



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- A newspaper
- Several rolled up newspapers in a satchel/over the shoulder bag
- Six rubber tubs or trash cans
- Jump rope
- A tricycle or Big Wheel bike
- Stuffed animal dogs
- A few fake trees/plants

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Paperboy Video Game Screen Shot

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

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video

What You Do:

- Collect several newspapers throughout the month or have people donate theirs so you have enough for the game.
- Set up a simple stretch of the room to act as a street for the paperboy course. If possible, have it go right down a middle aisle of the audience. Have several volunteers hold up the tubs as targets (three on one side of the “street”

and three on the other). Place several obstacles blocking the targets like plastic trees/bushes, kids playing jump rope, etc. Have several leaders throw stuffed animal dogs at the paperboys to “attack” them.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Knitting volunteer (See “What You Do”)
- Host
- Knitting supplies for two people (knitting volunteer should have a project already started)
- Bible

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room
- “Do You Really Want To Hurt Me” by Boy George (2:57-3:20)
- “Every Breath You Take” by Sting & The Police (0:14-0:46)
- “All By Myself” by Celine Dion (3:00-3:30)
- “Pray” by MC Hammer (0:00-0:17)
- “Calling All Angels” by Train (0:45-1:09)
- “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” by Chris Tomlin (1:13-1:22)
- “Free Bird” by Lynyrd Skynyrd (1:56-2:20)
- “How Do You Talk To An Angel” by The Heights (0:47-1:15)
- “Mad Hatter” by The Stranglers (0:00 to 0:18)

Large Group Visuals:

- Key Question 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.
- For the Introduction, there are a few options based on what you are able to pull off. A fun option would be to find someone in your church who knows how to knit really well. It could be fun to honor a member of your church who normally doesn’t get honored. The Introduction is written for the skill of knitting, but you could really substitute any skill that takes a while to master: learning an instrument like the guitar, etc.
- Download the songs listed above and cue to the marked times. Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Every Beat
- Through It All

Faithfully

Bible Story: Faithfully (Peter Gets Out of Prison) • Acts 12:1-19

Bottom Line: Be faithful so others can count on you.

Key Question: How can you be someone people can count on?

Memory Verse: *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6, (NirV)

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*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Countdown*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Theme*

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 sports game, movie opening (Spider-Man: Far From Home, The Lion King), a viral video on YouTube, July Holidays (Canada Day, Independence Day, Chocolate Day, Cow Appreciation Day, National Cheesecake 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! So good to see you here today! So, I have a question for you: how many of you still get a newspaper delivered to your house? *(Pause for response.)* Not too many. And most of those who do: how many of you know it goes straight into the recycling bin? I thought so! Now, printed newspapers are getting more and more rare since we have the internet, but when I was a kid, we used to have the internet printed out and delivered to our house on what was called *(holding up)* a newspaper!"

“But how did that newspaper get to your house each day? A paperboy! Which, coincidentally, is also the name of one of the sweetest retro video games.”

CG: Visual image of Paperboy

“The object of the game was simple: You’re the paperboy, whose job it is to deliver newspapers to your customers. Sounds easy enough, but along the way you would encounter all sorts of hazards that would get in your way like dogs, potholes, garbage trucks . . . it was the best!”

“I need a few volunteers who think they could sling some papers with the best of them!”

Host chooses three volunteers.

“Alright, so we’ve set up a little simulated street where you are going to deliver some papers. You’ll see some rubber tubs [or whatever you have as targets]—those are the bullseyes for where you need to land your paper. Picture it landing gracefully on the welcome mat so that Mr. Smith can walk out with his robe and cup of coffee to retrieve it. He doesn’t want to climb onto the roof or under the bushes! But you also are going to be racing against the clock. Land the most newspapers in the targets in the shortest amount of time and you win. Everyone ready? On your mark, get set, deliver those papers!

**See “What You Do” for setting up course. If time allows, you can have several kids attempt the course. Time and give a prize to the winner.*

HOST: *(After the game)* “That was so much fun! Great job, everyone. No offense, though, I think I’ll stick to reading my news online. Let’s stand and worship together!”

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.

Worship Leaders enter. Host exits.

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.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Good to see you all! July is already off to a great start! And this morning is no different. To start us off, I have a special guest I want to introduce to you. Many of you might know her. Say hello to *[Name of Knitting Volunteer]*!”

“The reason we invited *[Name of Knitting Volunteer]* here today is because she has a special skill that she has developed. Check this out.”

[Name of Knitting Volunteer] sits and begins effortlessly continuing a knitting project while explaining what she is doing. The Communicator makes comments and interacts with her.

“I thought it would be fun to have someone join you and work alongside. *[Host’s name!]* Come on out!”

Host enters.

COMMUNICATOR: “*[Host’s name]* here is going to watch what you’re doing and then join in when comfortable. (*To Host*) Sound good?”

HOST: “Piece of cake.”

Host watches for a very short amount of time and then attempts to mimic. The host struggles from the very start. Knitting Volunteer continues to effortlessly knit.

HOST: *(After a time of humorous struggle)* “I can’t do this! I give up!”

Host puts the knitting supplies down.

COMMUNICATOR: “Alright, so the goal was not for you to feel frustrated, *[Host’s name]*, but I know that probably happened. The truth is that *[Name of Knitting Volunteer]* did not just wake up one day knowing how to do this. Rather, *[he/she]* practiced and practiced over and over again until it became almost second nature. It’s really true about a lot of things.” *(Highlight a skill the Host has—musical, athletic, etc.—that encourages them.)*

HOST: “Yeah, I see what you mean!”

COMMUNICATOR: “Would you all thank both my volunteers for helping me out?”

Host and [Name of Knitting Volunteer] leave stage. Host asks Knitting Volunteer if he/she wants to trade projects.

COMMUNICATOR: “There are a lot of things in life that you can pick up pretty quickly, while there are others that require you to show up again and again and again, trying to learn more and more each time. Eventually, you realize your shot is better, you can play those guitar chords, or you can do that stitch without even thinking about it.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Learning these skills can be fun! But they can also show us how important it is to be faithful in our lives. If we’re not faithful to practice our instrument, we’re not going to get any better. If we’re not faithful to train hard, we’re going to run out of energy during the game. But that’s faithfulness with things we’re trying to learn. What about people? What does it look like to be faithful to the people in our lives?”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Interesting question! When we have questions, a good place to start looking for answers is the Bible. And the writers of Scripture included a lot of great stories and passages that talk about faithfulness, including this one recorded in the book of Acts. Acts is the fifth book of the New Testament. Luke—yep, the same LUKE who wrote the Book of Luke—wrote Acts to tell us what happened to followers of Jesus after the resurrection.”

“After Jesus resurrects and ascends back to Heaven. God sent the Holy Spirit, and the early followers of Jesus, what we call the church, grew in number daily. Now not everybody was happy to see the church growing, especially the religious leaders who had put Jesus to death, as well as the Roman leaders who were responsible for keeping peace in the empire. As more and more believers spread the good news about Jesus, there was more and more tension with these leaders.”

“And on one particular occasion, King Herod, son of Herod the Great, was out to cause trouble for the followers of Jesus.”

SFX: “Do You Really Want To Hurt Me” by Boy George (2:57-3:20)

“(Read directly from Acts 12:1-3a, NIV) ‘About this time, King Herod arrested some people who belonged to the church. He planned to make them suffer greatly. He had James killed with a sword. James was John’s brother. Herod saw that the death of James pleased some Jews. So he arrested Peter also.’”

“You remember Peter, right? He was one of Jesus’ closest disciples. But here he was one of the main leaders of the early church. No wonder Herod had him arrested. And this pleased the religious leaders who were against the Jesus movement.”

“(Read directly from Acts 12:4a, NIV) ‘After Herod arrested Peter, he put him in prison. Peter was placed under guard. He was watched by four groups of four soldiers each.’”

SFX: “Every Breath You Take” by Sting & The Police (0:14-0:46)

“That’s right, Peter was under the watchful eye of four prison guards. Herod planned to put him on public trial. And we know what happened to Jesus when he was put on public trial.”

“(Read directly from Acts 12:5a, NIV) ‘So Peter was kept in prison.’”

“He was kept there . . . all alone . . .”

SFX: “All By Myself” by Celine Dion (3:00-3:30)

“But here’s a question. While Peter was by himself in prison, what was everybody else doing? Well, check out the second half of the verse . . .”

“(Read directly from Acts 12:5 NIV) ‘So Peter was kept in prison. But the church prayed hard to God for him.’”

“Peter may have felt like he was all by himself, but he was not alone. While this was happening, the church had gathered to pray for Peter.”

SFX: “Pray” by MC Hammer (0:00-0:17)

“On the night before Peter’s trial, Herod was doing everything to make sure there was none of this funny business he’d been hearing about with this early church . . . strange unexplained miracles . . . like a bizarre empty tomb. He had Peter on lockdown. Check it out.”

“(Read directly from Acts 12:6, NIV) ‘It was the night before Herod was going to bring him to trial. Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. Two chains held him there. Lookouts stood guard at the entrance.’”

“But it didn’t matter, though!”

SFX: “Calling All Angels” by Train (0:45-1:09)

“(Read directly from Acts 12:7, NIV) ‘Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared. A light shone in the prison cell. The angel struck Peter on his side. Peter woke up. “Quick!” the angel said. “Get up!” The chains fell off Peter’s wrists.’”

SFX: “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” by Chris Tomlin (1:13-1:22)

“The angel led Peter through the prison, past the guards, and all the way out of the city gate, which opened by itself! Peter thought he was dreaming, but this was the real deal. And then the angel left Peter. There he was . . . free as a bird!”

SFX: “Free Bird” by Lynyrd Skynyrd (1:56-2:20)

“So Peter went to Mary’s house where the believers were all gathered praying . . .”

SFX: “Pray” by MC Hammer (0:00-0:17)

“Yeah, we got that already. And Peter knocked at the door.”

“(Read directly from Acts 12:13-14, NIV) ‘Peter knocked at the outer entrance. A servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. She recognized Peter’s voice. She was so excited that she ran back without opening the door. “Peter is at the door!” she exclaimed.’”

“This is hilarious. *(Acting out)* ‘Hey! It’s me Peter!’ *(Turn)* ‘Oh Peter! You’re safe! *(Pause and run away).*”

“In her excitement, she forgot to let him in!

SFX: “All By Myself” by Celine Dion (3:00-3:30)

“And there it was again! Okay. Well, anyhow, nobody believed Rhoda. They told her she was out of her mind and must have been talking to an angel or something . . .”

SFX: “How Do You Talk To An Angel” by The Heights (0:47-1:15)

“But Peter wouldn’t go away! *(Read directly from Acts 12:16-17, NIV)* ‘Peter kept on knocking. When they opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet. He explained how the Lord had brought him out of prison. ‘Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this,’ he said. Then he went to another place.”

“In the morning when the soldiers saw Peter was gone, they were completely bewildered. And Herod, well . . .”

SFX: “Mad Hatter” by The Stranglers (0:00 to 0:18)

“He ordered the all-out search for Peter and the death of the guards.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “What a story, huh? When we started, we talked about being faithful to learn a difficult skill, like knitting or a musical instrument. And even though faithfulness is more than just learning a skill, we can certainly learn something from these things.”

“In order to learn to knit or to play guitar or to dribble a basketball with both of your hands, you have to show up and do it. Not just once . . . but again . . . and again . . . and again. Pretty soon you have become faithful to learning these skills, and because of that, you will see results.”

“In this story, we see faithfulness all over the place but not faithfulness to a skill—to something much bigger! Peter was faithful to the mission that God had for him, to the point that he was willing to go to prison for it. The early church was faithful to pray for Peter all night long while he was in prison. And God was faithful to rescue Peter and to keep him safe in order to continue leading the church.”

“For the last several weeks now we’ve been looking at the different fruit of the Spirit, and faithfulness is a fruit that God demonstrates in our lives the more and more we learn to live like Jesus. We see it here in this story, and God wants to show it through our story as well!”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Today, as you head to small groups, think about this.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“How can you be someone people can count on? Think about it. Where might God be calling you to be faithful right now in an area where you might feel like giving up? Who can you love and ‘keep showing up for’ even when it is difficult? Maybe it’s a friend that is having a hard time or a family member that is feeling down and out. Peter knew just where to go when he needed someone. How can you be faithful like that for someone else?”

“If you’re having a hard time thinking of ideas, have no fear! You’ll talk more about it with your small group, and when you think of those ideas, you don’t do them alone, either. When we believe in Jesus, we get the Holy Spirit to help us when it gets hard to live like Jesus. How about we pray and ask God for help right now. Let’s pray.”

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