



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Storyteller
- One small group
- Table
- Bucket of ten different fruits (with two of each fruit)
- Hand towel (or fabric) to cover the bucket
- Two blindfolds

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun music (suggestion: "Raise the Game" instrumental by Orange Kids Music)

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Life App Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Fruit of the Spirit Week 1 Slide (with Love highlighted)

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

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Life App
- Life App Transition to Theme

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Table
- Blindfold
- Box containing:
 - Small scoreboard (chalkboard, white board, or piece of cardstock; see “What You Do”)
 - “Anger” character from the movie *Inside Out* (plush, action figure, etc.)
 - Glow stick or glow wand

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Write “Me” and “Her” at the top of the scoreboard.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Unshakeable Love
- Who You Say I Am

What Is Love?

Bible Story: What Is Love? (Love Is . . .) • 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Bottom Line: Love others because God loves you.

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 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 Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Host enters.

Optional Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme

Opener

HOST: “Hey, everybody! Happy summer! I’m so glad you’re here at Mission.

“Around here, we talk a lot about different Life Apps. But what is a Life App?

CG: Life App Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

“A Life App is what God is doing in you to change the world around you.

CG: Theme Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

“Life Apps help us live the way God wants us to live. For example, we can show love to other people because we know God loves US and He wants us to show His love to others.

Love is actually what the Apostle Paul called a fruit of the Spirit !

CG: Fruit of the Spirit Slide Week 1 (with Love highlighted)

"It's called a 'fruit' because it's something the Holy Spirit produces in us. Apple trees produce apples. Orange trees produce oranges. When we have the Holy Spirit inside us, then we produce things like love, joy, peace, patience, and so much more! The Holy Spirit helps us power up and live God's way every day.

"In today's story, we're going to learn about what love is and why you should show it even when it may not be easy.

CG: Theme Slide

"Now, since we're talking about the fruit of the Spirit, I thought it would be fun if we play a fruit game. Who's with me? *(Pause for response.)* I'll need a small group to help me out!

Choose a small group to play the game.

"I'd also like to bring out our friend [Storyteller's name], who will be playing the game with me. Come on out, [Storyteller's name]!

Storyteller enters and stands behind the table with Host. Host picks up the bucket of fruit (covered up with a hand towel) and hands it to the Small Group Leader.

(To the group on stage) "All right, [Leader's name]'s group. You have a very important job to do. You've got a bucket full of different kinds of fruit, but don't let [Storyteller's name] or me see it! Both of us will put on a blindfold, and then you can silently pick two of the same kind of fruit and put them here on the table. Remember, you've got to point to the fruit to decide what you want, because you don't want us to hear you. *(To audience)* Audience, be sure to just watch silently, too, so you don't give away what it is!

"[Storyteller's name] and I will try to guess the fruit you've chosen just by touching it. Whoever guesses first gets the point. We'll see if you can stump us, and we'll see how many each of us can get right. Sound good?"

"Let's get some music going while we put on our blindfolds.

SFX: Fun music (suggestion: "Raise the Game" instrumental by Orange Kids Music)—keep playing to mask the kids' whispers

Host and Storyteller put on blindfolds.

"All right. I think we're ready for round one. Everyone say, 'Name that fruit!'"

KIDS: "Name that fruit!"

Go through multiple rounds of the game, letting the group on stage choose the fruit each time.

HOST: “That was so fun! Some of those were really hard to guess! *(To Storyteller)* Thanks for playing with me today, [Storyteller’s name]. *(To the group on stage)* And thanks for your help, [Leader’s name]’s group.

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!

Unshakeable 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!

Who You Say I Am

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Theme Slide

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hey, everyone. We’re back! I asked [Host’s name] if he would come try that game we played earlier, but this time we’ll play it with some different kinds of items. Let’s see if you can figure out what they are just by touch, [Host’s name].”

HOST: “You bet! Let me just get that blindfold on again.”

Host puts on the blindfold.

Repeat the game from earlier, but this time, set these items in front of the Host: a small scoreboard, an “Anger” character from the Inside Out movie, and a glow stick or glow wand. Storyteller can name each item once Host has guessed.

Note: It would be ideal if Host doesn’t already know what the items are, in order to get a genuine reaction. Storyteller can ask questions like, “What does it feel like?”

STORYTELLER: “That was great, [Host’s name]! Thanks for your help with that. I’m just going to leave these right here for now.

Host exits. Storyteller comes out from behind the table, leaving the items there.

“It’s pretty interesting that even when [Host’s name] couldn’t tell us exactly what the item was, he could still tell us what it FELT like. Love is kind of like that, too. It’s not easy to say what love IS, but we know how love FEELS.

“There was a guy named Paul who lived a long, long time ago. Paul spent most of his life following Jesus, and he wrote many of the books in the Bible. In a letter that Paul wrote to a group of people in a city called Corinth, he said that love is like this.

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people’s wrongs. Love is not happy with evil. But it is full of joy when the truth is spoken. It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up. Love never fails.

“Wow! That’s the way we SHOULD love people, but it’s not always that easy.”

THE SCOREBOARD

STORYTELLER: “When we played that guessing game with [Host’s name], one of the things he pulled out of the box was this scoreboard.

Hold up the scoreboard.

“Sometimes we start looking at all the stuff we have, and then we look at all the stuff our friends or neighbors have, and we start to keep score.

“We see the things that they have and we think, ‘Man, I wish I had a bike like that,’ or, ‘She’s so lucky she got that LOL Dollhouse for her birthday. I never get anything I want.’ It’s like one point for her, zero for me.

On the scoreboard, write a one under “Her” and a zero under

“Me.”

“If we’re not careful, we start feeling really jealous of things other people have. We just keep thinking about how we want those things for ourselves.

“Or maybe we get mad because someone does something that hurts our feelings, and we start to keep score in our minds. We think, ‘I won’t be friends with her because she did something mean to me.’

“But that’s not what love does. When we love others, we don’t focus on who has what cool thing and how we can get it. We don’t keep score of how other people have treated us. If we’re going to really love people, we’ve got to get rid of the scoreboard. We’ve got to show love no matter what.”

Set the scoreboard down.

ANGER

STORYTELLER: “Let’s see . . . what else did [Host’s name] pull out of the box? Right—this guy.

Hold up the ‘Anger’ character from Inside Out.

“Does anybody know who this is? (*Pause for response.*) That’s right! This is Anger from *Inside Out*.

“Here’s what anger does inside us. Anger is just looking for a reason to get mad. Your mom asks you to clean your room? Anger! Your friend had a birthday party on a day when you couldn’t come? Anger! Your grandparents couldn’t make it to your baseball game? Anger! As soon as things don’t go your way . . . ANGER, ANGER, ANGER!

“But just like Paul said in his letter, love doesn’t easily become angry. Love is patient and kind. If we’re going to love like Paul said we should—if we’re going to love people like Jesus loves people—then we can’t walk around getting angry all the time. We’ve got to let go of our anger.”

GLOW STICK FAIL

STORYTELLER: “The last thing [Host’s name] took out of the box was this glow stick.

Hold up the glow stick.

“I love glow sticks. They’re so fun! I get one and I get so excited. I can’t wait to crack it to make it light up. (*Crack it.*) It’s so bright and shiny!

“If you turn out the lights, one glow stick can really light up a room! But have you ever noticed what happens to this incredible glow stick the next day? What happens? (*Pause for response.*) Right—it doesn’t glow any more. This super-cool, bright and shiny glow stick that is so incredibly fun today is basically useless tomorrow, right? That’s because it can’t last forever. It fails.

“But Paul told us in his letter that love NEVER fails! No matter what happens, no matter what’s going on, love is ALWAYS the wise choice.”

“Your friend hurts your feelings? Love is the wise choice. Your parents want you to go visit your grandma instead of going to the movies? Love is the wise choice. You see that kid on the playground with no one to play with? Love is the wise choice!

“Why? Because love never fails. When we show love, it’s like we keep glowing and never stop. Love is always the wise choice—no matter what!”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Paul’s letter gives us such a great description of what love is all about. Listen to his words one more time.

Open the Bible to 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NirV) and read.

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people’s wrongs. Love is not happy with evil. But it is full of joy when the truth is spoken. It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up. Love never fails.

“Here’s the really cool part. (*Hold up the Bible.*) This is the way God loves US. God is patient with us. He is kind. He doesn’t easily become angry. He protects us. He never gives up. He never fails. So our job is to follow His example. We can power up with the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit will help us show love to the people around us.

“Remember this.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Love others because God loves you.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You so much for showing us what love is all about. We are so thankful that You loved us enough to send Jesus to rescue us. Thank You for always being patient and kind. Thank You for loving us with a love that never fails. Please help us to follow Your example and show love to others. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “Showing love takes a lot of work sometimes! But when you believe Jesus is who He said He is, you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you to help you show love. If you were in a video game, it would be like the Holy Spirit was helping you power up so you could move on to the next level, and that’s pretty cool!”

“Remember this.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Love others because God loves you.”

“Sometimes it can be hard to love people—especially if they’re not being very loving to us. That’s why we need God’s help. We can always ask Him to help us love everyone like He does.

“God is patient and kind. He doesn’t brag. He is not proud or rude. He doesn’t keep track of other people’s wrongs. God is not happy with evil, but He’s full of joy when the truth is spoken. God always protects, trusts, and hopes. He never gives up. God never fails!

“So, when someone cuts in front you of in line, when someone interrupts you when you’re talking, when someone does something that really bugs you, you have a choice to make. You can remember how much God loves YOU, and you can choose to love others the same way. After all, you’d want someone to show love to you, right? So **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated.** And **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.**

CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide

“Our memory verse this month is Galatians 5:22-23. It reminds that we have God’s Spirit to help us as we choose to live His way every day. Here it is.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“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 (NirV).

“I sure love hanging out here with all of you, and I know you’ll have a blast in Small Group, too. You can head there right now and talk with your friends about how you can show love!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop