



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Three teams of two kids each
- Table
- Three plates
- Three peeled oranges with the remaining peels (see “What You Do”)
- Three clear tape dispensers

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
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Fruit of the Spirit Slide Week 3 (with Gentleness 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:

- For the game, each team will need a plate containing a peeled orange and the exact pieces of peel that were removed from each one. Don't give them the tape at first, but keep it close by.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible, marked and labeled with the verses in the script
- Four Small Group Leaders
- Handheld microphone
- Table
- Valuable fine china teacup (or one that looks like fine china)

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.

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.

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: "Hey, everybody! I'm so glad you're here! My name is [your name] and I'm your host here at [your environment's name]. If you don't know or you haven't heard this already, you'll quickly figure out that this is a great place to be.

"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, goodness, faithfulness, . . . and gentleness.

CG: Fruit of the Spirit Slide Week 3 (with Gentleness highlighted)

“The apostle Paul 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. We’ll be the kind of people who treat others with gentleness.

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! Today, our game is called ‘Orange You Glad You Have Tape?’

“For this game, I need three teams of two.

Choose three different teams of two kids. Bring them onto the stage and have them stand behind the table, facing the audience.

Hand each team a plate with a peeled orange and pieces of orange peel.

“Okay. Each team will get one peeled orange and all of the orange peel that used to be attached. When I say, ‘Go,’ your job is to put all of the orange peel back on the orange! The first team to finish the task and put their orange down wins the game. Are you ready? Three, two, one, go!

“Just kidding! I mean, how could you even do that? How about I hand you these?

Give each team a tape dispenser.

“Now, ORANGE YOU GLAD YOU HAVE TAPE? Ha! I crack myself up!

“Okay, now let’s get started. Three, two, one, go!

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

Cheer for the teams while they reassemble their oranges. They won’t look perfect, of course, but that’s the fun of it. After a while, congratulate all participants on their effort and send them back to their seats.

“Great job, contestants! Peeling an orange isn’t easy, but it’s a lot easier than doing THAT! That was fun. You know what else is fun? Singing songs about our awesome God! Let’s all stand up and sing!”

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 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

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! I brought something really special with me today: this beautiful teacup. It’s pretty, but it’s also fragile, which is just a fancy way of saying it could break easily. It’s very delicate.

Walk around on the stage while holding the teacup with both hands as you’re talking.

“When I walk around and I’m holding my teacup, I hold it with both hands. Why do you think I do that? *(Pause for responses.)* That’s right! I don’t want to drop it.

“Also, when I’m holding my teacup, do you think I walk carefully, or do you think I run around? *(Pause for responses.)* That’s right! I try to walk really carefully.

“What if I want to set it down? Do you think I could just toss my teacup over to that table over there, or should I set it down gently? *(Pause for responses.)* That’s right! I would definitely want to set it down gently.

“Let me ask you this: why do I need to hold my teacup with both hands, walk carefully, and set it down gently? *(Pause for responses.)* You are exactly right! I need to be gentle when I’m holding my teacup because if I don’t, it might get damaged or broken.

Set the teacup down on the table.

“Have you ever thought about how people can be like that teacup? We need to be careful how we treat people so they don’t get hurt or sad. Nobody understood that more than Jesus did.

“You see, Jesus was always looking out for people who were seen as unimportant. He was always showing them His great love. Believe it or not, at that time, people actually didn’t think of children as being very important. But Jesus sure did! One time He brought a child in front of His disciples and said this.

Open the Bible to Mark 9:37 (NirV) and read.

“Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.”

THE DISCIPLES TRY TO MAKE THE KIDS LEAVE

STORYTELLER: “You know who else thinks kids are really important? Your leaders sure do! They hang out with you here at [name of your environment]. They help teach you all about God and how much He loves you. Isn’t it so awesome that they take the time to be with you?”

“In fact, I was thinking they could help us share what happened in our story. Don’t worry, leaders, it’ll be easy. I just need you to read from the Bible. Just raise your hand when I raise mine, and I’ll come over to you.

Walk into the audience with the Bible and handheld microphone.

“Let’s see what happened next. Stories about Jesus were spreading quickly. People heard how Jesus was so kind and gentle with children. So here’s what they did.”

Raise your hand. Go over to a leader with his hand raised. Hand him the (marked) Bible and tell him to read #1 (Mark 10:13) while you hold up the microphone for him.

LEADER: “People were bringing little children to Jesus. They wanted him to place his hands on them to bless them” (NirV).

STORYTELLER: “Thanks, [leader’s name]. *(To the audience)* The disciples began to get frustrated because they didn’t understand why Jesus would take time to pay attention to children. The disciples told the parents and children to stop, because they thought Jesus was too important to be troubled with a bunch of kids.”

JESUS GETS ANGRY

STORYTELLER: “But Jesus LOVED all of those little children! So how do you think He felt when His disciples were trying to get the children to leave? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“Right—He wasn’t happy about it at all. He was angry! Listen to what Jesus said.”

Raise your hand. Go over to a leader with her hand raised. Hand her the (marked) Bible and tell her to read #2 (Mark 10:14b) while you hold up the microphone for her.

LEADER: “Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. God’s kingdom belongs to people like them” (NirV).

STORYTELLER: “Wow! Jesus also said this.”

Raise your hand. Go over to a leader with her hand raised. Hand her the (marked) Bible and tell her to read #3 (Mark 10:15) while you hold up the microphone for her.

LEADER: *“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” (NirV).*

STORYTELLER: “Then what do you think happened?”

Raise your hand. Go over to a leader with his hand raised. Hand him the (marked) Bible and tell him to read #4 (Mark 10:16) while you hold up the microphone for him.

LEADER: *“Then he took the children in his arms. He placed his hands on them to bless them” (NirV).*

JESUS LOVES YOU!

STORYTELLER: “Amazing! Jesus showed everyone that day how much He loves children and how valuable kids are to Him. He was saying that everyone should believe in Him the way a child does.

“And guess what. Jesus still loves children! He loves YOU! Jesus wants to have a relationship with you. Jesus thinks You’re important. He thinks You’re very special.

Go back onto the stage and pick up the teacup.

“That kind of reminds me of this beautiful teacup. We know this teacup is very valuable, so we treat it very carefully, don’t we? Well, Jesus sees YOU as someone really special. He is gentle with you because He loves you. He sees just how valuable you are!”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Jesus used His power and authority to bless the children, even though other people didn’t really see those children as being very important. Jesus told the people that they should believe in Him the way children do: with simple, honest, true faith.

“Jesus gave us an important example of gentleness that we can follow today. He treated the people around Him like they were important. We can treat people with gentleness, too, if we remember to ask God for help.

“See, we might not always FEEL like being gentle. We might not want to make the effort. We might feel like saying something mean because we feel frustrated or annoyed. But here’s the really good news.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God can give you the strength to be gentle.

“It’s true. He can! Jesus is gentle with us, and we can learn to be gentle with others by following His example. And remember, we can always ask God for help. In fact, let’s pray and ask Him to help us right now!”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for being so gentle with us. It’s so good to know that ALL of us are important to You! Help us to follow Jesus’ example of gentleness as we show gentleness to others. Help us to show others they’re important by the way we treat them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “It takes strength to be gentle. That’s certainly what Jesus showed that day when He blessed the children. Everyone else treated the kids like they weren’t very important, but Jesus treated them like they were SO valuable. Why? Because He loved them, just like He loves us. ALL of us are valuable and special to Him—whether we’re 6 years old or 46 years old!

“With God’s help, we can show gentleness, too. Remember this.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God can give you the strength to be gentle.

“He can help you power up with His Spirit. So ask Him for help whenever you feel frustrated or angry, whenever you feel like bragging or saying something unkind. Ask God to help you show gentleness instead. Ask Him to help you **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated.** And let others know you care by treating them with love, kindness, and respect.

CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide

“Let’s take a look at our Memory verse for the month. It’s Philippians 1:6.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“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 (NIRV).”

“You see? God is working in you always, just like He’s working in me and just like He’s working in your Small Group Leaders. He’s helping all of us to be more like Him. He’s doing great things IN us so that we can change the world around us.

“You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about what it means to be gentle. I’ll see you later!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop