



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Dry-Erase boards; one for each small group
- Dry-Erase markers; one for each small group
- Blindfolds; one for each small group (*optional*)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use during the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- “Murky Mark” Title Slide
- Spring Images 1-3

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

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

What You Do:

- To play the game, you need a dark room. Consider covering the windows with black, plastic painter’s tarps. If a dark room is not possible, consider blindfolding each artist before he or she draws the image shown on the screens.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- ***Question mark marquee

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- [Question Mark Marquee](#): it can be made cheaply with cardboard. You can find tutorials on [YouTube](#)® or [Pinterest](#).

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Let Go
- Wide Open

All I Ask of You

Bible Story: All I Ask of You (Jesus Appears to Thomas) • John 20:19-29

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.

Key Question: What questions do you have for God?

Memory Verse: “In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged. I have won the battle over the world.”

John 16:33b, (NIRV)

Life App: Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad.

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*

Host enters.

Welcome

*Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host discusses recent/upcoming events: Masters Tournament, World Table Tennis Championships, The National Cherry Blossom Festival, Major League Baseball Season Kickoff, Earth Day, Arbor Day, April Fools’ Day, National Unicorn Day, National Siblings Day, National Pet Day, National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day, National Dolphin Day, movie opening (*Breakthrough*, *Penguins*), 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. The stage should be prepared for the game as kids walk into the large group room.*

Opener

HOST: “Ladies and gents, welcome! To say we are happy to see each of you here this morning would be a gross understatement! Although we have a high tolerance for gross things, we do not have such for understatements! Thanks for joining us on this great April day.”

“April days are some of the best and most picturesque you’ll find all year. The weather is choice. The plants are bold. The animals frolic. Truth be told, spring days like today inspire the artist in me to create . . . to draw! And I doubt that I’m not the only one feeling this today.”

“All month long, we’ve leveraged the bright lights and at times, the lack thereof . . . to play some games. To the excitement of some, you will be happy to know that today will be . . . NO different. In fact, we will be playing a fantastic drawing game we like to call “MURKY MARK.””

CG: *“Murky Mark” Title Slide*

“To play, all of you will stay in your small groups. Each small group has a dry erase board and one marker. One person from each small group will draw a beautiful outdoor, spring scene on his or her dry erase board to the best of his or her ability. We realize you are indoors and can’t see what’s outside, so we thought we’d bring the

outside to you . . . on the screens. An image will flash on the screens for a few seconds. When the image goes away, you must quickly draw the image to match what you see. The group with the closest image to the original wins the round. You will need to switch artists after each round. Make sense? *(Pause for response.)* Let's take a second to allow each small group to select its first artist."

Host allows a moment for small groups to select volunteers. Host distributes the necessary supplies for game. Optional: Someone can hand out supplies as groups enter the large group environment.

"Great! Oh yeah, I almost forgot. You will only have 15-seconds to draw the image on your dry erase boards. So draw really, *really* fast! Sound good? *(Pause for response.)* Oh! And one *more* thing. As soon as the image disappears from the screens, the room will go dark . . . completely dark! Let's play the game!"

SFX: High-energy game music

CG: Spring Image 1

CG: Spring Image 2

CG: Spring Image 3

Host initiates game for three rounds. If a blackout is not possible, blindfolding the artists would work equally well. Have fun with each small group's drawings after each round. When game wraps up, Host congratulates the winning group.

"Wow! Even though you couldn't see a thing, some of you—not all—but some of you managed to pull off some incredible MURKY MARKS on your boards! Well done."

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: “What’s up, everybody? All month long we’ve had this theme of light and darkness. I thought it would be fun to test your knowledge on the subject by asking you a series of questions (*reference the question mark marquee*). To do this, let’s have everyone gather in his or her small group. After I ask the question, I will give each small group a few moments to discuss a possible answer WITHOUT using their cellphones. I’ll call on several small groups to see if any are close to the right answer. Make sense? (*Pause for response.*) Awesome! Let’s get in our small groups.”

“Here is your first question (*reference the question mark marquee*). What is faster—the speed of sound or light? Briefly talk it over with your small groups and take a guess.”

Communicator allows a few moments for groups to discuss and calls on several groups to give their best guesses.

“Great guesses! The correct answer is the speed of light! Here’s the next one (*reference the question mark marquee*). The world’s longest-lasting light bulb, the Centennial Light in California, has reportedly been burning since what year?”

Communicator allows a few moments for groups to discuss and calls on several groups to give their best guesses.

“The correct answer is 1901, which is 118 years ago! Here’s another question (*reference the question mark marquee*). If the sun were to suddenly be turned off, how long would it take us to notice?”

Communicator allows a few moments for groups to discuss and calls on several groups to give their best guesses.

“It would take the same amount of time for sunlight to reach us—eight minutes and 20 seconds. Here’s the last question (*reference the question mark marquee*). What is faster—light or darkness?”

Communicator allows a few moments for groups to discuss and calls on several groups to give their best guesses.

“It was a trick question! Darkness moves as quickly as light! Great job taking your best guesses at these questions.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “I’m of the opinion questions are a great thing. Asking questions can lead to understanding, which can lead to knowledge, which can lead to more questions, understanding, and knowledge. Some of you just learned something new about light and darkness because I asked a question.”

“In fact, many of you have teachers who ask hard questions (*reference the question mark marquee*) in the hope of you gaining some understanding about pre-algebra or language arts. Some of you have coaches who drill you with questions (*reference the question mark marquee*) about your offense or defense in the hope of you better knowing how to execute the plays.”

“But are questions always good? More specifically, are questions about God good? Think with me for a moment. Many of you have heard us talk about God week after week. What if there are things about God that don’t make sense to you? What if there are stories in the Bible that are hard to understand or even believe? Is it okay to have these questions (*reference the question mark marquee*)? Well, let’s find out together.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “For those who were here last week, you’ll remember Jesus died on a cross. They placed Him in a tomb and sealed the tomb with a massive stone. Jesus’ friends and family were devastated. They knew death was a permanent separation from the one they loved. However, three days later, a few of Jesus’ closest friends made a huge discovery.”

“Mary Magdalene found the tomb’s stone door had been removed. In a sprint, she told Peter and John what she saw. At first, they believed that the same people who had killed Jesus had taken His body! Peter and John wasted no time running into the tomb to find Jesus’ body no longer inside. But the odd thing about the scene was the burial cloth. If someone had taken Jesus’ body, why would he or she leave His grave cloth or linens? No doubt this would have caused them to have some questions (*reference the question mark marquee*).”

“Peter and John left the tomb, but Mary stayed behind crying. She wondered where Jesus’ body was located. It belonged in the tomb and not in the hands of some grave robber. This was when Jesus appeared to Mary and spoke with her! Jesus wasn’t dead but had come back to life.”

“With this news, Mary rushed to tell the disciples! No one else had seen Jesus . . . only Mary. Upon hearing this, I’d imagine the disciples had tons of questions (*reference the question mark marquee*). Regardless, Peter and John, along with a few other disciples, locked themselves in a house. They were afraid the same Jews who killed Jesus on the cross would come after them next. At the same time, they weren’t sure what to believe. Jesus was alive? How could that be possible?”

“While the disciples stood behind the locked door, the impossible happened. Check out what John recorded in his gospel, (*Read directly from John 20:19b-20a*) ‘Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, “May peace be with you!” Then he showed them his hands and his side.’”

“Jesus who was dead came into a locked room ALIVE with the disciples. As proof of the pain He endured, Jesus showed the places on His hands where the nails went as well as the spot on His side where He was cut! You can only imagine their joy *and* questions (*reference the question mark marquee*) as this scene played out.”

“However, not all the disciples were present to see Jesus, including one named Thomas. The others did exactly what you’d think. They rushed to tell Thomas everything they saw and heard. Only for Thomas, he had questions—lots of questions. (*Reference the question mark marquee.*) For Thomas, this whole thing seemed unbelievable. Nothing the other disciples said could persuade Thomas. Thomas believed that Jesus was dead, end of story. Listen to how he responded, (*Read directly from John 20:25b*) **“First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe.”** Thomas doubted their story. It seemed too good to be true!”

“A week had passed, and the disciples were gathered in the house again. Only this time Thomas was in the room, too. Again, the doors were locked. Again, Jesus appeared in the room. He was alive and well. Thomas would have had some serious questions (*reference the question mark marquee*), but before he could speak, Jesus spoke to Thomas. He said, (*Read directly from John 20:27*) **“Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”** There was no mistaking the facts! Thomas now knew Jesus had risen and was alive.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Jesus was dead. Everybody knew that to be true. So Thomas’ doubts and questions (*reference the question mark marquee*) would have been understandable. When people began to spread rumors Jesus was alive, logic would say, ‘No, He isn’t!’ However, Jesus wasn’t dead. As we have already learned, Jesus was alive!”

“What I love about this story is Jesus’ response to Thomas. There was no anger with his doubts or questions (*reference the question mark marquee*). Rather He offered proof and answers to his questions. It demonstrated how God’s plan was bigger than all of Thomas’ doubts and questions.”

“This is incredibly important to remember because it also applies to us. God is okay with our questions. Keep in mind: God has a huge plan that goes beyond anything we can imagine. When there are things in life that hard for us to believe or hard for us to understand, we don’t have to hide those feelings. We can always go to God and be honest with Him.”

“We can talk to God when we are sad, scared, or anxious. No matter what is going on in life, He knows how you feel, and He never leaves us. God also places loving people in our lives for us to talk with when we have questions. These could be your parents, coaches, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or even your Small Group Leader!”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s spend some time with our small groups talking through this story. As you head to your groups, we want you to be thinking about this question . . .”

CG: Key Question Slide

“What questions do you have for God? To answer this question well, you will need to be honest with yourself and God. Don’t be scared that your question might be too big or too hard for God. God is WAY BIGGER than our questions. Let’s pray and thank God that we can trust Him no matter what.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

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