



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Two small groups (including Leaders)
- Two jumbo craft sticks (make sure to keep them clean, as they will go in Leaders' mouths)
- Table
- Two chairs
- Two plates
- Lots of sliced-up bananas
- Host's phone

#### 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
- Fruit of the Spirit Slide Week 3 (with Peace 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:

- Slice the bananas and put the slices on two plates.

## 2. Bible Story

### What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Kid volunteer
- Backpack
- Four or five bricks or other heavy weights
- Piece of paper with "Peace" written on it

### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

### What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.

## 3. Worship

### What You Need:

- Alive Again
- Tremble (after message)

# 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.

**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:** "Welcome, everyone! I'm so excited to see you all here today! My name is [Host's name], and this is Mission. We come here to have lots of fun together and to learn about what God is doing in us to change the world around us.

"That's what a Life App is all about".

**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*

"With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can power up and choose to live the way God wants us to live. We can live a life of love, joy, and what we're talking about today: peace.

**CG:** *Fruit of the Spirit Slide Week 3 (with Peace highlighted)*

“Those things are what the apostle Paul called the fruit of the Spirit. But Paul wasn’t talking about actual strawberries and lemons and cherries. When he said, ‘fruit of the Spirit,’ he meant the things that happen in our lives when we have the help of the Holy Spirit.

**CG: Theme Slide**

“So let me ask you a question. Are you ready for today’s fun fruit game? *(Pause for response.)* I thought so! For this game, I need two small group Leader and two small group members from each group to come up and help me out.

*Choose two small groups to come up on stage. Guide the two Leaders to sit in the chairs.*

*(To contestants)* “Okay, teams. Here’s what’s going to happen. In just a moment, we’ll start a countdown clock. During the 60 seconds, Small Group Leaders, you’ll hold these craft sticks in your mouths. *(Point to the craft sticks.)* But you’ll need to try to keep them straight and level, because your group members will take the banana slices from these plates *(point to the plates of sliced bananas)* and stack them on top of your craft sticks. Your goal, as a team, is to try to stack as many as you can without them falling over. Let’s see who can stack the most!

*Give each small group a plate of sliced bananas. Show them how to stand to the side so the audience has a clear view of the Leaders.*

*(To contestants)* “All right, contestants, are you ready? *(To audience)* Audience, are you ready? Let’s count them down in three, two, one, go!

*Set a timer for 60 seconds on your phone.*

**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, count the number of banana slices stacked, and make a big deal about what a great job both groups did.*

“That was incredible! *(To contestants)* Contestants, you were amazing! *(To audience)* Let’s give them a hand as they head back to their seats.”

*Clean up the game supplies as you dismiss the two groups.*

**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**

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

**CG: Theme Slide**

## **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, everyone! My name is *[your name]*, and I’ve brought this backpack with me today because I thought it might be helpful for our story. *(Hold up the backpack.)* I’ll just set it over here for now.

*Set the backpack down where it’s visible on stage.*

“Today we’ll be looking in the book of Matthew in the New Testament. *(Hold up Bible.)* Matthew was one of the 12 disciples—or followers—of Jesus. He was one of Jesus’ closest friends. Matthew spent a lot of time with Jesus, and he wrote the book of Matthew to help people understand who Jesus was. One day Jesus was speaking to His disciples about how we can have peace. Matthew wrote down what He said.

“Here’s what Jesus told His friends.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 6:25-27 (NIRV) and read.*

*“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?”*

### **WORRY BACKPACK**

**STORYTELLER:** “So, let me ask you: what are some things you worry about? When do you feel out of control?”

*As kids are naming things they worry about, begin putting bricks or weights into the backpack. If they can’t name many things they worry about, you can add some suggestions, too. Examples: grades, sickness, being in the dark, getting lost, storms, friends moving away, etc.*

“There are lots of times when it feels like we’re out of control. Our worries can feel like a huge weight on our backs. It’s as though we’re carrying a big, heavy backpack like this one. In fact, I wonder if I could get a volunteer to come up here and help me show you something for a minute.

*Choose an older kid volunteer to come up and help with the illustration. You’ll want to choose a kid you can trust to follow instructions. Pause after each question to allow time for the kid volunteer to answer.*

*(To kid)* “Can you try to pick up this backpack? Is it heavy? Let me ask you this: would you want to wear it around all day? Would you want to wear it when you’re playing soccer? How about if you’re running on the track at school? Would you want to carry this backpack then? Why not?”

### **REMEMBER**

**STORYTELLER:** “I think we’d all agree there are a lot of things that can make us feel worried or afraid, and we aren’t sure what to do about it. When we feel that way, how can we remember that God is still in control?”

*As you’re talking, begin removing the bricks/weights from the backpack.*

“We can remember those verses we read earlier. Do you remember what Jesus said? He said that God takes care of the birds and gives them everything they need. If God does that for them, then we can trust that He will take care of us, too!

“Also, we can remember that God is in control by remembering the ways He has taken care of us in the past. I can think about how God has always provided what I need—like food, clothing, and shelter. I can trust that He will keep doing it, too.

*(To kid volunteer)* “[Kid’s name], can you pick up the backpack again?”

*Let the kid pick up the backpack.*

“What feels different now? *(Pause for response.)* It’s not so heavy anymore, is it? That’s great!”

## **WE CAN HAVE PEACE**

**STORYTELLER:** “When we remember that **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what**, we don’t have to carry around all those heavy worries anymore. We have something else to put in our backpack instead. Any guesses as to what that something might be? *(Pause for response.)* That’s right: peace. We can have TRUE peace that can only come from trusting God.

*Hold up a brick.*

“That doesn’t mean you won’t have things that make you feel worried—like spelling tests. But you don’t have to put that worry in your backpack and carry it around with you. You can do your best, study hard for the test, and then trust God with whatever happens.

*Set the brick back down. Pick up another one.*

“You might be worried about a big storm coming through with scary lightning and thunder. But you don’t have to let that fear control you. You can take a deep breath and ask God to keep you safe. You can choose to trust Him instead of worrying.

*Set the brick back down. Pick up another one.*

“What if you find out that your best friend isn’t going to be in your class when you go back to school this fall? That might make you feel sad, mad, or frustrated, and of course it’s okay to feel those feelings. But at the same time, you can trust God in the midst of it. You can remember that He’ll take care of you. You can trust Him to help you make new friends, too.

*Set the brick back down.*

“See, when you trust God, you don’t carry those worries and fears and bad feelings with you. You feel God’s peace instead.

*Hold up the sheet of paper with “Peace” written on it. Put it in the empty backpack.*

“And you know what? His peace is light as a feather. *(To kid)* [Kid’s name], you can go ahead and put that backpack on your back.

*Let the kid pick up the backpack and put it on.*

“Feels pretty good, doesn’t it? *(To audience)* Let’s give [kid’s name] a hand, everyone. *(To kid)* Thanks for helping me today!”

*Take the backpack back from the kid as you dismiss him to his seat.*

## **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “It’s natural for us to worry. There are things that happen every day that make us feel scared, unsure, or out of control.

“But in those moments, we can choose to remember what Jesus said. We can remember how God takes care of the birds, which means He’ll take care of us, too. We can choose to remember how God has taken care of us in the past. We can talk to God about how we’re feeling. Then we’ll find His peace.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “You can have peace because God is in control.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us trust Him.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

## **Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You for helping us to remember today that You are in control. Please help us remember that the next time we feel worried or afraid. Give us hearts that trust You so we can feel Your peace. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Worship Team enters as Storyteller exits.*

**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!

**Tremble**

*Host enters as Worship Team exits.*

## **Closer**

**HOST:** “[Storyteller’s name] is right. We worry about all kinds of things: making friends, our mom or dad finding a job, what to wear, or if our family will have enough. But, like Jesus said, we don’t have to worry. God takes care of the birds and the flowers. He’ll take care us, too.



“Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, because real peace only comes when we trust God. Things may not always turn out the way you hoped or expected they would, but God is always in control.

“So, when you find yourself worrying, talk to God about it! Remind yourself that God knows everything and can do anything.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “You can have peace because God is in control.**

“God’s peace is like a breath of fresh air. (*Breathe deeply.*) Ahhhhh. That feels good. SO much better than worrying! Have fun in Small Group, 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**

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