



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Host's phone
- Three teams of two contestants; each with the Leader and a kid from the same small group
- Table(s)
- Plastic tablecloth(s)
- Three watermelon halves
- Six melon ballers or ice cream scoops
- Three cookie sheets
- Wet wipes

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun music for the game (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 1 (with Goodness highlighted)

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

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Life App
- Life App Transition to Theme

What You Do:

- Place supplies for the game close by so the Host can reach them. You may want to enlist the help of another volunteer to help bring the table and supplies onto the stage for the game.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Five wrapped gifts:
 1. **Dollhouse or LEGO® house (or a picture of a house or apartment)**
 2. **Cheeseburger container from a local fast food restaurant**
 3. **Framed picture of some kids who look like they're friends**
 4. **Soccer ball**
 5. **Hand mirror**

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.
- Wrap all five gifts and number them. Pre-set box five somewhere prominent on the stage so the kids can clearly see it, even when the Storyteller "doesn't see it."

3. Worship

- Unshakable Love
- Who You Say I Am

Back 2 Good

Bible Story: Back 2 Good (Every Good and Perfect Gift) • *James 1:17a*

Bottom Line: Show God's goodness to others.

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*

Host enters.

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

Optional Video (Media Package): *Theme*

Opener

HOST: "What's up, everybody? It's so great to see you! My name is [your name], and I'm your host today in [your environment's name]. We've got LOTS of fun stuff planned. You'll definitely be so glad you're here!

"All summer we're learning about how we can power up and live God's way by living out lots of different Life Apps every day.

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*

"When we believe in Jesus, we have the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit helps us live out different Life Apps like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, . . . and goodness!

CG: *Fruit of the Spirit Slide Week 1 (with Goodness highlighted)*

"The Apostle Paul, a follower of Jesus who wrote most of the books in the New Testament, called those things the fruit of the Spirit. In other words, when we power up with the Holy Spirit, our lives will SHOW those things to the people around us. We'll be the kind of people who treat others with goodness—no matter what!

CG: *Theme Slide*

“We’ve been playing some fun fruit games to go along with all this talk about the fruit of the Spirit, and today is no different! We’re going to do a little melon balling. I’ll need a few volunteers.

Choose three small groups to participate in this game. Choose the Leader and one kid from each group. Have them stand behind the table(s) with the game supplies so they’re facing the audience.

“Each group has a watermelon, and each person has a melon baller. (*Hold up one of the melon ballers.*) When I say, ‘Go’, each of you will use your melon baller to scoop out a little ball of watermelon and put it on the cookie sheet. You’ll keep doing that until time is up, and then the team with the most melon balls on your tray wins! Are you ready? Let’s do this. Three, two, one, go!

Set a timer on your phone for 30 seconds.

SFX: Fun music (suggestion: “Raise the Game” instrumental by Orange Kids Music)

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

Comment on the action and cheer for the contestants.

“That was amazing! Great job, contestants. You are expert melon ballers! That’ll come in handy the next time you need to make a fruit salad.

Determine each team’s total, and cheer for all three teams. Give them wet wipes for their hands, and send them back to their seats.

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!

Unshakeable Love

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!"

Who You Say I Am

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Theme Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! I've got a quick question for you. How many of you have a brother? Raise your hand if you've got a brother. Okay, you can put your hands down."

"Jesus had a brother named James. James was one of the people who helped start the very first churches ever. After all, he believed that His brother Jesus was the Son of God!"

"Here's what James had to say in a letter that we can find in our Bible today. We call it the book of James. Listen to this."

Open the Bible to James 1:17a (NirV) and read.

"Every good and perfect gift is from God."

"James knew that every good thing and every gift we have comes from God!"

WHAT WE NEED

STORYTELLER: "When James talked about the gifts we receive, he wasn't just talking about the kind of gifts that are wrapped in pretty paper with big, shiny bows. He was saying that ALL of the good things we have in life are gifts from God."

"I thought it might be fun if we opened some gifts here today! Can I get a volunteer to come up and open this first gift for me?"

Choose a child to open gift one and then go back to her seat.

"Okay, great! This first gift is a house. Did you know that the house or apartment or condo where you stay is a gift from God? That's right! God knew you needed a place to stay and a shelter over your head from the rain and storms, so He gave you the gift of a home to live in."

"Can I get a volunteer to come up and open this next present for me?"

Choose a child to open gift two and then go back to his seat.

"A cheeseburger? What in the world? Oh, wait! I get it! This one is about food. How many of you love cheeseburgers? (*Pause for responses.*) How many of you love Brussels sprouts? (*Pause for responses.*) Yep! I thought I'd get that sort of response on that one. Another one of the good gifts that God gives us is food! It may

not always be our favorite food or the food we really hoped for, but God gives us food to eat so our bodies can grow and be healthy.”

TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT, WHAT YOU REALLY, REALLY WANT

STORYTELLER: “Those gifts we just opened represented things that we need. We know God gives us good things that we need to live, like food and shelter. But what about those things that we don’t exactly NEED, but we really WANT? Does God give us good gifts that we want?”

“Let me get another volunteer to come up and open this next present for me.

Choose a child to open gift three and then go back to her seat.

“Let’s see . . . it’s a picture of some kids. Oh, I know! It’s friends! God gives us friends and other people in our lives who care about us. Everyone wants to have friends, right? Friends are another really great gift from God!

“I’m really having fun opening all these good gifts. Are you? *(Pause for responses.)* Yeah! This is fun. Let’s open another one. Can I get another volunteer?”

Choose a child to open gift four and then go back to his seat.

“It’s a soccer ball! God gives us soccer, baseball, cheerleading, playing in the park, dancing, music, and so many other great activities. He lets us have FUN doing things we like to do. I’m so glad that He doesn’t just give us what we need; He also gives us things we enjoy—things that make life so good!”

THAT’S ALL, FOLKS—OR IS IT?

STORYTELLER: *(Looking around)* “Well, I guess that’s all the gifts we have, right? I mean, I don’t see any more gifts we could open. Do you?”

Keep looking around everywhere, except for the really obvious spot where the last gift is sitting.

“Wait. Do you all see any other gifts? *(Pause for response.)* You do? Where?”

Look in the opposite direction of where the kids are pointing. Keep this going for a little while, for humor’s sake. Then locate the gift and bring it to the center of the stage.

“Look what I found—another present! You all really should have seen this one and told me about it. Okay, let’s have one more volunteer come up and help me open this last gift.

Choose a child to open gift five and then go back to her seat.

“Oh, wow! Yeah, this one is really special. This one might be my very favorite gift of all. Can anyone tell me what this is? *(Hold up the mirror and wait for responses.)* That’s right. This is a mirror. And a mirror has one very important job: to reflect things.

“Did you know that we can be kind of like mirrors? For real—we can! We can reflect something to other people. We can reflect God’s goodness.

“When we love others and show kindness to them, it’s like we’re a mirror. We’re reflecting the goodness of God to the world around us—so they can see how good He is. When we reflect the goodness of God to other people, WE get to be one of the good gifts that God gives to THEM! Isn’t that amazing?”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “God gives us so many good and wonderful gifts. We always want to remember that all those good things come from Him. But it doesn’t stop there!

“We also want to help others experience God’s good and perfect gifts. You and I can share God’s goodness when we’re kind and loving to other people.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Let’s do everything we can to *[Bottom Line]* show God’s goodness to others.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us with that.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for giving us so many good gifts. You’ve given us the gift of life, the gift of a place to stay and food to eat, the gift of family and friends, and the gift of fun activities that we love to do. If we tried to write down all of the gifts You give us every day, we’d totally run out of paper! Thank You for loving us so well. Please help us to reflect Your goodness to others, so they can see how good You are, too. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “I love that verse that Jesus’ brother James wrote. Let’s listen to it again.

Open the Bible to James 1:17 (NirV) and read.

“Every good and perfect gift is from God.

“That’s so true! EVERYTHING in our lives that’s good is a gift from God. And here’s the coolest part of all. The very best and most perfect gift that God ever gave us was His Son, Jesus! When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price for our sins. Jesus conquered death when He came alive again. He made a way for us to have a relationship with Him that will last forever!

“So, what do we do with the good things God has given us? We share them! We can share our talents—the things we’re really good at. We can share love. And we can share the good news about Jesus! We can *[Basic Truth]* treat others the way we want to be treated. When we *[Bottom Line]* show God’s goodness to others, they can see how good God is, too.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

‘Remember, *[Bottom Line]* show God’s goodness to others.

“We can do it with God’s help! His Holy Spirit can give us the power we need to share His goodness with the people around us.

“Now it’s time for you to head to Small Group and talk some more about God’s goodness. Have fun!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop