



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Random sports equipment, such as:
  - Hula hoop
  - Football
  - Exercise mat
  - Beach ball
  - Frisbee
- *Optional:* Whiteboard and dry erase marker to write down the different activities.
- Timer on a smart phone or watch.

#### *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:

- Opening Activity: Host will lead the group in making the world's greatest pentathlon. The Host will take suggestions for non-conventional uses for the following sports equipment: hula hoop, football, exercise mat, beach ball, and Frisbee. (Though you can use whatever sports equipment you have on hand.) Host will decide which suggestion will be part of the course. Once all five activities are decided, host can choose two or three people to race through it.

### 2. Communicator Script

#### What You Need:

- Communicator

- Bible
- Several large volumes of books (like old encyclopedias or text books)
- Small table

*Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

*Large Group Visuals*

- Key Question Slide

**What You Do:**

- N/A

**3. Worship**

**What You Need:**

- Never Gonna Stop
- Who You Say I Am

## **Basic Instruction**

**Bible Story:** Basic Instruction (Greatest Commandment) • Matthew 22:34-40

**Bottom Line:** God made me to love others.

**Key Question:** How do others know you love them?

**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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## **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.*

### **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! Can you believe this is the last week of March?! I've had such a great month with you, and we have a great morning ahead of us today. And it starts with our last maker challenge of the month."

"I was starting to realize this past week that all of these makers challenges haven't really celebrated everyone's individuality. Some of you in this room are just not that into making things with art supplies or food. But that doesn't mean you're not creative or can't make something. Some of you show your individuality by how you play sports! Raise your hand if that's you. Awesome!"

"I need YOUR help today to create. The world's greatest unconventional pentathlon. That's right! This pentathlon will be our gift to the world! I have five different pieces of sports equipment on stage. I need suggestions for how we can use these different objects for our pentathlon, BUT we can't use them how they're designed to be used. Take this hula hoop, for example. You can use this in any sort of way EXCEPT as a conventional hula hoop around your waist. Make sense? Great . . . so let's start with the hula hoop. Who has an idea for how we can use this?"

*Host takes suggestions and decided on the one they'll use for the activity. Optional: write them down on a whiteboard so you don't forget them.*

*Host continues this with the other objects. We suggest: a football, an exercise mat, a beach ball, and a Frisbee.*

*Once you have finalized the suggestions for each object, continue with the race.*

“Wow! Those are some great suggestions! Now, who want to give it a try? Awesome!”

*Host selects two or three volunteers (as time allows) and introduces them to the rest of the group.*

“Alright. We’ll time each of you as you race through the pentathlon. Do you remember what you’re supposed to do? Any questions? Who’s up first? Great. Let’s race. On your mark, get set, goooo!!!”

**SFX: Upbeat Music**

*Host can keep time on his or her smart phone or watch. Allow all contestants to race through the course.*

“That was incredible! The winner is *[Name of Winner]*! You, my friend, are the first ever World Greatest Pentathlon winner. Enjoy the glory of victory!”

### **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!”

**Never Gonna Stop**

**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!”

**Who You Say I Am**

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *PRAY*

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

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

## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

### Introduction

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey, there! Great to be with you again this week. Now, there are a lot of things that make you unique, and some of that is based on things you like or enjoy doing. I was wondering what you like to do. Let’s try something. I’ll call out two different choices. If you like the first choice, walk to the left side of the room. If you like the second choice, go to the right side. Don’t worry about what everyone else chooses. You go to the side of the room that best matches *you*. Get it?”

“Okay let’s start with this one . . . Mexican food (*point to the left*) or Italian food (*point to the right*)? Go!”

*Continue this with as many rounds as you have time for:*

- § *The beach or the mountains*
- § *Play sports or play video games*
- § *Learn a new instrument or learn to dance*
- § *Math or reading*
- § *Marvel or DC*
- § *Cats or Dogs*
- § *Drive a car or fly a plane*

“That was fun. You all definitely know what you like and don’t like, but I have one last one. Ready? Love God or love people . . . Go!”

*There will be some confusion.*

“No, wait! I won’t make you choose that one. You know what? Let’s have a seat.”

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Love God or love people. On the surface, you may think you’d know what to choose, but the more you think about it, is that actually something we have to choose? Do we have to choose to love God instead of loving people . . . or love people instead of loving God? What if by doing one we could actually do the other? I mean how do you choose?”

### TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Thankfully, we don’t have to. When Jesus began to travel around and teach 2000 years ago, many people were impressed by His teachings. He didn’t just repeat what others had said. Because Jesus was God’s Son, He taught as somebody with authority to create new teachings. People were often amazed at the things He said. He said things they had never heard before or in a way they had never heard them.”

“Now while many people were drawn to Jesus, there were some who were very suspicious about Who He was and the things He was teaching. One such group was the Jewish religious leaders known as the Pharisees. The Pharisees were experts on God’s laws, known as the Law of Moses. They knew the laws inside and out and saw it as their job to protect them and keep them pure. They started out with really good intentions. But over time, their passion to protect God’s Word led them to create more and more laws in order to keep other followers of God from breaking any laws.”

“Let me give you an example. I need a volunteer.”

*Communicator chooses a volunteer and brings them on stage.*

“Okay, please put your hands out. Here is a copy of God’s Word. (*Place Bible in volunteer’s outstretched hands*). This is God’s story, and in His story, He has given each of us instructions on how to live life the way that He created us to. Pretty cool, right?”

“Now, one of the instructions God gives (*tap the Bible*) is to honor your parents. This is actually one of the Ten Commandments that God gave Moses on Mount Sinai right after God rescued the Israelites from Egypt. But the Pharisees might have thought that command wasn’t clear enough. They’d ask the question, what does it *mean* to honor your parents? (*Pull out a large book*) And so the Pharisees might write a bunch of NEW instructions to help a person know if he or she is honoring his or her parents or not. (*Put it on top of the Bible in the volunteers hands*) Here, hold this.”

“But that was just ONE of God’s instructions. God also gave an instruction to not bear false testimony against your neighbor. In other words, don’t lie and say somebody did something that they didn’t do. But what exactly does that commandment look like in real life? How do I know if I’m ‘bearing false testimony’? (*Pull out another large book*) So the Pharisees might write more instructions to talk about what it means to bear false testimony. (*Put on top of the Bible and other book*) Here, hold this, please. Wow, that looks heavy.”

“The Pharisees did this with many of God’s instructions. (*Add another book to the pile*) Property instructions. (*Another book*) What to eat. (*Another book*) What NOT to eat. (*Another book*) When are you truly clean? (*Another book*) Sabbath law. (*Another book*) What to wear. (A series of several books) Law . . . after law . . . after new law. That sure looks heavy. (*Staring at the pile but not helping.*)”

*The volunteer may not be able to hold them up. Point to a place to set the books onto a table or chair but keep the books visible.*

“Okay, you can set them down. Let’s thank our volunteer!”

*Dismiss volunteer back to his or her seat.*

“As we mentioned, the Pharisees were very suspicious of Jesus. And one day they decided to test Him with a question. They asked Him about, well, what else? God’s law! After all, it was their specialty. They thought up a really tough question and went to Jesus.”

“(Open and read directly from Matthew 22:36 Nlrv) **“Teacher,” he asked, “which is the most important commandment in the Law?”” Matthew 22:36 Nlrv**

“What a question! The Pharisee was asking (*place hand on the pile of books*) of ALL of the commandments, which is the best one? Which is most important? They were trying to trap Jesus, because if Jesus were to pick one, then He would also be saying that the other commandments weren’t AS important . . . and that would certainly make some people angry!”

“(Read directly from Matthew 22:37-38 Nlrv) **Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.” This is the first and most important commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38 Nlrv**

“They got him! Jesus must be saying that the commands about not lying or murdering or stealing from others don’t matter! But wait . . . Jesus wasn’t quite done. He continued.”



*“(Read directly from Matthew 22:39 NlrV) “**And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as you love yourself.**” Matthew 22:39 NlrV*

“Hold on a second . . . that’s TWO commandments! They asked what the most important commandment is . . . singular. It is not that Jesus isn’t good at math. Rather, He was making a very important point—Jesus was saying that the commandments that have to do with loving God couldn’t be separated from the commandments that are about loving other people. If you truly love God, then you will love the people He has created. And if you truly want to love people, you must be in a right relationship with God and following His Word. And because you cannot separate them, it is like they are one command. Jesus takes it a step further.”

*“(Read directly from Matthew 22:40) “**Everything that is written in the Law and the Prophets [the Old Testament] is based on these two commandments.**”” Matthew 22:40*

“Jesus was saying that every single instruction that God gave in His Word came back to loving God or loving others. There is no instruction God gave that doesn’t fit one of these categories, and therefore, they are inseparable. When the Pharisees heard Jesus’ response, they had no defense. Jesus had passed the test.”

“Now *(to volunteer who is now seated)*, earlier when I handed you those books, were they starting to get heavy? *(Pause for response.)* Did I offer to help you? No, I didn’t. Maybe you thought I was being rude, but I was just making a point. You see, later on when Jesus was talking about the Pharisees, he accused them *(pick up books and pretend they are really heavy)* of creating heavy burdens for people to carry but not being willing to lift a finger to help them!”

“So, what was Jesus saying? Well, He was saying that the Pharisees claimed to love God. I mean, they did take His Word very seriously and didn’t want anybody to go against His commandments. BUT in trying to *make* other people love God, they didn’t really love other people. In fact, they really pointed out the failures of others who didn’t keep God’s instructions as perfectly as they claimed to. And Jesus called them out and said that they didn’t truly love God if they didn’t truly love other people. You can’t have one and not the other.”

“When it comes to loving God or loving others . . . you don’t need to pick a side like in our game earlier. Jesus says it is both. Jesus knew that if you truly love God, then you are going to love others as well.”

## **APPLICATION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Think about it this way. You might remember that in the beginning of the month we discussed how we are made in God’s image, which means that we can reflect what God is like to the world. Well, one of the ways we do this is by loving others. One of Jesus’ closest followers, a guy named John, said this in a letter he wrote to other Jesus followers: **‘No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us. His love is made complete in us.’** (1 John 4:12 NlrV)”

“In other words, we reflect God to the world when we love other people. So, the love for God is what gives us the ability to love others, but then the love for others is what shows people how much we love God. No wonder Jesus said they couldn’t be separated!”

“When you think about what it means to love God and love others, you don’t have to choose. First, you have to love God. Worship Him only and serve Him. Read His Word and obey what He says. Love God. But then if you truly love God, you will love the people God made.”

## **LANDING**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Today as you go to groups, get really practical and think about this:

**CG: Key Question Slide**

**“How do others know you love them?”** Think about it as you head to Small Group then dig in together and come up with some real ways you can take your love of God and turn it toward a love for other people. Before you head to Small Group, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus to give us the perfect example of how to show God’s love to 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.**