



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Plush strawberry

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Life App Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Fruit of the Spirit Slide Week 4 (with Self-control 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:

- None

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Inflatable horse-and-rider costume (one where the rider's legs look like the horse's back legs); OR a stick horse
- Jump rope (if the horse-and-rider costume doesn't have reins)
- Inflatable raft on top of rolling furniture movers; OR a homemade boat costume with an oar (see "What You Do")
- Cupcake with one birthday candle
- Lighter

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- SFX: Horse gallop and neigh (provided)
- SFX: Fog horn and waves (provided)
- "Birthday" by the Beatles, starting at 0:22

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- For the ship illustration, you have a couple of options. You could use an inflatable raft, set it on top of rolling furniture movers, and have the Host roll across the room. Or you could create a DIY cardboard boat with shoulder straps that the Host can wear as he "paddles" his way across the room with the oar.
- Cue "Birthday" to start at 0:22. (You can set the start time in iTunes by going to Edit / Song Info / Options.)

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Never Gonna Stop
- Wide Open

More Than Words

Bible Story: More Than Words (Taming of the Tongue) • *James 3:3-10*

Bottom Line: God gives you the power to have self-control.

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 need to make the wise choice.

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.

Opener

HOST: “What’s up, everybody? Welcome, welcome, welcome! All summer we’ve been 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 self-control.

CG: *Fruit of the Spirit Slide Week 4 (with Self-control highlighted)*

“It can be tough for us to have self-control when things don’t go the way we want them to. In those times, it can be easy to LOSE control. But we CAN have self-control if we power up with the Holy Spirit. In fact, self-control is what the apostle Paul called a fruit of the Spirit. It’s something that our lives will show if we let the Spirit lead us.

CG: *Theme Slide*

“Speaking of fruit, are you ready for today’s fruit game? Let’s get to it! ‘Cause it’s time for a (*shout it out like you’re an announcer*) ‘Tutti Frutti Dance Party’!

“This (*hold up the plush strawberry*) is the Dance Berry! When someone tosses your group the Dance Berry, you make up a dance move together, and all of the rest of us will copy your cool move. Then toss the Dance Berry to another group and see what they can do. We’ll keep going until every group has a turn!

“Are you ready? Are you set? Let’s dance!

SFX: Fun dance music

“That was awesome! You’ve got some MOVES! Let’s keep the fun going and sing to God 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.

“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!

Never Gonna Stop

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!

Wide Open

WORSHIP LEADER: *PRAY*

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! Earlier this month we talked about Jesus’ brother James. James wrote a letter that’s included in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) We call it the book of—you guessed it—James!

“James wrote about how important it is for us to have self-control. We have to be really careful with the things we say. After all, our words have a lot of power—more than we even realize!

“Let me show you what James had to say about staying in control.”

HORSE

STORYTELLER: “Raise your hand if you’ve ever been around a horse before. (*Pause for response.*) Horses are REALLY big, right? So it’s really important that we train them to obey our commands. If we didn’t, it could be dangerous—because a wild horse does pretty much anything it wants to!”

SFX: Horse gallop and neigh

Host enters, wearing an inflatable horse-and-rider costume. He’s pretending to ride it while it runs wildly. OR he could ride in on a stick horse and overact like it’s a wild stallion.

HOST: “Whoooooaa, there! Whoooooaa, old boy! This is a wild one, [Storyteller’s name]!”

STORYTELLER: “Uh-oh! Hang on, [Host’s name]! (*To audience*) Quick—how do you think [Host’s name] could control his horse? (*Pause for response.*) Right. He could pull on the reins! The reins are attached to a bridle, and part of that bridle is a little metal piece that goes in the horse’s mouth, which is called a bit.

If the horse costume has reins, Host can pretend to use them to take control of the horse and calm it down. If the costume doesn’t have reins, Storyteller can hand a jump rope to Host so he can use it as “reins” to stop the horse.

“[Host’s name] can use the reins, the bridle, and the bit to calm the horse down and get it to stop.

*Host exits, slowly, stroking the horse’s mane to “keep it calm.”
(He’ll need to get ready quickly for his next entrance.)*

“Listen to what James said about that.

Open the Bible to James 3:3 (NirV) and read.

"We put a small piece of metal in the mouth of a horse to make it obey us. We can control the whole animal with it."

"It's pretty amazing. A rider can guide a horse where it needs to go because of that tiny bit that's in the horse's mouth. Suddenly this huge animal that COULD be so dangerous is much safer because it's in control."

SHIP

STORYTELLER: "James also talked about the way we control a ship."

SFX: *Fog horn and waves*

Host enters, riding an inflatable raft on top of furniture movers. OR he could be wearing a cardboard boat costume while pretending to paddle with an oar. He rows erratically across the room.

HOST: "Ahoy, there! Batten down the hatches! Trim the sail! All hands on deck!"

STORYTELLER: "Wow. Um, [Host's name], do you know how to steer that thing? *(Pause for response.)* Are you sure? Look out! You don't want to crash into the shore . . . or any of our friends in the audience!"

(To audience) "Don't worry, everyone. There IS a piece of equipment that can steer that huge ship. It's called a rudder. A rudder is on the bottom of the boat in the back. When the rudder is turned, it turns the whole ship!"

Host looks like he has an "Aha!" moment and then uses his flat hand like a rudder on the back of his "ship." Suddenly he starts "sailing" more smoothly. Then he exits. (He'll need to get ready quickly for his next entrance.)

"Here's what James said about that."

Open the Bible to James 3:4 (NirV) and read.

"And how about ships? They are very big. They are driven along by strong winds. But they are steered by a very small rudder. It makes them go where the captain wants to go."

"You see, the rudder makes a big difference. The ship doesn't seem so dangerous after all, because you can steer it and keep it under control."

FIRE

STORYTELLER: "James talked about another example in his letter. I think [Host's name] might have that for us, too."

SFX: *"Birthday" by the Beatles (starting at 0:22)*

Host enters, dancing, holding the cupcake with the lit candle.

“Raise your hand if you’ve ever had birthday candles on your birthday cake. *(Pause for responses.)* Yep—me, too!

(Look at the candle) “The flame on this candle is so small, isn’t it? Maybe it doesn’t SEEM very dangerous. But what if this candle fell onto a stack of newspaper? Do you know what would happen to our tiny little birthday flame? *(Pause for response.)* That’s right! It wouldn’t be so tiny anymore. That tiny little flame could become a huge fire in just a few seconds!

“James said it like this.

Open the Bible to James 3:5b (NirV) and read.

“Think about how a small spark can set a big forest on fire.

(To Host) “Let’s play it safe, [Host’s name]. You can blow out your candle. Thanks for your help today!”

Host blows out the candle and exits.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Let’s think about all these examples that James gave us. It’s important to control a horse. That’s why we have that tiny bit that goes in the horse’s mouth. It’s important to control a ship so we can steer in the right direction. That’s why a ship has a rudder. And it’s important to keep control of a flame so it doesn’t become a dangerous fire.

“In the same way, we need to be careful with the words we say. We need to have self-control. We need to control our tongues *(hold your tongue)* so we don’t get ourselves in danger!

Open the Bible to James 3:5a (NirV) and read.

“James said: *The tongue is a small part of a person’s body. But it talks big.*

“If we’re not careful, our tongues can say words that really hurt people—just like a spark causes a huge forest fire!

“If we don’t have self-control, we can find ourselves saying nice things one minute and then not-so-nice things the next. We can find ourselves saying something mean to a friend or brother or sister. James said this.

Open the Bible to James 3:9-10 (NirV) and read.

“With our tongues we praise our Lord and Father. With our tongues we curse people. We do it even though people have been created to be like God. Praise and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it shouldn’t be this way.

“Here’s the really good news. God can help us have self-control with our words. He can help us choose to use GOOD words instead of saying things that can cause harm. When we power up with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can stay in control.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Remember this: **[Bottom Line] God gives you the power to have self-control.**

“Let’s pray and ask Him to help us now.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, it can be really tough for us to have self-control with our words. So many times we just say things without thinking, but we know we need to choose our words wisely. Please help us to pause when we feel like saying something angry or mean. Help us stay in control and use words that are helpful and kind. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “We can easily lose control and say something mean without meaning to. That’s why James wrote: *No one can tame the tongue (James 3:8 NIV).*

“We can’t keep from saying things that hurt ourselves and others . . . at least not without help. That’s why it’s so important for us to power up with the Holy Spirit. When we choose to believe and follow Jesus, we receive the gift of the Spirit. And the Spirit helps us have self-control.

“If you’ve ever had trouble controlling your tongue, you’re not alone. It’s something that’s hard for all of us. But here’s the really great news.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God gives you the power to have self-control.

“When you want to yell at your brother because he’s annoying you, remember:

[Bottom Line] “God gives you the power to have self-control.

“When you want to complain because you’re not happy with what’s on your dinner plate, remember:

[Bottom Line] “God gives you the power to have self-control.

“When your friend at school isn’t being nice to you and you want to say something mean back, remember:

[Bottom Line] “God gives you the power to have self-control.

“It’s not easy. But you can do it with God’s help! You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about that. 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