they have an idea of what they will do on stage.
- *Note:* The Introduction will get messy, so prepare an area on the stage for it. It involves a two-person skit of sorts where one person puts his hands behind his back and the person behind him acts as his arms. It would be best for the person in front to be a male (shaving his face, etc.). The humor of the skit is to play it up with exaggerated motions and antics.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Let Go
- Wide Open

Faith My Eyes

Bible Story: Faith My Eyes (Samuel and David) • 1 Samuel 16:7

Bottom Line: God wants me to see what really matters.

Key Question: Why is it important to look on the inside?

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, NIV

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

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

Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Loop Video

Optional CG (Media Package): Countdown Video

Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Video

Host enters wearing an apron. Table is on stage preset with the first box. The other four boxes can be beneath the table or around the back.

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: "What's going on, everyone?! I hope you had a great week. Like we've done throughout the month, we're kickin' off today with another maker challenge. Now, normally a maker challenge involves you making something . . . but I've already *made* some pretty incredible food dishes. Who wants to check out what I've made?! I see those hands!"

Host chooses two volunteers. Host guides the volunteers to stand on either side of the box. Note: make sure they don't come around the back and see the answer written on the back of the box.

"Are you both ready to sample some goodies? Well, sadly, this isn't sample day at the grocery store, but we do have some samples for you. Here's how it works! Inside of each box is a special dish I've whipped up. You will both reach a hand inside the box, feel the food—but no peeking—and write what you think it is on your side of the box. Don't pull your hand out until you've written your answer. We will then see who got it right. Got it? Let's check out dish #1!"

Suggested food items include: spaghetti & meatballs, mashed potatoes, Apple pie, tapioca pudding, chicken quesadilla

Reveal answer between each round (whether by showing the answer on the back or pulling the actual item out of a slot on the back). Move through all five rounds and declare a winner.

“(After the game) That was a lot of fun! Who’s hungry?!”

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!”

Let Go

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!”

Wide Open

WORSHIP LEADER: *PRAY*

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

Introduction

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everyone! Glad to see you all here today. What is that smell? It smells like spaghetti and . . . tapioca. Interesting. *Anyway*, how many of you have what I would call a morning routine? Like things you do to get ready every day before you head out of the door for school. Sure—lots of us do! Tell me, then, what are some of your morning routines?”

Pause for responses.

“Yeah, exactly, those are great! So let me tell you about my morning routine. (*Note: If Communicator is a female, you can change shaving to make up or something else that works.*) Wait, I have a better idea. Let me SHOW you my morning routine, but I need some help. (*Call backstage*) Hey, [*Host’s name*], can you and [*preselected volunteer’s name*] come on out?”

Host and preselected volunteer come out.

“Now, [*Host’s name*], you’ll play the role me in the morning, and [*other volunteer’s name*] will be your hands and help you out.”

Host and volunteer get set up with Host’s arms behind their back and the volunteer’s arms acting as the Host’s “arms.” Make sure there is a tarp below.

“Now, when I wake up in the morning, I like to really streeetttch . . .”

Arms stretch wildly for the Host.

“After a good stretch, I might even do a few jumping jacks to get the blood flowing.”

Arms do jumping jacks.

“And if I’m still not awake, I usually go to the sink and splash a little water in my face.”

Arms splashes some water from the bowl in Host’s face.

“Now, I’m not a big breakfast person. But I do love coffee . . .”

Arms grab the bag of coffee.

“This may seem strange, but I actually don’t like to brew coffee. Takes too long. Sometimes I’ll just eat a scoop of the grounds . . .”

Arms scoop coffee grounds directly into Host’s mouth. Host spits grounds out eventually.

“That really wakes me up! Next, it is time to get myself looking good for the day. For me, that starts with a good shave. No electric razor for me, though!”

Arms lather shaving cream onto face and then shave with the razor (no blade).

“After a good shave, I rinse off . . .”

Arms splash the rest of the bowl of water directly into the Host’s face.

“And then apply a little after shave to soothe the skin.

Arms dab “after shave” on and do a little Home Alone moment with the Host screaming.

“And then proceed to style my hair.”

Arms brush and eccentrically style hair.

“Finally, gotta make sure my teeth are clean and my breath is fresh.

Arms brush teeth.

“And spit.”

Host spits.

“I meant in the bowl but . . . sure, that works, too. And that’s it. I’m now ready for the day. Hey, give it up for our volunteers!”

Volunteers clean up quickly and exit.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, my guess is that most of us do something similar . . . okay maybe you’re not shaving yet . . . and hopefully you aren’t nearly that messy . . . but you have a routine. Why? Well, we want to look nice. We want to be presentable to others. We don’t want somebody to make fun of us because there is something in our teeth or because our hair is a crazy mess.

The truth is that *none of us* like to be judged by outward things, but have you ever noticed that a lot of times that is how we judge others? Like the table where we might sit at school . . . we want to be with the cool-looking kids. Or when we see somebody with nice clothes on . . . we might assume that he or she is an important person. We don’t like to be judged by what’s on the outside, yet at the same time WE often judge others by what’s on the outside. What do we do about that? That’s a good question. One that needs a good answer. And the first place to find some good answers is where? That’s right. The Bible.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “How we answer this question is important to God. Thankfully, the writers of the Bible actually have a lot to say about it. Check out this one moment that’s recorded in the Old Testament during a time when the nation of Israel was going through a pretty big transition. See, they had asked God for a king to lead them because that is what all the other nations had. Israel thought that if they had a big, strong, warrior-type king to lead them they would be better off. They chose a king named Saul who was exactly that—a big, strong, warrior-type who led them into battle. The problem was that Saul was not fully dedicated to God and made some pretty big mistakes as the king of Israel. God decided this was the end of the line for Saul, and it was now time for God to choose a new king for Israel. That’s where today’s story starts.”

“Now, before we go on, I need a few volunteers to come up and help me out.”

Communicator brings male volunteers up on stage.

“And I also need a kid? Who can help?”

Select one but don’t bring him [because he’s David) on stage yet.

“Before we read, let me tell you about one more person. His name is Samuel, and he was a prophet or messenger that God used to pick the next king of Israel. Here we go. *(Read directly from 1 Samuel 16:1 NIV)*
‘The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you be filled with sorrow because of Saul? I have refused to

have him as king over Israel. Fill your animal horn with olive oil and go on your way. I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”” 1 Samuel 16:1 NlrV

“So, Samuel was sent where? *(Pause for response)*. And why did God send him there? *(Pause for response)*. Exactly, Samuel headed to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse . . . he knew that the next king of Israel was one of Jesse’s sons. So what do you think he’s looking for? Somebody that looks like a king, I’m guessing! But what do you think that was?”

Pause for responses.

“Yep! Tall. Strong. Mighty. Talented. All of the above. And I think that is what Samuel was expecting to find. Check it out. *(Read directly from 1 Samuel 16:6 NlrV)* **‘When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab. He thought, “This has to be the one the Lord wants me to anoint for him.”” 1 Samuel 16:6 NlrV**

Pulling one of the volunteers over.

“Samuel arrived at Jesse’s house in Bethlehem, and the first son he saw was Eliab. Now, I’m picturing that Eliab must have been this tall strapping young man . . . like this *(Make volunteer flex)*. The kid probably looked like a king. But he was not the one. Look at God’s response . . .”

(Read directly from 1 Samuel 16:7 NlrV) **‘But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have not chosen him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart.”” 1 Samuel 16:7 NlrV**

“Now, we’ll come back to that in a second, but Jesse then had his other sons appear before Samuel.”

As Communicator reads the names, the volunteers should walk on the stage like a catwalk, flexing their muscles.

(Read directly from 1 Samuel 16:8-10 NlrV) ‘Then Jesse called for Abinadab. He had him walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord hasn’t chosen him either.” Then Jesse had Shammah walk by. But Samuel said, “The Lord hasn’t chosen him either.” Jesse had seven of his sons walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said to him, “The Lord hasn’t chosen any of them.”

(To male volunteers) “Sorry guys . . . looks like you aren’t the ones. You can have a seat.”

Volunteers sit down.

“Now, you would think that seven sons would be enough, but Samuel turned to Jesse and asked, ‘Do you have any more sons?’ Seriously, I’m not joking. Check it out. *(Read directly from 1 Samuel 16:11 NlrV)* ‘So he asked Jesse, “Are these the only sons you have?” “No,” Jesse answered. “My youngest son is taking care of the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him. We won’t sit down to eat until he arrives.””

“Jesse had one more son, but they didn’t even bother to bring him in! That’s how little of a chance they thought he had at being the next king! By the way . . . somebody send for the boy from the field!”

Communicator brings the kid volunteer up on the stage.

“Sorry we left you out there. It’s just that we thought one of your big older brothers would likely be the king. My bad. Now, does anyone know what this guy’s name is? *(Pause for responses)*.”

“You guessed it? This is David. Ever heard of him? I’m guessing many of you have. David and Goliath? You know . . . KING David? And this is the moment. When David entered the house, look at what happened. *(Read*

directly from 1 Samuel 16:12b-13a NIV) **Then the Lord said, "Get up and anoint him. This is the one." So Samuel got the animal horn that was filled with olive oil. He anointed David in front of his brothers. From that day on, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David."** 1 Samuel 16:12b-13a NIV

Communicator puts a crown on the volunteer's head and sends him back to his seat.

"But here's the question: WHY did God choose David? What did He see in him? Well, it wasn't really about what God SAW. Remember, that is what Samuel was looking for at first—somebody that LOOKS like a king. But let me reread God's response to Samuel . . ."

(Read directly from 1 Samuel 16:7 NIV) But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have not chosen him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7 NIV

"God didn't choose David as king because he LOOKED like a king. Or because he was the strongest warrior he could find. God chose David because of what God knew was on the inside of David, because of David's heart."

"You see, Israel had already tried having a king that was chosen because of how he looked. Now it was time for God to show them the kind of king they actually needed—one who has the right kind of heart. Because THAT is what God is looking for."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Like we said earlier, we spend a lot of time focusing on the outside, both in ourselves and in others. We work hard to make sure we look a certain way to others, and we often pay attention to and even decide certain things about other people based on how they look. But in this moment from David's life, we see that God does things differently. He looks right past what is on the outside to what is on the inside. He looks to the heart. He looks to our thoughts and motives. He looks to our character and what we are becoming. He looks to who we REALLY are."

"How would it change things if you tried to do this as well? Instead of judging people at your school by how they are dressed, what if you got to know them for who they really are on the inside? Or instead of spending so much time worrying about how people SEE you, what if you spend time focusing on what God already sees . . . your heart?"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "But why does seeing people like that matter? Honestly, because it matters to God. He created us and loves and sees us as His children. And because we are made in God's image, we can reflect how He sees us in how we see others. We have the chance to look at and examine the things that are important to God. As you head to Small Group, think about this:

CG: Key Question Slide

"Why is it important to look on the inside? Consider this question not only for yourself but also for how you see others. You'll have a chance to talk more about this in Small Group. Before you go, let's pray. Let's thank God for seeing what really matters in us. Let's also ask Him to help us see what really matters in others."

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.

