



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Two entire small groups (including Leaders)
- Two tables
- Two blenders (unplugged at first)
- Extension cords to reach power outlets
- Two bananas
- Apple juice
- Five other kinds of fruits that could be blended in a smoothie—pre-cut, peeled, etc. (two sets)
- Two large, clear plastic tumblers or cups
- Two blindfolds

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Life App Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Fruit of the Spirit Slide Week 2 (with Faithfulness 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 both tables on stage, with a blender and a set of five fruits (plus bananas) on each table. Set up extension cords to plug in the blenders when the time comes, but leave them unplugged when Large Group begins.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Host
- Kid volunteers
- Prop bin
- Large nametags for King Herod, Peter, Angel, and Rhoda
- Crown
- Two foam swords and/or shields
- Rope or plastic chains that you can “tie” around Peter’s wrists
- Flashlight
- Small piece of plywood (about two-feet square)

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

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.

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, NIV

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 great to see you here today! All summer we’re looking at different Life Apps to see how God wants us to live.

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*

“Today we’re checking out the Life App of faithfulness.

CG: *Fruit of the Spirit Slide Week 2 (with Faithfulness highlighted)*

“Faithfulness is a big word, and it might seem a little overwhelming. But you CAN be faithful if you power up with the Holy Spirit. In fact, faithfulness is what the Apostle Paul called a Fruit of the Spirit.

In other words, it's something that the Spirit can help us do. It's something that our lives will show as we follow Jesus.

"Speaking of fruit, are you ready for today's fruit game? Let's get to it! It's called 'Can You Blend It'?"

"I'll need two entire small groups to join me on the stage for this exciting game!"

Choose two small groups (including Leaders) to come on stage, behind the tables with the blenders and fruits.

"Each team has a blender and an assortment of fruits to make some delicious smoothies for their Leaders. But the flavors will be a surprise, because Leaders, you'll be blindfolded!"

Hand blindfolds to both Leaders.

"We'll start each smoothie with a banana. Go ahead and peel the bananas and toss them into your blenders. I'll add some apple juice to make sure they're nice and slushy."

Pour a bit of apple juice in each blender.

"Okay! Now, groups, you can choose two additional fruits to add to the smoothie—but don't say anything out loud, because remember, this is a surprise! Just point and decide together what you want to add. We'll blend up your smoothies, and then your Leaders will taste them and try to guess what the other two fruits are. Are we ready? Let's do this!"

Guide each group to add two fruits to their Leaders' smoothies. Then have everyone stand back, plug in the blenders, and blend the smoothies with lots of drama.

Let the Leaders taste their smoothies (still blindfolded) and try to guess the two added fruits. Let them drink the rest if they want to.

"That was fun! Great job, teams! As they head 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!

Worship Leaders enter. Host exits.

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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.

CG: Theme Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! Today we have an amazing story from the book of Acts in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) The book of Acts was written by a man named Luke . . . who also wrote the book of Luke.

“Luke was a follower of Jesus, and he wanted to make sure someone was writing down everything that happened. Isn’t that cool? It’s like somehow he knew there would be people like us someday who really wanted to know what happened with Jesus and what happened with the very first believers!

“Okay, so let’s get to our story for today. After Jesus died on the cross and came back to life, and after God sent His Holy Spirit, so many people began following Jesus that the church grew every day. The religious leaders tried to stop the new movement, but the believers took the good news about Jesus everywhere they went. Even people who weren’t from a Jewish background began following Jesus.”

PETER’S IN JAIL

STORYTELLER: “Okay, so before we get too far into the story, I think I’d like to get some help from our audience here today. Let’s see . . . I’m going to need several of you, so I’ll just call you up when it’s time.

“First of all, I’ll need someone to play King Herod.”

Host enters immediately, like he’s been waiting for this moment.

HOST: “Oh, hey, [Storyteller’s name]. Can I do it?”

STORYTELLER: “Well, sure! Why not? Can you wear these?”

Give the crown and “King Herod” nametag to Host.

“The religious leaders were not happy that so many people were believing in Jesus, so they encouraged King Herod to cause trouble for them. Herod had some followers of Jesus arrested; he

even had one of them killed. So you can imagine how scary it must have been when King Herod sent guards to arrest Peter.”

Nod to Host.

HOST (as HEROD): “Guards! Arrest Peter! (*Look around.*) Guards?”

STORYTELLER: “Right. We need some guards, and we need someone to be Peter. Let’s see . . .”

Choose two kids to be guards. Give each of them a foam sword and/or shield.

Choose a kid to be Peter, and give him a nametag.

“Great! Back to our story.

“King Herod had heard about the strange things that had happened in the past when followers of Jesus were arrested. He had heard stories of how the believers escaped prison, so he wanted to make sure that didn’t happen again. He set four groups of four soldiers to take turns guarding Peter. (*To the two guards*) That means it wasn’t just the two of you. There were 16 of you!

“King Herod planned to put Peter on trial after the Passover Feast. So the believers did what they could do. They prayed for Peter.”

PRISON BREAK

STORYTELLER: “The night before Herod was going to bring Peter to trial, Peter was sleeping—chained up between two soldiers.

Put a rope or plastic chains loosely around “Peter’s” wrists.

“Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared. Who wants to be the angel?”

Choose a child to be the angel. Give him a nametag and a flashlight (turned on).

“A light shone in the prison cell. The angel struck Peter on his side and woke him up. The chains fell off Peter’s wrists!

Pull the “chains” off of Peter.

“The angel told Peter to put on his clothes, sandals, and coat. Peter thought it was a dream. He followed the angel out of prison, past the sleeping guards, and to the city gate, which opened by itself. They went through the gate and down the street, and suddenly the angel left Peter.

“Listen to what Peter said.

Open the Bible to Acts 12:11 (NIRV) and read. If possible, lift one of Peter’s arms in the air while you read.

“Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent his angel. He set me free from Herod’s power.”

MARY’S HOUSE

STORYTELLER: “Okay, now ALL of you are going to have a part in the rest of the story! Can you pretend with me that you’re all followers of Jesus who were gathered at Mary’s house? (*Look around.*) Right here—this is Mary’s house. If that’s cool with you, can you give me a thumbs-up? Great!

“When Peter understood what happened, he went to Mary’s house. Followers of Jesus (*gesture to the audience*) had gathered in her home to pray. Peter knocked.

Hold up the small piece of plywood so Peter can knock on it.

“A servant named Rhoda came to answer the door.

Motion to a girl sitting up front to go up next to Peter on stage. (Make eye contact with her first to make sure she wants to do it.) Hand her the “Rhoda” nametag.

“Rhoda ran back without opening the door and told everyone: *Peter is at the door!*” (*Acts 12:14 NIRV*)

Nod to Rhoda to repeat her line toward the audience.

KID (as RHODA): “Peter is at the door!”

STORYTELLER: “The other believers thought Rhoda was out of her mind, but she kept telling them it was true. They thought it must be his angel, because there was no way Peter could have escaped Herod and his guards.

“Peter kept knocking.

Hold up the plywood so Peter can knock some more.

“When they opened the door and saw him, they were amazed! Peter was really there—alive and well! Give me your best gasp, everyone.

Audience gasps.

“Peter explained to everyone how God had brought him out of prison.

“In the morning, the guards were bewildered to discover that Peter was gone. *(To the two guards)* Guards, can you look bewildered?

Guards look bewildered.

“Great job. And King Herod was NOT happy.”

HOST (as HEROD): “I am not happy!”

STORYTELLER: “Herod ordered that the guards be put to death. Yikes! I think that seems like a good place to stop. Don’t you?”

“Let’s give all of our volunteers a big hand as they head back to their seats.”

All volunteers go back to their seats. Host exits.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “That’s a pretty wild story, isn’t it? But it isn’t just a story. It really happened! Just as Peter and the followers of Jesus had been faithful to trust God and pray for His help, God had been faithful to save Peter. And the good news about Jesus continued to spread all over the world. Peter’s faithfulness to God is a huge part of why you and I get to learn about Jesus today!

“We can follow their example and be faithful to the people around us. We can be dependable. We can be the kind of people who actually do what we say we’re going to do.

“Here’s what we need to remember today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Be faithful so others can count on you.

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

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for always being so faithful to us. You never give up on us. You’re ALWAYS there when we need You! Please help us follow Your example. Help us to be faithful to the people around us, so they’ll know they can always count on us. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “Wow—that was quite a story! Peter was put in prison because he was faithful to God. He kept telling people about Jesus, even when he knew it would get him into trouble. Peter’s friends were faithful to pray for him, too.

“And that’s not all. Think of how faithful God was to Peter! He helped Peter escape from a pretty scary situation. God is faithful to us, too. He’s ALWAYS there to help us.

“So, what can we do to be more faithful? We can trust God and do what He says. We can have faith in God because God is faithful! So, don’t just say you’re going to do something; actually do it! Be a good listener. Be a friend who keeps promises. If you borrow something from someone, take care of it. And when you need help, ask for it!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Be faithful so others can count on you.

“God can help you be a faithful friend. After all, isn’t it so good when you have a friend who’s faithful to you? Absolutely! Being faithful and trustworthy is a great way to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated.**

“You’ll get to talk some more in Small Group about how you can be faithful to others. 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