



## GETTING READY

### 1. Welcome/Opener

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Hand pump for balloons
- Small balloons
- Prizes

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

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

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Theme Slide
- Dig Dug Video Game Screen Shot

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

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video

#### What You Do:

- Search for a screen shot of the classic video game, *Dig Dug*, from a search engine of your choice. Download the image and create a slide. Have it loaded into your presentation software and ready to use.
- Select volunteers who will be OK with a balloon popping right in front of them.
- Because balloons may pop, post “latex allergy” warnings in your check-in areas.

## 2. Communicator Script

### What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible

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

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Memes 1-5 (***find online***)
- Memes 6-10 (***find online***)
- 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.
- Download the memes and have them ready to use. The first five are grouped together. The second five are grouped together. The communicator will comment on these as they show on the screen. ***NOTE: These comments are not scripted out, as we want them to feel natural to the communicator's personality. Be sure to have the communicator run through images beforehand to have an idea of what he or she will say.***

## 3. Worship

### What You Need:

- Alive Again
- Real Love

# This One's for the Children

**Bible Story:** This One's for the Children (Jesus and the Little Children) • Mark 10:13-16 (supporting: Mark 9:36-37)

**Bottom Line:** God can give you the strength to be gentle.

**Key Question:** Why is it sometimes hard to be gentle?

**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:** 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, or 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:** "What's going on my people? We have such a good day in store for you. And that day starts with an awesome game inspired by the classic video game *Dig Dug*. Yes, you heard me right . . . it is not just a present and past tense verb . . . oh no. When put together, these two words make up a retro, 8-bit game that filled arcades in the 80's. Check it out!"

**CG: Visual image of Dig Dug**

“*Dig Dug* was kind of like Pac-Man except you could sneak up on the bad guys first and pump them up with your little air pump and . . . POP! Seriously, who comes up with this?! Brilliant minds . . . that’s who.”

“Alright, so we have a little *Dig Dug* inspired game here on stage today, and I need two challengers!”

*Host chooses two volunteers.*

“So here is how the game is played. Here I have my little *Dig Dug* air pump. A formidable weapon against the forces of evil, I think you’d agree. Now, I’m going to place a balloon on the end of the pump. It is up to you to decide how many pumps it will take to pop the balloon, and try to guess one less than that. In other words, unlike *Dig Dug*, you DON’T want to pop this balloon.”

*Example: Volunteer 1 says “I can do 8 pumps without popping. Volunteer 2 challenges and says, “I can do 9 pumps.” Volunteer 1 counters and says 10. Volunteer 2 accepts. Now Volunteer 1 has to have the balloon pumped 10 times. If it pops, Volunteer 2 gets a point. If it doesn’t pop, they continue – “I can pump 2 more without it popping, etc.” Once it pops, they start over with a new balloon. First one to 3 points wins a prize.*

*If time allows, bring up additional volunteers.*

**HOST:** “(After the game) That was awesome. I don’t know about you, but I really dug that game. Sorry, couldn’t resist. Okay, 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!

### **Alive Again**

**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!

### **Real Love**

**WORSHIP LEADER:** *PRAY*

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### **CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

*Communicator enters Worship Leaders exit.*

## **COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey, everyone! Glad to see you all here today. You know (*thinking out loud*), if you’re ever having one of those days where you’re just feeling down and out . . . where NOTHING seems to be going your way . . . where the world feels like a cruel and cold place . . . you know what’s a sure-fire way to cure what ails you? (*Exploding*) Cute memes! That’s right, it could be a kitten . . . it could be a puppy . . . it could be a baby . . . behold, the cute memes! Warning, though . . . some of these are on cute overload.”

*Show the five meme images and provide commentary.*

### **CG: Meme Images 1-5**

### **TENSION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Now . . . what is it that makes these so cute? It is because the subjects are so small and fragile. You have to be so gentle with them . . . and watching them do these funny things or make these ridiculous faces just captures our attentions.”

“But what if the subject changed? Here’s what I mean . . . ”

*Show the five meme images with the subjects changed. Provide commentary, as the reaction should be pretty strong from the audience.*

**CG: Meme Images 6-10**

“Something is definitely wrong here, right? It is one thing to see memes with cute kittens and puppies and babies, but then to see . . . well . . . what we just saw? It just isn’t right. It makes sense for us to be gentle with something or someone that looks fragile or like it should be treated gently, but what does it mean to be gentle with my family and the people around me?”

**TRUTH**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Great question, right?! Well, to explore this question, we head to an interesting moment from Jesus’ life that we find recorded one of the Gospels. The Gospels are the writings that tell the story of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, and through them we get a picture of what Jesus was like. Today’s story comes from the Gospel of Mark.”

“Now one thing we learn about Jesus right away was that he was BUSY! There always seemed to be crowds of people around him, and usually those crowds were asking him to do things for them—heal them with a miracle, make a bread appear again and feed them . . . sometimes I think the disciples probably felt more like security guards!”

“Now, before we go further, think about little kids for a moment. In 2019, we experience so many ways that we celebrate and put kids at the center of what we’re doing. We have birthday parties where we watch them smash cake in their own faces. It’s awesome. We have celebrations when they walk and when they talk. We have graduation ceremonies. Some take pictures on Santa’s lap and on the Easter Bunny’s lap. We capture and celebrate everything. Why? Because for the most part, people value and cherish kids.”

“But what if I told you that in the first century . . . the time when Jesus’ lived . . . this was not really the case? See, in that society, the value of a person was tied to how much they could contribute or produce. But how much can a two-year-old contribute and produce? Yeah, not a whole lot. And for that reason, kids didn’t have a lot of value until they were grown and could begin to contribute to the family or society. I know it sounds bad, but that’s the way it was. And that’s the attitude we see on display in the story today. Look for it! Here we go.”

*“(Read directly from Mark 10:13 NIV) ‘People were bringing little children to Jesus. They wanted him to place his hands on them to bless them. But the disciples told them to stop.’”*

“What did you all see there that fit what we were just talking about?”

*Pause for responses about the disciples keeping children away.*

“Exactly. ‘But the disciples told them to stop.’ Can you believe that? Now, how do you think Jesus responded? I mean, this was pretty typical, so He could have been all *(acting matter of fact)* ‘That’s just how it is in our world today. Once these youngsters learn to do their part and pick themselves up by their own bootstraps, then I’ll have time for them.’”

“Check out his response, though. *(Read directly from Mark 10:14a NIV)* ‘When Jesus saw this, he was angry.’”

“Woah. That’s a strong reaction. I could imagine annoyed. I could see bothered. But angered? There are actually only a few times in the Gospels where it says Jesus was angry like this, and they all involve times when a person or people were being treated unfairly or looked down on. Check out what He says next.”

*“(Read directly from Mark 10:14-16 NIV) ‘When Jesus saw this, he was angry. He said to his disciples, “Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. God’s kingdom belongs to people like them. What I’m about to tell you is true. Anyone who will not receive God’s kingdom like a little child will never enter it.” Then he took the children in his arms. He placed his hands on them to bless them.’”*

“See, the disciples, much like other people of that day, were quick to keep the kids away simply because they thought Jesus was too busy—like He had other, more important things to do. Yet, Jesus responds with gentleness. And in his gentleness, He made time for those that others often pushed away and looked down on. In fact, Jesus actually used the children as an example of HOW people should come to God!”

## **APPLICATION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “What often surprised people about Jesus was His gentleness. But His gentleness was not the same as weakness. In fact, we could even go as far as to say that it was Jesus’ power that enabled Him treat others with gentleness. And that same power is working in and through us as well!”

“You might have a little brother or sister who is always getting into your business. They mess with your stuff, go into your room without asking, and just generally get under your skin. You find yourself getting really easily frustrated with them, and the easiest thing to do is to overpower them and yell at them. What would it look like instead, like Jesus, to be gentle with them rather than to push them away?”

“Or maybe there is a kid at school that you can dominate pretty easily in gym class or on the sports field, and it makes you feel pretty good about yourself. Plus other people think you’re pretty cool. What would it look like instead, like Jesus, to be gentle with this person rather than to just overpower them like you easily can?”

“Or the opposite might be true. Maybe there is someone in your life who is really hard on you. He or she is not gentle at all, and your inclination is to come back at that person with the same force that he or she comes at you. What would it look like instead to be gentle with them and to show that person the example of Jesus?”

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Thankfully, when it comes to gentleness, we don’t have to try to do this on our own. When we put our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit is with us to help us power up and find the strength we need to be gentle. After all, gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit!”

“At the same time, it’s good for us to be aware of the times when we’re struggling to be gentle with others. Today as you go to groups, think about this question.”

**CG: Key Question Slide**

**“Why is it sometimes hard to be gentle?”** When we discover the moments where we struggle, we can make a plan to ask God for help. How about we do that now? Let’s pray and, first of all, thank God for sending Jesus as the ultimate example of gentleness and, second, help for how we show that same gentleness to people in our lives. 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**