



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Two (or more) small groups to participate in the game
- One children's jigsaw puzzle per group (age range: younger elementary, around 50 pieces), but missing one piece (see "What You Do")
- One bin containing the missing pieces for these puzzles, as well as lots of other puzzle pieces that are different sizes (i.e. preschool and adult puzzles) so the pieces they need will be easy to find
- Host's phone

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

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

#### Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Individuality Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line 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:

- Find puzzles designed for younger elementary ages—around 50 pieces. These should be easy enough for a group of kids (plus an adult Leader) to put together in a couple of minutes. Consider trying them out ahead of time and timing how long it takes.
- You could choose a different puzzle for each group or the same one for each group. If you use the same puzzle, it will be easier for them to find the missing pieces in the "extras bin."
- For the extras bin, add in pieces from preschool or adult puzzles that are dramatically different in size from the missing pieces of the kids' puzzles. That way their pieces will be easier to find.

## 2. Bible Story

### What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Action figure
- Bag of 100 cotton balls
- Prop bin containing:
  - Tablet computer
  - American Girl® doll
  - Envelope labeled “Birthday Money” (*optional: with cash and gift cards inside*)
- Table

### Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line 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.
- Put the Prop box with the tablet, doll, and envelope close to the stage so you can easily access it.

## 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.

**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 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:** Theme Slide

**Optional CG (Media Package):** Theme Loop Video

*Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.*

**Optional CG (Media Package):** Countdown Video

**Optional CG (Media Package):** Theme Video

### **Opener**

**HOST:** “What’s up? Everybody say ‘Hey-O!’”

**HOST and KIDS:** “Hey-O!”

**HOST:** “Welcome to [your environment’s name]! My name is [your name], and I’m so glad you’re here today. This is a great day to be in a great place to learn about God and how much He loves each of us. All month long we’re talking about individuality.

**CG:** Individuality Slide

**Optional CG (Media Package):** Life App Video

**“Individuality is discovering who you are meant to be.**

**Optional CG (Media Package):** Theme TransBack Video

“God created each one of us, and He made us all different. When we learn more about ourselves and the way God made us, we can make a difference in the world around us.

“Now, as we get started today, who’s ready to play a game? I’ll need two whole small groups to join me on stage.

*Choose two groups (including Leaders) to participate. Or, if you’d like to, you could have all of the groups participate. You would just need to provide enough supplies. Give each group a jigsaw puzzle.*

“Okay, here’s how this works. Each group has a puzzle to put together. Our goal is for each group to finish putting their puzzle together in five minutes or less. Can we do it? *(Pause for responses.)* Yeah! Let’s do it! On your marks, get set, GO!

*Set a timer on your phone for five minutes.*

**SFX:** Fun music

*The groups will begin putting their puzzles together, but then they'll realize that they're missing a piece.*

"Oh, no! It looks like you might be missing a piece of your puzzle! Don't worry. You can run up here to the front and dig through this bin of extras to find your missing piece.

*Set out the bin of pieces. This bin will include the missing pieces from the groups' puzzles, as well as lots of other puzzle pieces that are not the same size as the ones the groups are looking for. If needed, you can help the groups find their missing pieces.*

"Wow, we totally did it! We completed our puzzles in less than five minutes! Give yourselves a round of applause. You can go ahead and put your puzzle pieces back in the boxes. Great job, everyone!

*Collect the puzzle boxes and dismiss the groups 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.*

"Let's take some time to worship God and thank Him for being our awesome Creator. Everyone stand up and get ready to sing!"

## **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**

#### **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, everyone! You might already know this, but when Jesus lived on the earth, there was always a crowd following Him. And while sometimes He spent time with the religious leaders, most of the time Jesus was spending time with people who were very different from the religious leaders. Jesus spent most of His time with people that were often rejected and looked down on. He spent time with tax collectors, sick people, and people who didn’t make very good choices.

“Jesus knew the religious leaders weren’t happy that He was spending time with those people, so He told this story to help them understand.”

#### **HERE’S WHAT HAPPENED**

**STORYTELLER:** “The story Jesus told was written down, and we can find it today in the book of Luke, chapter 15. Listen to what Jesus said.

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:4 (NIRV) and 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?” Luke 15:4 (NIRV)**

“So there’s this guy (*hold up the action figure*), and he has 100 sheep (*hold up the bag of 100 cotton balls*). But one of the sheep runs away.

*Take one cotton ball out of the bag and throw it on the other side of the stage.*

“This guy (*hold up the action figure*) would actually LEAVE the 99 other sheep to go and get the one that was lost.”

*Walk over to the cotton ball that you threw. Pick it up and put it back in the bag.*

#### **HOLD UP, WAIT A MINUTE**

**STORYTELLER:** “Okay, okay. I know what you might be thinking. [Your name], I have no idea why Jesus told them this story. I don’t have any sheep, I don’t think I’d go looking for missing sheep, and I’m not sure what the religious leaders were supposed to learn from this.

“So let me put it another way.

*Get the prop bin and put it on the table.*

“What if you misplaced your tablet?”

*Take the tablet out of the prop bin and put it on the table.*

“If you lost it, you’d be looking EVERYWHERE for it. You probably wouldn’t stop looking until you found it, right?”

“Or what if you lost your American Girl® doll?”

*Take the American Girl doll out of the prop bin and put it on the table.*

“You saved up your money for a whole year to buy it. There’s no way you’d give up looking until it was found.”

“How about this? What if you lost that envelope full of all your birthday money and gift cards?”

*Take the “Birthday Money” envelope out of the prop bin.  
Optional: Open it up so the kids can see the cash and gift cards.*

“You’d turn your room upside down and inside out trying to find it!”

“Why do you think you would look so hard for those things? I’ll tell you. It’s because they’re so valuable and important to you!”

### **YOU ARE BETTER THAN AN IPAD**

**STORYTELLER:** “So here’s the thing. You know the way you feel about your tablet, your American Girl doll, your envelope of birthday loot, or anything else that’s really important to you? If you had lost it, you’d practically throw a PARTY when you found it, right?”

“Well, guess what. That’s NOTHING compared to the way God feels about you. You are so valuable and so important to God that He will never give up on you! He will always come to find you because He loves you so much. Listen to the rest of what Jesus said about the man (*hold up the action figure*) and the sheep (*hold up one of the cotton balls*).

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:5-7 (NirV) and read.*

***“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.’ I tell you, it will be the same in heaven. There will be great joy when one sinner turns away from sin.”***

“Wow! Jesus wasn’t just talking about sheep, was He? He was talking about PEOPLE. He was talking about how much God loves EACH PERSON and how He searches for people who are far from Him.”

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “The religious leaders really wanted Jesus to hang out with the people who seemed like they had it all together. But Jesus knew that His mission was clear. He knew He was there to bring hope to EVERYONE.

“You see, ALL of us have sinned. All of us have messed up. God is perfect, so our sin separates us from Him; it’s like we’re lost sheep that got separated from the shepherd. But Jesus came to find us and rescue us. He came to make a way so each person could have a forever relationship with God. He died on the cross to take care of our sin problem so our sin wouldn’t have to be in the way between God and us. All we need to do is believe!”

“Say this with me.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**STORYTELLER:** *[Bottom Line]* “God wants to have a relationship with me.”

**STORYTELLER and KIDS:** *[Bottom Line]* “God wants to have a relationship with me.”

**STORYTELLER:** “It’s true! Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God. He loves each one of us so much that He was willing to pay the price for us on the cross. It’s so good to know that He wants each one of us to know Him and believe in Him. He wants us to be in His family forever, just like the lost sheep that was found.

“Let’s pray and thank God for loving us the way He does.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### Pray

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank you so much for wanting to have a relationship with us. Thank you for sending Jesus to make that possible. It’s amazing that You love us so much that You would leave everything to find US—just like we’re that one lost sheep. Please help all of us understand just how much You care about us and that You want to have a relationship with us that will last forever. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

### Closer

**HOST:** “In the story that Jesus told, the missing sheep was so important to the shepherd that he left the other 99 sheep to find it. Then, when the shepherd found the missing sheep, what did he do? *(Pause for response.)* Right, he celebrated!

“Remember this.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

***[Bottom Line]*** “God wants to have a relationship with me.

“It’s true! He wants to have a relationship with you, with me, with everyone!

“God sent Jesus to earth to save us because He wants to have a relationship with us. He knew we’d be lost without Him. We MATTER to Him. He wants us to know Him and believe in Him. When we do—when we make the decision to trust Jesus and believe that He died for our sins—then we get to have a relationship with God that will last forever.

“Isn’t it amazing to know that God loves us that much? ***[Basic Truth]*** We can trust Him no matter what. He wants what’s best for us. He loves us so much that He’ll never leave us—even when we mess up and even when we get lost.

*Hold up a cotton ball from the bag.*

“You can head back to your small groups now and talk about that some more. Have fun!”

*We suggest giving your kids and families a tangible way to make a difference in the lives of others, by encouraging them and their families to pray for (and possibly sponsor) a child through Compassion International. Take time before dismissal to promote this idea to your kids.*

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

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

**CG: Theme Slide**