



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host

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
- **Game Slides #1-5**

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:

- N/A

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- One male Small Group Leader
- Eight kids
- Bible
- Crown
- Bethlehem highway sign (see “What You Do”)

- Stuffed sheep
- Nametags: Samuel, Jesse, Jesse's son (seven of these), David

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- "A Golden Childhood" from *Cinderella* (2015)
- "Fanfares for Trumpets" by David and the High Spirit (0:00-0:21)

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Create a poster board sign that looks like a highway exit sign. It should say "Bethlehem" with an arrow.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Unshakeable Love
- 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.

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

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

Optional CG (Media Package): Countdown Video

Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Video

Opener

HOST: “Hi, everyone! I’m [your name]. It’s so great to see you all here today at [your environment’s name]! We have so much fun here, you’ll be SO glad you came.

“You might have noticed that our theme for this month is ‘Made,’ because we’re all made by God. So I was thinking we should have a little fun making some things of our own. That’s right. It’s time for our small group challenge. And every group gets to play!

“Your small group is your team. I’ll call out the name of some kind of machine, and your group will use your own bodies to make the shape of that machine. So, if I call out ‘golf cart,’ your group will move around into the shape of a giant golf cart. Does that make sense? All right. Let’s give it a try!

“The first machine you’ll make is a motorcycle. Go, teams!

CG: Game Slide #1 (motorcycle)

SFX: Fun music

Move around the room as the groups are forming the machines, encouraging them along the way. Call time after most groups at least have some sort of formation (probably about 30 seconds). Each time, after you call time, call everyone’s attention to a different group and show everyone how they’ve made the machine. Repeat with the other Game Slides for as many rounds as you have time for.

CG: Game Slide #2 (airplane)

CG: Game Slide #3 (semi truck)

CG: Game Slide #4 (pencil sharpener)

CG: Game Slide #5 (clock)

“Wow! That was incredible! Great job to all of our groups. You worked together to make all those different kinds of machines. It’s really fun to make things, isn’t it? I think it’s really cool how God used so much creativity when He made each of US. And He didn’t make us all the same, either. We’re all created with our own 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

“You were made in the image of God—to love God and to love others in your own unique way!”

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!

Unshakable Love

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*

Storyteller enters, carrying the prop box, as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Setting up the story

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! The story I’ve got for you today is about a man named Samuel. (*Hold up Bible.*) Samuel was a prophet, which meant that he would speak God’s words to the people. God gave Samuel a pretty interesting job to do, and let me tell you, NO ONE expected things to turn out the way they did!

“Let me set the scene for you first. For years and years and years—ever since the beginning—God had always taken care of His people. He had rescued them from slavery. He had given them a new land. He had provided everything they could ever need.

“After all that, you’d think the people would trust God. You’d think they’d be like, ‘We’re good. God will take care of us. He always does.’ But that isn’t what happened. Instead, God’s people got jealous because they didn’t have a king like other countries did.”

Hold up the crown.

a bad king & a new king

STORYTELLER: “So the people asked the prophet Samuel to give them a king. Though it made God sad that His people weren’t happy with what He had already provided for them, He gave them a ruler: King Saul.

“But Saul turned out to be a very bad king. Saul had decided he didn’t need God’s help. He figured he was king, so he could just do whatever he wanted. This wasn’t good for God’s people, and it wasn’t good for Saul, either.

“So God sent Samuel on a journey to find the NEXT king of Israel. God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem and find a man named Jesse.

Hold up the Bethlehem highway sign.

“God told Samuel that one of Jesse’s sons would be the next king. When Samuel saw Jesse and his sons, he was sure that he had found the one he was looking for: Jesse’s oldest son, Eliab. Listen to what Samuel thought of Eliab.

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:6 (NirV) and read.

“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 NirV

“‘Anoint’ basically means ‘choose.’ So basically Samuel thought, ‘Surely Eliab is the one God has chosen to be the new king.’ After all, Eliab was handsome and tall. He SEEMED pretty kingly. But wait. Hold on a minute. Listen to what God said back to Samuel.

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:7 (NirV) and read.

“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 NirV

“Whoa. Did you catch that? People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what? (*Pause for response.*) Right. The heart. Now, this doesn’t mean the heart in your body that pumps all the blood. This is a way of saying that God cares more about the type of person you are, like if you’re kind or generous or loving.”

Storybook version

STORYTELLER: “Okay, back to the story. Jesse called for his next son to see if HE was the one God had chosen as king.”

Host enters, interrupting.

HOST: “Oooh! Oooh! [Storyteller’s name], I know this story. It’s awesome! Samuel went through all Jesse’s sons to find which one was supposed to be the king, right?”

STORYTELLER: “Right.”

HOST: “Yes! I’ve got a GREAT idea of how we can tell it.”

Host whispers in Storyteller’s ear, who responds out loud with comments like “Oh, I see.” and “Well, that would be exciting!” and “Do you think it would work?” The tone should be that Storyteller finds Host’s idea amusing and charming, not that he’s frustrated with him.

STORYTELLER: “Well, everyone, [Host’s name] has a very . . . CREATIVE way to tell this story.”

HOST: “I’m using my individuality!”

STORYTELLER: “Yes. Good point. *(To audience)* Now, you all should know that the story didn’t go exactly like you’re about to see. But I guess this is what it would look like if it came from a . . . princess storybook.”

HOST: “Exactly! *(To audience)* Can I get a little help—actually, a LOT of help? I need one adult Leader and seven kids.

Host chooses volunteers: one male Leader and seven kids. He puts the “Samuel” nametag on himself. He gives the “Jesse” nametag to the adult Leader. He gives the “Jesse’s son” nametags to the seven kids and places them in a line across the stage. (Storyteller can help distribute the nametags too.)

“Okay! We’ve got Samuel *(point to your own nametag)* and Jesse and all of Jesse’s sons. Music, please!”

Host starts to conduct the music.

SFX: “A Golden Childhood” from Cinderella (2015); keep playing through this whole next section

Choosing the next king

STORYTELLER: “Good. Like we were saying, Samuel *(point to Host)* was on a quest to find the next king of Israel. *(Hold up the crown.)* God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem, because he should pick one of Jesse’s sons *(nod to Jesse)* to be king.

“Samuel figured he should be looking for the bravest, strongest, most good-looking guy around.”

HOST: *(In a British accent)* “Yes. I, Samuel, shall try to place the crown on each of these young lads’ heads. If the crown is a perfect fit for any of them, then THAT young lad shall be chosen as the next king.”

STORYTELLER: *(To audience; amused, not frustrated)* “That’s not EXACTLY how it happened. I mean, Samuel didn’t actually make the sons try on a crown like it was Cinderella’s glass slipper, but we’ll go with it.”

HOST: *(In a British accent)* “Thank you.”

STORYTELLER: “Remember, Samuel thought the oldest son, Eliab, LOOKED like a king, but God said Eliab wasn’t the one.

Host (as Samuel) pretends to “force” the crown onto the first kid’s head, but it won’t budge. (The audience should be able to tell that this is all obviously play-acted.)

“God said not to look at Eliab’s outward appearance. That’s what PEOPLE tend to do. But God looks at the heart.

“One by one, Samuel examined each of Jesse’s sons.

Host (as Samuel) goes down the line, comically trying to “force” the crown onto each kid, but it won’t fit.

“But it was no use. God hadn’t chosen any of them to be king. ‘This doesn’t make any sense,’ thought Samuel. *(Host does a thinking pose.)* God had clearly told him that the next king would be one of Jesse’s sons.

“So, Samuel asked Jesse if these were all the sons he had. *(Host acts like he’s asking Jesse.)* Jesse told him there was one other son who was taking care of the sheep. *(Nod to Jesse to see if he’ll act this out too.)* Jesse told Samuel he would send for David.

Storyteller walks into the audience and hands the stuffed sheep to a kid. (Choose a kid who had his/her hand raised earlier, hoping to be a volunteer in the story.) Motion to the kid to come up on stage.

“David arrived, and God told Samuel . . .

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:12b (NirV) and read.

“Get up and anoint him. This is the one.” 1 Samuel 16:12b NirV

Host dramatically fits the crown on David’s head. This time, he shows that it fits perfectly.

SFX: Fade out “A Golden Childhood”

“David would be the next king of Israel!

SFX: “Fanfares for Trumpets” by David and the High Spirit (0:00-0:21)

“From that day on, the Spirit of God was with David. The end.”

wrapping up the story

STORYTELLER: *(To Host)* “That was great, [Host’s name]! Thanks for your help. *(To volunteers)* All of you can head back to your seats, too. Great job!

Collect the props from the volunteers and dismiss them to their seats. Host exits.

(To audience) “We had some fun with this story today, so it might have seemed like it was a fairy tale. But it really happened! I mean, Samuel didn’t really travel around with a magical crown that only fit one person, but he really DID go looking for the person God had chosen to be king. And eventually, he found the one God had chosen: David.

“Remember what God said to Samuel.

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:7 (NirV) and read.

“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 NirV

“God wanted Samuel to see what really matters—not what’s on the outside, but what’s on the inside. He wants us to do that, too. Say this with me.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God wants me to see what really matters.”

STORYTELLER and KIDS: *[Bottom Line] “God wants me to see what really matters.”*

STORYTELLER: “Let’s pray.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You so much for helping us to remember what really matters. Thank You for helping Samuel to know what to do and where to go to find David. You helped him to see what’s most important: not what’s on the outside of a person, but what’s on the inside. Please help us to see what really matters, too. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “In the story today, Samuel was trying to figure out which one of Jesse’s sons was the one God had chosen to be king. He figured it would be someone who LOOKED like a king—someone tall and handsome. He was tempted to look at the outside of the person. But God said: *“The Lord looks at what is in the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7 NirV).*

“God wanted Samuel to see what really matters. He wants us to do the same thing. He wants us to take time to really get to know people—not just look at the things we can see on the outside.

“Remember this:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God wants me to see what really matters.”

“As you go home and to school and to the grocery store and wherever else you go this week, remember to look for what really matters. ***[Basic Truth] Make the wise choice.*** Take the time to really get to know people. Ask God to help you see the value in others. Look beyond the surface to see what’s on the inside. Can you do that? Of course you can!

"You can head to Small Group now. Have fun, and I'll see you next time!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide