



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- All Small Group Leaders
- Workout clothes for the Host
- Mud run pictures (see “What You Do”)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Perseverance Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

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

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video
- Life App Video
- Life App Transition to Theme Video

What You Do:

- Search for some images from a mud run to give the kids an idea of what it looks like. As always, make sure you obtain the proper permission to use any images you find on the Internet.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Giant bottle(s) of hand sanitizer, with lots of glitter mixed in

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Bible Story Images #1-5

What You Do:

- Get large bottles of hand sanitizer (enough for everyone in the room to use) and mix in lots of very fine glitter.

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 the Gospel) • *Matt 28:16-20; Acts 1-2*

Bottom Line: Keep going because God is with you.

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*

Host enters.

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

Optional Video (Media Package): *Theme*

Opener

HOST: "What's up, everybody? My name is [your name], and I want to welcome you to [your environment's name]! Man, it's so great to see you all here today! There has never been a better time to be alive! Well, maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration, but this is going to be a great month. Do you know why? Everybody say, 'Why?'"

KIDS: "Why?"

HOST: "Well, I'm so glad you asked. This is going to be a great month because I'm training for my very first mud run! That's right—running in the mud. It looks something like this.

CG: *Mud run pictures*

"Looks like fun, right? Looks messy, too. And I just KNOW that this month's Life App is going to help me. You see, this month we're talking about perseverance.

CG: *Perseverance Slide*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Life App*

"Perseverance is refusing to give up when life gets hard.

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

"I'm so excited to finally have a chance to achieve my goal of being a mud runner! But if I'm going to meet my goal, I'm going to need to train for it. So I thought, 'Who better to help me train than my good friends here at [your environment's name]?' Can I get all of our awesome Small Group Leaders to join me on the stage? You can help me with our first training challenge!

(To the Leaders, in a dramatic voice) “All right, everyone. We need to be strong. We need to persevere. We need to show the world what we’re made of. And this week, we’re practicing our balance. Balance is VERY important in a mud run.

“So, when I say, ‘Go,’ ALL of us here on stage will stand on one foot. We’ll see how long all of us can persevere and keep our balance. If your other foot touches the ground—even barely—then you’re out. The last one standing is the winner! *(To audience)* Kids, cheer for your Leader, okay? *(To contestants)* Are you ready? Let’s go!

SFX: Fun music

Make sure you struggle and fall early on. Then you can comment on the amazing balance of the Leaders and make things more challenging for those who are still standing. For example, you can have them raise one leg out to the side or curled up behind their back. Once one Leader remains, declare him/her the winner. Then dismiss all the Leaders to their seats.

“That was incredible! Our Leaders had some serious perseverance. I guess I’m going to have to work a little harder to get ready for my mud run. Thanks for training with me today. And now it’s time for us to stand up and get ready to sing to our God!”

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.

“Let’s take some time to worship God and thank Him for being our awesome Creator. Everyone stand up and get ready to sing!”

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

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Theme Slide

Setting up the story

STORYTELLER: “Hey, everybody! Last month we talked about all the things that happened when Jesus died on the cross and then rose again. When Jesus died on the cross, His followers were devastated—especially Peter, James, and John. But when Jesus returned to life, they were overjoyed!

“Jesus appeared to His friends and followers a number of times over 40 days. One time He told them about the Holy Spirit.

“He said this.

Open the Bible to Acts 1:4, 5, 8 (NirV) and read.

“Wait for the gift my Father promised. . . . In a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. . . . You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”

“But the disciples still weren’t sure what this meant.”

going, going, gone

STORYTELLER: “Earlier, Jesus had asked His followers to meet Him on a mountain in Galilee.

CG: Bible Story Image #1 (Jesus talking with the disciples)

“Let me read to you what happened.

Open the Bible to Matthew 28:18-20 (NirV) and read.

“Then Jesus came to them. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.” Matthew 28:18-20

“Jesus was giving His followers a very important mission. He was giving them the plan: to tell EVERYONE about Him.

“Later, when Jesus told the disciples about the Holy Spirit, He reminded them about their very important mission. He reminded them to tell people about Him from one end of the earth to the other. And then, right in front of their eyes, Jesus was lifted up into the sky.

CG: Bible Story Image #2 (Jesus ascending)

“He rose higher and higher until a cloud hid Him and they couldn’t see Him anymore. The disciples just stood there looking at the sky, and then two angels appeared! The angels told the men that Jesus had been taken into heaven, but one day, He would come back.”

the holy spirit

STORYTELLER: “The disciples couldn’t believe their eyes! Peter, James, and John tried to make sense of what had happened. Jesus wanted them to tell EVERYONE about Him. But how could they possibly do that? How could they share the good news about Jesus with every single person in the world?

“Well, around that same time, Peter, James, and John had gathered along with a group of Jesus’ family, friends, and closest followers. They had met in Jerusalem to pray and wait, just as Jesus had told them to do. Suddenly, a sound like strong wind filled the house.

CG: Bible Story Image #3 (Disciples with tongues of fire overhead)

“Something like tongues of fire appeared and came to rest over the head of each believer! Everyone was filled with the Spirit. They began to speak words from languages they had never learned before.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

spreading fast

STORYTELLER: “Okay, so before we continue, I need your help.

Hold up the bottle of hand sanitizer with glitter inside.

“Who can tell me what this is? *(Pause for response.)* Right. Hand sanitizer. GLITTER hand sanitizer, as a matter of fact. What happens if I clean MY hands . . . *(squirt a huge amount into your hands)* . . . and then I shake hands with [Leader’s name]?”

Shake hands with a Leader up near the front.

“Well, first of all, it’s kind of a squishy handshake. But look—now [Leader’s name] has clean, glittery hands too! *(To Leader)* You’re welcome. *(To audience)* Now, wait a minute. What if [Leader’s name] shook hands with someone in her small group? And what if that someone shook hands with another friend in the group? What if you kept going around your group? Eventually, EVERYONE in the group will have glittery hands, right? That’s so cool!

“I think all of us need to give this a try so you can see what I mean. First, let me give each Leader a glob of sanitizer.

Walk around with the sanitizer, squirting a generous amount into each Leader's hands.

"Then shake hands around your group until all of you are glittery. Just make sure you don't touch your eyes after you touch the sanitizer, okay? When all of you have glittery hands, raise them in the air and look up here.

Give the groups some time to shake hands and look at the glitter. Then get the kids' attention again.

"Wow. Awesome! You can put your hands down now. Isn't that cool how the glitter spreads? It reminds me of what happened next in our story.

"Remember, Jesus' friends had just been filled with the Holy Spirit, and they were speaking languages they had never learned before. Well, it just so happened that at that time, their town was filled with visitors from all over the place who had come for an important feast. Do you know what that means? That means the visitors heard THEIR languages being spoken by these believers who normally only spoke their OWN language.

CG: Bible Story Image #4 (Disciples talking to the visitors in Jerusalem)

"Peter took charge of the situation. He was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he shared the story of Jesus with thousands of the Jews who were gathered in Jerusalem.

"Listen to what he said.

CG: Bible Story Image #5 (Peter speaking to the crowd)

Open the Bible to Acts 2:22-24, 38 (NIRV) and read.

"Fellow Israelites, listen to this! Jesus of Nazareth was a man who had God's approval. God did miracles, wonders and signs among you through Jesus. . . . Long ago God planned that Jesus would be handed over to you. With the help of evil people, you put Jesus to death. . . . But God raised him from the dead. . . . All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

"And guess what happened. THREE THOUSAND people decided to follow Jesus that day and were baptized! The story of Jesus was starting to spread!"

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

wrapping up THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "The new believers studied what Peter and the other leaders taught about Jesus. They shared everything and gave to those in need. As others saw the joy and love of the new church, they also became followers of Jesus.

"Think about it. When we shook hands with glitter sanitizer, we spread it through this room so quickly. It was kind of like that when people heard the truth about Jesus. They were so excited that they couldn't wait to tell other people! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' followers could keep going to fulfill their huge mission of sharing Jesus with the entire world.

"Here's what we need to remember today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Keep going because God is with you.”

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us have perseverance when things get tough.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for this amazing story that reminds us how You can help us persevere. You helped the disciples by giving them the Holy Spirit so they could tell everyone about You. Please help us to trust You when things get tough and to remember that You’re always with us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “You know, when Jesus told the disciples to tell people about Him from one end of the earth to the other, it might have seemed impossible. But Jesus said that He would always be with them to the very end.

“And you know what? He is always with you, too. When life gets hard and you feel like giving up, remember that you’re not alone.”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Remember to **[Bottom Line]** keep going because God is with you!”

“Our memory verse this month is Isaiah 40:31.”

CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide

“It reminds us how God can help us when we’re up against something tough. Check it out.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“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).”

“No matter what you’re afraid of, no matter what problems you might be having, God can help you keep going. He is always with you. **[Basic Truth]** You can trust Him no matter what!”

“It’s time now for you to head to Small Group. Be sure to get a wet wipe to wipe the glitter off your hands, okay? I’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups. Pass out wet wipes as they exit so they can wipe the glitter off their hands. (Or you could do this in Small Group, if that works better for your environment.)

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

CG: Theme Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop