



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Three Small Group Leaders
- Table big enough for the Leaders to stand behind
- Plastic tablecloth
- Nine large oranges (cut in half)
- Three bowls
- Three pairs of food service gloves
- Three (identical) tall, clear plastic tumblers
- Ruler
- Host's phone
- Trash can
- Wet wipes

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

- Upbeat 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 Slide Week 2 (with Joy highlighted)

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

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version for the intro, and 60-second version for the game)
- Theme

- Theme Transition to Life App
- Life App Transition to Theme

**What You Do:**

- Place the plastic tablecloth on the table, since the juice could get a little messy.
- Cut the oranges in half and put six halves in each of the three bowls.

**2. Bible Story**

**What You Need:**

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Wig and fake beard (for the Host)
- Large "Prison Guard" nametag (for the Host)
- Printed script (for the Host)

*Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- SFX: Dream sequence

*Large Group Visuals:*

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

**3. Worship**

**What You Need:**

- Every Beat
- Through It All

# Walking on Sunshine

**Bible Story:** Walking on Sunshine (Apostles Are Treated Badly) • Acts 5:17-42

**Bottom Line:** Choose joy no matter what's going on.

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

Host enters.

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

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

### **Opener**

**HOST:** "Hi, everybody! It's great to see you. We're talking all summer long about how we can power up with the Holy Spirit and live the way God wants us to live. There are lots of different Life Apps that we can choose to live out every day.

**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

"When we believe in Jesus, we have the power of the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit helps us to live differently. The Spirit helps us to show things like love and joy!

**CG:** Fruit of the Spirit Slide Week 2 (with Joy highlighted)

"Joy is what the apostle Paul called a fruit of the Spirit, because it shows what happens when the Spirit is living in us.

**CG: Theme Slide**

"I personally love ALL kinds of fruit, so I thought we could maybe play another fun fruit game. Are you with me? *(Pause for response.)* For this game, I need three Small Group Leaders.

*Choose three Leaders and bring them up on stage. Direct them to stand behind the table.*

*(To the Leaders)* "Thanks for playing, contestants. You three are going to have a little friendly competition I like to call 'Juice It Up.'

*Hand each Leader a bowl with six orange halves, a pair of food service gloves, and a tall, clear plastic tumbler.*

"Here are three oranges for each of you. We've gone ahead and cut them in half for you already. And you've also got a cup. When I say, 'Go,' you'll have exactly one minute to get as much orange juice into your cup as possible. When 60 seconds are up, I'll measure each cup full of juice with my ruler *(hold up ruler)* and determine our orange squeezing champion.

*(To Leaders)* "Leaders, are you ready? *(To audience)* Audience, are you ready to cheer them on? All right. Let's count them down. Three, two, one, 'Juice It Up'!

*Set a timer for 60 seconds.*

**SFX: Fun music (suggestion: "Raise the Game" instrumental by Orange Kids Music)**

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

*When the game is over, measure the juice in the cups with your ruler, and declare a winner.*

"That was incredible! *(To Leaders)* Nice squeezing, Leaders. As a reward, you can each take a drink of your freshly squeezed OJ. *(To audience)* Let's give them a hand as they head back to their seats, and you all can stand up and get ready to sing to God!"

*Pick up the plastic tablecloth from the edges and toss it, along with the oranges, gloves, etc. in the trash. (Keep the tumblers!) Hand out wet wipes if needed.*

*Dismiss the Leaders 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.*

## **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!

### **Every Beat**

**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!

### **Through It All**

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### **CG: Theme Slide**

## **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, everyone! Today I’ve got a great story for you from the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) It’s a story about joy. When you think of joy, you might think of being happy—like if you get to pet a cute puppy or kitten, or if you get to have ice cream after dinner. Those are some pretty joyful things for sure! But did you know that you can have joy even when things AREN’T so great? It’s true, and this story proves it. (*Hold up Bible.*)

“This story happened after Jesus died on the cross, came back to life, and went to heaven. When Jesus left, God sent the Holy Spirit. And with the Holy Spirit, Jesus’ followers, like Peter and John, found new power to share the good news about Jesus everywhere they went.

“As other people heard about Jesus, they began to believe in Him, too. These believers loved God and each other. They shared everything: their food, their homes, and their money. They encouraged each other and cared for people who were sick and hurting. God even performed miracles in their lives through His Holy Spirit.

“Peter and John traveled around to many cities and told people about Jesus. But in one of those cities, the people weren’t very happy about it. I could just tell you what happened, but I thought it might be really neat if we could hear about it from someone who was there. Wouldn’t it be so cool if we could talk to . . . I don’t know . . . like, maybe the prison guard in that city? I wonder what he’d have to say.”

**SFX:** *Dream sequence*

*Host enters, wearing a wig and fake beard, and puts on the*

*“Prison Guard” nametag.*

### **TELLING THE GOOD NEWS**

**STORYTELLER:** *(Laugh.)* “Whoa! [Host’s name], is that you?”

**HOST:** “Shhhhhhh . . . it’s not me. I mean . . . it IS me *(quickly take off the beard and put it right back on)*, but I’m the prison guard from the story today.”

*Host quickly gets into character as a stern and serious prison guard.*

**STORYTELLER:** “Aaahhhh. Got it.” *(Nod to the audience with a deliberate wink.)* So, Mr. Prison Guard, sir, would it be okay if we ask you a few questions?”

**HOST:** “I’ll allow it.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Can you tell us a little bit about what happened with Peter and John?”

**HOST:** *(Pull out the script and begin to read in an unemotional, monotone voice.)* “One day outside the temple, Peter healed a man who couldn’t walk—”

**STORYTELLER:** “Um . . . [Host’s name], why does your voice sound like that?”

**HOST:** “I assure you I don’t know who [Host’s name] is. I’m a prison guard, you see. A very serious prison guard.”

**STORYTELLER:** *(Trying not to laugh)* “Right. Got it. Please continue!”

**HOST:** *(Reading again from the script)* “As I was saying, Peter healed a man who couldn’t walk. *(Look up.)* Which is amazing, by the way! *(Back to the script)* But the religious leaders weren’t happy about it. They taught

people to follow God by obeying lots of rules, but Peter, John, and the other apostles were teaching a new way. People listened, and many were becoming Christians. So the leaders arrested Peter and John. The leaders basically let them go with a warning to never speak to anyone in Jesus' name again. Peter and John returned home."

**STORYTELLER:** "I see. But the news about Jesus was so exciting! Did they stop telling people about Him?"

**HOST:** "No, they didn't! *(Back to reading the script)* The believers prayed to God and asked Him for boldness. Just as they had prayed, God's power worked through Jesus' closest friends, the apostles, to heal many people. Crowds began to gather as people traveled from outside Jerusalem to be healed. Many became believers and took the news back home."

### **ANGEL SIGHTING**

**STORYTELLER:** "Wow. What happened next? Were the leaders angry that Peter and the other apostles kept teaching in the city and telling people about Jesus?"

**HOST:** *(Reading the script)* "Yes."

**STORYTELLER:** *(Laughing at the super-short answer)* "Well, what did they do about it?"

**HOST:** "Umm . . . let's see . . ."

*Host flips through pages to try to find the answer to the question.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Did the religious leaders arrest Peter and his friends and throw them in jail again?"

**HOST:** *(Confidently)* "Yep! That's exactly how I remember it! Ooooooh! *(Get excited and act more Host-like)* And you'll never guess what happened next! An ANGEL appeared to them while they were in prison. The angel opened the doors to the prison so Peter the others could go free! An actual angel!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Wow! That IS amazing!"

### **YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN**

**STORYTELLER:** "So then what happened? What did Peter and his friends do?"

**HOST:** *(Back to the script)* "They went out for pizza. *(Laugh.)* Just kidding! For real, though, *(back to the script)* they went right back out to the temple courtyard to tell people about Jesus. The high priest sent soldiers to bring the apostles from jail, but—of course—they weren't there. A messenger said they were in the temple courtyard, teaching the people. Officers brought the apostles back to the high priest."

**STORYTELLER:** "Right. *(To audience)* "Listen to what Peter said to the leaders.

*Open the Bible to Acts 5:29-32 (NIRV) and read.*

*“We must obey God instead of people! You had Jesus killed by nailing him to a cross. But the God of our people raised Jesus from the dead. Now Jesus is Prince and Savior. God has proved this by giving him a place of honor at his own right hand. He did it so he could turn Israel away from their sins and forgive them. We are witnesses of these things. And so is the Holy Spirit. God has given the Spirit to those who obey him.”*

**HOST:** *(Reading the script)* “The religious leaders were angry; they wanted to put the apostles to death. But then a leader named Gamaliel spoke up.”

**STORYTELLER:** “He said this.

*Open the Bible to Acts 5:38-39 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Leave these men alone! Let them go! If their plans and actions only come from people, they will fail. But if their plans come from God, you won’t be able to stop these men. You will only find yourselves fighting against God.”*

**HOST:** *(Reading the script)* “So the leaders had the apostles whipped instead. They ordered the apostles not to speak in Jesus’ name. Then they let them go.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Wow! That’s a pretty wild story, Mr. Prison Guard! Thank you so much for being here with us today.”

**HOST:** “I was happy to do it. Now I just need to find my time machine, and I’ll be headed back home.”

*Host exits.*

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** *(Laugh.)* “Well, I hope ‘Mr. Prison Guard’ makes it home okay!

“Peter and John were really brave to keep telling people about Jesus, weren’t they? Do you know why? It was because they had so much JOY in their hearts. They couldn’t keep the good news of Jesus to themselves.

“So what happened next? Well, they kept telling others about Jesus. Even though they continued to face danger—and even death—they never gave up sharing the truth about Jesus with great joy.

“God gives us that same kind of joy. He gives us joy when life is going great . . . and He gives us joy even when it ISN’T going great. Our joy doesn’t come from the things that are happening around us. Our joy comes from Him.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

“So let’s **[Bottom Line]** choose joy no matter what’s going on.”



“Will you pray with me?”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### Pray

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You for the story we heard today about Peter and John. It’s amazing to hear how they had joy even when they were living in danger. Thank You for giving us Your joy that’s so much bigger than whatever might be happening around us. Please help us to be able to choose joy no matter what. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters (as himself again) as Storyteller exits.*

### Closer

**HOST:** “That prison guard guy was really cool, don’t you think? I’d love to meet him someday.

“But seriously, Jesus’ friends had joy even when they were being put in jail and being made fun of. They had joy because they knew Jesus died on a cross and came back from the dead for them! Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, which means the Holy Spirit can help us have joy even when things aren’t going the way we want. It’s something God is doing inside of us that can also show up on the outside.

“Just like Peter and John did, we can remember that Jesus died and came back to life. We can choose to be joyful because we know that He did that for us!

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “Choose joy no matter what’s going on.”**

“So the next time you get frustrated because that LEGO® set just isn’t coming together like you hoped, choose joy! And the next time your little sister keeps bugging you and your friends when you’re trying to hang out, choose joy! And the next time your family’s really fun plan has to change because something comes up with your mom or dad’s job, choose joy! **[Bottom Line] Choose joy no matter what’s going on.**

“Do you think we can practice our memory verse together? Let’s try it!

**CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide**

**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).*

“Good job! The Holy Spirit helps us to do ALL those things.

“Now you can head to Small Group and talk some more about how you can choose joy!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

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

**CG: Theme Slide**

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