



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- DYM Game

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide

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

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video

What You Do:

- Play DYM Game

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Butcher paper roll (See “What You Do”)
- Marker or paint

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Spartan Race Video (See “What You Do”)
- Map of Israel 1

- Map of Israel 2
- Map of Roman Empire
- Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- Search the internet for an engaging video of a Spartan Race. Have it ready to show at the beginning of the communicator script.
- Take a roll of butcher paper or white paper and roll it out to the size of the room. Divide it into three unequal sections using a marker or paint with the first part being a few feet, the second part being two or three times the first section, and the last section being as large as the room will handle. On the first section, write "JERUSALEM" in large letters and consider putting marks or stick figures to signify the people. On the next section (separate with a line or with color), write "JUDEA AND SAMARIA" (include more marks if you did that for Jerusalem). Finally, on the third section, write "THE WORLD."
- Have the butcher paper rolled back up and put in a convenient location for the communicator to grab during the truth section.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- We Are Royals
- Alive Again

Runnin' Down a Dream

Bible Story: Runnin' Down a Dream (Great Commission and Spread of Gospel) • Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1–2

Bottom Line: Keep going because God is with you.

Key Question: What makes you want to give up?

Memory Verse: *But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.* Isaiah 40:31 (NIRV)

Life App: Perseverance—Refusing to give up when life gets hard

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 can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sporting event, movie opening (Avengers 4, Aladdin), a viral video on YouTube®, or holiday (Mother's Day, International Tuba Day, Star Wars Day, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day), 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.

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everyone! It might be hard to believe, but it's already MAY! It's that time of year when everyone is getting ready to be done with school. For many of you, all you want is be DONE, but are you done yet? NO! Of course not, you still have a few weeks to go. May is a great month to see what it looks like to refuse to give up when life gets hard . . . but before we dive in... let's play a game!!"

Host PLAYS DYM Game.

Contestants play the game while the Host provides commentary.

"(After the game) Well done! Now everyone else, let's stand and worship together!"

Host dismisses volunteers.

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!

We Are Royals

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!

Alive Again

WORSHIP LEADER: *PRAY*

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

Introduction

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey everybody! Great to see you. I’m so excited to begin another month together. So now that the weather is getting warmer, how many of you like to get outside? (*Pause for response*) Any runners in here? (*Pause for response*) Okay, any *endurance* runners in here? That’s great! Now, how many of you would be up for something like this? Check this out.”

CG: Video of Spartan Race

Provide commentary as the video plays. Ask several times, “How many of you would be out at this point?” Stress how tough it would be to keep going.

(After the video) “I think that race looks insane! In fact, some of those people looked like our three game contestants earlier! You have to be a special kind of crazy—and in great shape—to be able to do a race like that. You don’t just hop off the couch from watching TV and decide, ‘I think I’ll run an endurance race tomorrow!’ And I’m sure that many people who start the race don’t finish it.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “It makes me wonder, when is a task so big or so tough that you want to quit? Have you ever faced a time like that? Maybe you were staring at a huge yard in the fall and it was full of leaves. You already filled a few bags and it didn’t look like you even made a dent. Did you want to quit? Or maybe you were asked to clean your room and, well, it had been a while. It looked like the task was too big and you wanted to give up. And like *[Name of Host]* said, some of you are nearing the end of the school year, and you don’t know how you’re going to finish it!”

“All of us have started things that once we get into them seem impossible and all we want to do is give up. But giving up isn’t always the best path out of the situation; sometimes you need to show some perseverance and travel through the hard times to get to the other side. But how do we find the strength to keep going?”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “That’s a great question. Thankfully this isn’t a new problem to us. In fact, we can find some of these moments in the Bible when people struggled to keep going even when it got tough. Let’s take a look at one of those moments now.”

“Today, we head to book of Acts, which is in the New Testament of our Bible. A guy by the name of Luke—yep, the same Luke who wrote the Book of Luke—decided to record what was happening to Jesus’ followers once Jesus went back to be with God. In fact, our story today includes one of the very last stories we have about Jesus before He went back to heaven.”

“After Jesus’ death on the cross, He rose again from the dead three days later. Now after rising from the dead, Jesus didn’t immediately go back to heaven. Rather, He went all around proving to people . . . LOTS of people . . . that He was, in fact, alive again. Those people included His disciples . . . guys like Peter, James, and John . . . who had been following Him for a few years now. And as it turned out things didn’t end with Jesus’ death and resurrection. Actually, they were just getting started!”

“But first, Jesus was going to ask them to do something kind of strange. You would expect Him to say GO! GET TO IT! But first He tells them to WAIT. Check it out. *(Read directly from Acts 1:4 NIV) ‘One day Jesus was eating with them. He gave them a command. “Do not leave Jerusalem,” he said. “Wait . . .” Wait? Wait for what? (Continue reading) “Wait . . . for the gift my Father promised.”’*

“Gifts? You love gifts, right? I mean, I *love* gifts! I wonder what it could be. New shoes? A video game? Not quite. Jesus goes on to tell them that the gift is the Holy Spirit. In other words, Jesus told them to wait because pretty soon the Father would send His very Spirit to come and live inside of them. But why? What do they need the Holy Spirit for?”

“Jesus goes on to tell them this—*(Read directly from Acts 1:8a NIV) “But you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes on you . . .”’ (emphasis ours)*

“Power? Power for what? Are *they* doing an endurance race or something? Not really . . . but now that I think about it, in a way they are. Check out what Jesus says next. *(Read directly from Acts 1:8a Nlrv)* “*But you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem . . .*”
(emphasis ours)

“See, Jesus has a task for His followers. He wants them to tell people all about Him. Where? *(Pause for responses)* Jerusalem. Why Jerusalem? Because it was the center of where everything just happened. Jesus taught there. Jesus was crucified there. Jesus was raised to life there. And there were a lot of people who needed to know the truth about Jesus . . . so Jesus told His disciples that **THEY** were going to be the ones to tell all of the people of Jerusalem about Him.”

“Let’s try and get that in our heads for a second.”

CG: Map of Israel 1

“Here is a map of Israel. That dot right there is Jerusalem. Historians guess that there were somewhere around 50,000 people living in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus. That’s a lot of people! And that is a big task for the disciples—to ‘tell people about me in Jerusalem.’ Let’s try to visualize this another way.”

Host walks over to roll of butcher paper and rolls it out a few feet to reveal the word ‘Jerusalem.’ Host stands on the paper.

“Jerusalem. That is a big city. This is going to be a big task. I wonder what the disciples were feeling like at this point? I wonder if they thought it was **TOO** big of a task and maybe wanted to quit. Want to know a secret? Jesus was just getting started. Check this out. *(Read directly from Acts 1:8a Nlrv)* “*But you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in ALL Judea and Samaria.*””

“Judea and Samaria. What’s that, like a restaurant in Jerusalem or something? Not quite. Check out the map.”

CG: Map of Israel 2

“Judea and Samaria are regions, as in a region that is made up of various villages, towns, and cities. You thought Jerusalem was a big task?”

Host rolls out the paper roll more to show Judea and Samaria.

“This is crazy! Jesus is now telling His followers that they will be in charge of telling everyone about Him, not just in Jerusalem, which would be a big enough task by the way, but also in most of the rest of Israel! Wow. I wonder if the disciples thought about quitting? But guess what?”

“Jesus wasn’t done yet. And this will blow your mind.”

(Read directly from Acts 1:8 Nlrv) “*But you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in ALL Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me FROM ONE END OF THE EARTH TO THE OTHER.*”” *(Emphasis ours)*

Host kicks the roll and it goes clear across the room, revealing “THE WHOLE WORLD.”

CG: Map of Roman Empire

“The whole world!? Okay now they’ve got to be ready to call it quits. That is insane! But you know what is even crazier? They didn’t quit. In fact, not long after this moment, the disciples were in Jerusalem (*walk back to Jerusalem on the paper*) and God’s Spirit came and filled the disciples. There were other people around who witnessed the events, and Peter, one of Jesus’ closest followers, got up and told the entire crowd about Jesus. And do you know what happened? That day, 3000 people became followers of Jesus as well.”

“In other words, what looked like an impossible task was actually made possible, because they stuck with it and didn’t quit but, rather, allowed God’s power to work in and through them.”

“But that’s not all! Fast forward to later on in the book of Acts. The followers of Jesus scatter out of Jerusalem but as they go, they begin to tell every village and town about Jesus (*walk back and forth on ‘Judea and Samaria’ section of paper roll*). And do you know what happened? People all throughout Judea and Samaria become followers of Jesus!”

“In other words, what looked like an impossible task was actually made possible because they stuck with it and didn’t quit but, rather, allowed God’s power to work in and through them.”

“But that is still NOT ALL! Fast forward to the end of the book of Acts. The book ends with a follower of Jesus named Paul waiting in Rome, the most powerful city in the world at the time, to appear before Caesar, the most powerful man in the world at the time. Why? Because for the last several years he and other followers had been spreading the message of Jesus throughout the known world (*walking the entire paper roll*) and people all throughout the world had become followers of Jesus!”

“In other words, what looked like an impossible task was actually made possible because they stuck with it, didn’t quit, and allowed God’s power to work in and through them.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Alright, now our personal task might not be as big as “THE WHOLE WORLD!”—though if you are a follower of Jesus, you do get to be a part of that incredible mission to tell everyone about Jesus. But sometimes there are other tasks, maybe even day-to-day things, that make us just want to call it quits. We just don’t think we have what it takes or lack the power to see it through. Or maybe you’re facing a really big challenge or problem right now and the easy thing to do would be to quit.”

“Think about what Jesus told His followers. The whole reason they were able to accomplish the task He had for them was not because they were so smart or talented or special. Rather, they were able to accomplish the task was because God was with them . . . working in and through them”

“And God wants to do the same with you . . . for you to experience His presence and His power working in and through you to accomplish those big tasks before you!”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “But in order to keep going and trust God, we might need to think about something important. In fact, it’s the question I want you to think about as you head to Small Groups. Here it is:

CG: Key Question Slide

“What makes you want to give up?” We’ll all have times that require us to dig in and trust God to give us the power to get something finished. What is it about those moments that makes us want to throw in the towel and quit? When we are able to identify those moments, we’ll know when it’s time to pray and ask God to give us the strength to keep going! You’ll talk more about it in Small Group, but how about we take some time to pray right now and ask God to help us keep going and not give up!”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

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

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop