



## GETTING READY

### 1. Welcome/Opener

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Four kid volunteers
- Two blindfolds
- Two dry-erase boards on easels
- Two markers
- Painters tape
- Two twin-sized sheets

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

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

#### Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Theme Slide
- Pac-Man® Video Game Screen Shot
- Pac Maze Title Slide

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

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video

#### What You Do:

- Locate a screen shot of the classic video game Pac-Man from a search engine of your choice. Prepare the slide and have it ready to use.
- Using the painter's tape, create a maze on the dry-erase boards. The mazes should be similar if not the same. Place both mazes on the stage before large group begins and cover both mazes with a twin-sized sheet. Both blindfolded volunteers will start at the "starting point" of their maze. Their friend on stage should help them navigate the maze by talking.

### 2. Communicator Script

#### What You Need:

- Communicator

- Bible
- Table
- Potted flower with blooms
- Caged bird or stuffed animal bird
- Two twin-sized sheets

*Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

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

*Large Group Visuals:*

- Key Question Slide

**What You Do:**

- Place the table in the center of the stage. On the table, place the potted flower and caged bird. To minimize distraction and maximize curiosity, place a twin-sized sheet over both until Communicator interviews the objects.

**3. Worship**

**What You Need:**

- Alive Again
- Tremble

# Peaceful Easy Feeling

**Bible Story:** Peaceful Easy Feeling (Don't Worry) • *Matthew 6:25-27*

**Bottom Line:** You can have peace because God is in control.

**Key Question:** How can you find peace even when life seems hard?

**Memory Verse:** *The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.* Galatians 5:22-23a, NIV **Life App:** Life App—What God is doing in you to change the world around you

**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*

**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 discusses recent/upcoming events: National Fudge Day, Father's Day, National Eat Your Vegetables Day, Wimbledon Tennis Tournament, Stanley Cup Finals, NBA Finals, Father's Day, movie opening (Secret Life of Pets 2, Men in Black: International, Toy Story 4), 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:** "Hey, everyone! Let's have a show of hands. How many of you played at least one video game last week? *(Pause for response)* Of course you did! I figured everyone would have his or her hand up. Now be honest—how many of you already played a video game this morning? *(Pause for response)* Nice!"

"I can relate. Video games can be irresistible. Both old and new systems have fantastic games. AND I'm of the opinion that the retro games are even more amazing. You know, when you're talking about retro gaming it's hard to avoid the eponymous yellow circle that we all know and love. Anybody know what yellow circle I'm talking about? *(Pause for response)* Of course you do! I'm talking about Pac-Man®!"

**CG:** *Visual image of Pac-Man®*

"Pac-Man is so well-known and so beloved that even the sound effects from this game are ingrained deeply into pop culture! Who would have thought that a video game about a pizza with a slice taken out of it running around a maze gobbling up dots and dodging ghosts would be so far-reaching and stand the test of time so well? *(Enthusiastically)* I know I didn't!"

“There have been many great Pac-Man players over the years, and their strategies for getting SO good at this classic game basically boil down to one thing: lightning-fast reflexes and response times. Today I’d like to test the reflexes of some of the people in this room in a game I like to call PAC MAZE!”

**CG: Pac Maze Title Slide**

“To make this happen, I need two contestants, and each contestant can bring ONE friend to the stage with them!”

*Host selects two volunteers. Directs each volunteer to come to the stage with a friend.*

“As I said before, the core component of Pac-Man is navigating the maze-like arena with precision and speed. Volunteers, you will be using these dry erase markers to trace a path to the end of your dry-erase maze as quickly as you can. Seems pretty easy, yeah? Well, OBVIOUSLY there’s a twist! Volunteers, you will be blindfolded! The friend that you brought to the stage with you is going to be giving you spoken instructions on how to navigate your maze! The first team to successfully make it through the maze is the PAC MAZE WINNER! Make sense to everyone? *(Pause for response)* Alright then—game on!”

**SFX: High-energy game music**

*Host gets the volunteers into position and blindfolds the two volunteers with the dry erase markers. Pac Maze game begins.*

“Wow! What a hotly contested showdown of manual dexterity and verbal accuracy! My mind is truly boggled! Congratulations to our PAC MAZE winner, a round of applause for all contestants, and keep that applause going as we welcome *[Name of Worship Leader]* to the stage!”

*Host dismisses volunteers. Host exits, and Worship Leader enters.*

**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!

### ***Alive Again***

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *PRAY*

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

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

## **COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT**

### **Introduction**

*Communicator tells a story about a time he or she was worried but the worry never comes true. Communicator can use the following example or use it for inspiration.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** "What's up, everyone? Picture this: the year is 2012. The sly, handsome, and extremely suave *[Name of Communicator]* is standing in line at the store to pick up the latest and greatest video game console of the day: Nintendo's Wii U. After the phenomenal success of the Wii, you'd have to be crazy to pass up their newest addition to the console family! I was standing between a lady who was chatting at top volume on her cell phone and a gentleman who kept wet-coughing onto the back of my neck."

"Regardless, I was still excited out of my mind. However, the longer I stood there, the more I started to think . . . 'What if I didn't get here early enough? What if they had fewer consoles than expected? What if I wait in line for two hours only to have cell phone lady get the last Wii U?' As soon as this thought crept into my head, it was all I could think about. I was completely stressing and worried! As we inched closer to the door, I started to panic more and more in a cold sweat. When I finally got to the front . . . they of course had my Wii U. I paid for my console and headed home, laughing at myself for being so worried."

"Flash forward to the year 2017. I'm standing in line between a tired-looking dad trying to keep his sugar-filled sons at bay and a teenager mindlessly scrolling through social media on his phone. All of us are waiting for the Nintendo Switch. We had been burned by the false promises of the Wii U, sure, but the Switch was different. It was REVOLUTIONARY."

"As I sat there, alternatingly being kicked in the shins by children and being completely ignored by the teen, a familiar thought crept into my head . . . 'What if I got to the front of the line and they had sold out? What if Tired Dad gets two systems, one for each of his wild kids and the checked-out teen and I and everyone else in line is left out to dry?' Once again, I felt the worry seep in. By the time I got to the front of the line, I was CERTAIN that they weren't going to have a Switch left for me. However, when I walked up to the counter . . . the gentleman handed me a Switch. And all was right with the world."

## TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Is there anybody in this room who has ever worried like this? Maybe it wasn’t picking up the latest, greatest gaming console, but maybe you were worried you wouldn’t find new friends when you moved to this part of town. Maybe you worried about getting a passing grade on your science test. Maybe you worried it would rain at your swimming party. Maybe you are already worried about fitting in when school starts again at the end of the summer.”

“If we pause to think, all of us worry about silly things throughout our day. I continue to worry about things like getting sick on vacation, heartburn from too much hot sauce, or pulling a muscle getting out of the car. I know . . . I’m getting old.”

“But why? Why do we worry so much? And why does it seem like we worry over smallest things, especially when most of the time what we worry about never even happens? I managed to purchase both gaming consoles when I intended . . . they never ran out. Regardless, a small seed of worry managed to grow into panic and cold sweats. If it never happens, why do we give the worry so much credibility? A small seed of worry can destroy so much peace in our lives.”

“But what if you don’t need the worry in the first place? That’s a good question—a question that needs a good answer. And to find that, let’s head to a book with a whole lot of great answers to the world’s toughest questions: The Bible.”

## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “We start today in a book of the New Testament in the Bible called Matthew. The book of Matthew was written by a guy by the name of . . . well, you might have already guessed . . . Matthew! He was one of Jesus’ disciples. He wrote down many of the moments he experienced with Jesus, including this one found in Matthew chapter 6.”

“Here’s what happened. A large crowd of people had gathered on a mountainside near Capernaum. Everyone’s attention was on a Man who had a reputation for saying radical ideas and making impossible things possible. Shortly before this gathering, this Man healed people who were paralyzed, others who suffered awful pain, and even folks having seizures. The more He helped and spoke, the larger the crowd grew with people coming from all across the region. On this day, the big crowd hung on to His every word as they heard Him speak on subjects like anger, loving our enemies, giving to the needy, and money.”

“It’s important to note the crowd was most likely not full of fancy, rich socialites, or even important businessmen and women. The vast majority would have been regular, average people. They probably had worries about making enough money to put food on the table or worries about someone in their family falling ill. They had worries about how much the Roman government would tax them. This group of people would have had many daily struggles causing them all sorts of worry.”

“So you can image the crowd’s curiosity as this Man, named Jesus, began to speak on the subject of worry. Check this out. In front of that massive crowd, Jesus said, *(Read directly from Matthew 6:25-28 NIV)* “*I tell you, do not worry. Don’t worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And don’t worry about your body and what you will wear. Isn’t there more to life than eating? Aren’t there more important things for the body than clothes? Look at the birds of the air. They don’t plant or gather crops. They don’t put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are? Can you add even one hour to your life by worrying? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the wild flowers grow. They don’t work or make clothing.*””

“So humor me for a second. I have a two friends I’d like to introduce to you.”

*Communicator reveals what is on the table: a potted flower and a caged bird. A real bird would be awesome, but a stuffed one will work fine as well.*

“Ladies and gentlemen, I’d like you to meet Ms. Flora B. Potts and Sir Reginald Q. Featherbottom. Everyone, say hello! *(Pause for response)* I thought we’d conduct a quick interview to pick the brains of these two individuals, so if you’ll indulge me for a moment . . .”

*Communicator takes handheld microphone and holds to the plant and the bird while interviewing. Communicator will ask the plant or bird a question, pause, and respond as if it really answered. This is all done tongue-in-cheek and is completely ridiculous.*

“Ms. Potts, if I might be so bold, you are looking lovely today. Is that new topsoil? *(Pause for response)* I thought so! How’s everything? How are the little seedlings doing? *(Pause for response)* Wow, college already? They grow up so fast! Now, we’ve got time later to catch up—I actually brought you today to ask you some questions. Do you have time for a quick interview? *(Pause for response)* Excellent! First question: what are the things in your life that WORRY you? *(Pause for response)* It’s okay, take your time. *(Pause longer for response)* Okay, maybe you need a little time to mull it over. That’s fine! We’ll just move on to our next guest.”

“Sir Featherbottom—can I call you Reginald? *(Pause for response)* Okay, Sir Featherbottom, it is. Sir Featherbottom, may I ask how you came to be knighted? *(Pause for response)* Oh . . . uhhh . . . this is a little awkward. I didn’t mean to stir up so much emotion, Sir Featherbottom. Forget that question. Moving on. Hate to change the subject, Sir Featherbottom, but I wanted to ask you the same question: what is there in your life that WORRIES you? *(Pause for response)* You have to think about it too, huh? Nothing off the top of your head? *(Pause for response)* Do you worry about getting to the worm early enough? No worries about being an empty nester? Maybe we’ll go back to Flora. Ms. Potts, anything? *(Pause for response)* Don’t you worry about a cloudy day? What if their thumb isn’t green? *(Pause for response)* Nothing? Alright, this is going nowhere fast. Thank you for your time Ms. Potts, Sir Featherbottom. Can we get a round of applause for our guests? *(Pause for response)*”

“Ok, so clearly I wasn’t actually having a conversation with either of these. But I did want to make a point. Birds and flowers don’t worry like we worry. In fact, this is part of what Jesus said when he spoke on the subject.”

## **APPLICATION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Give this some thought. On your way to church this morning, did you notice any storage units dedicated for birds to store their seeds? Nope. Did you notice any fields of crop being cultivated by birds in preparation for the cold weather? Nope. Did you see any petal factories making beautiful petals for wildflowers? Nope! Why not? Birds and plants don’t make plans. They don’t know what’s going to happen or how they’re going to eat. But God gives them food anyway. And in God’s eyes, we’re worth way more than the birds and flowers.”

“For the people listening to Jesus that day on the mountain side, this is exactly what they needed to hear. They didn’t need to worry about the Roman taxes they can’t control. They didn’t need to worry about their next meal or even the clothing they didn’t possess. God’s love for them is greater than any bird or plant.”

“This is true for you and me as well. We worry about making friends. We worry about whether or not our parents can find a job. We worry about what we will wear. We all worry about something sometimes. But Jesus

is pointing out to the crowd and to us today that we don't have to worry. God takes care of birds and flowers. And more importantly, God takes care of us. There is no point in worrying about the things we can't control. Rather, we can put our trust in the same God who created us with the details of our lives because He is the One in control. When we do this, we find something so much better than worry . . . we find peace."

"Peace is a fruit of the Spirit. It's something that we can experience as we follow Jesus with our lives. Peace means that we don't have to live walking around all of the time scared or worrying about what might happen."

"Rather than worrying and stressing, we can talk to God about what's causing us stress. He wants to hear from us. God knows everything and can do anything. Things may not always turn out the way you expect, but know this—God is always in control."

### **LANDING**

**COMMUNICATOR:** "I know I'm making all of this 'don't worry talk' sound easy when I know it can be very hard. This is especially true when you are worrying about something really big and important. So as we leave today, I want everyone to think about this question . . ."

**CG: Key Question Slide**

**"How can you find peace even when life seems hard?"**

Let's take a few minutes and sing together about his idea of PEACE."

### **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!

**Tremble**

**WORSHIP LEADER: PRAY**

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

**COMMUNICATOR:** It's important for us to begin understanding how we can respond when we start to worry. Because of Jesus, we don't have to live our lives worried all of the time. He can give us peace. You'll talk more about all of this in Small Group, but before you head there, let's pray and ask God for help when it comes to finding the sort of peace that only He can give."

*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.**

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