



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- 12 Kid Volunteers
- 10 Large Felt Boards (See “What You Do”)
- 10 Prepared Ball Pit Balls (See “What You Do”)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Theme Slide

What You Do:

- To make the felt boards, follow an easy D.I.Y. tutorial using felt, push pins, and corkboard. If corkboard is unavailable, use sturdy cardboard. Each felt board should be a large target for the kids – 24”x24”. If felt boards are unavailable, consider using five-gallon buckets to catch the planets.
- The balls should be a light ball such as ball-pit balls. Wrap each ball in sturdy adhesive Velcro so they’ll stick to the felt board. Write the name of each planet on a separate ball: Sun, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Volunteer
- Bible
- Table
- Blender
- Prepared fruit in bowls: strawberries and bananas
- Vanilla yogurt
- Milk
- Gross savory foods, such as pickled beets, hard-boiled eggs, sardines, etc.
- Spoon/spatula
- A set of measuring cups
- Large, clear cup
- Extension cord (*if needed*)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- One Big Story Intro Video
- Blank Key Question Slide
- Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- As the Worship Leaders are exiting the stage, set up a table at center stage. Place the blender and smoothie ingredients on the table. Blender should be plugged in either on stage or with an extension cord to back stage. Smoothie ingredients should be pre-cut, but do not pre-measure them. The volunteer will measure live on stage.
- Prepare the gross savory foods in advance. Store them in sealed containers so no one can smell them ahead of time.
- Because the volunteer should be able to follow direction and make a smoothie, consider preselecting the volunteer and running through what they'll need to do ahead of time.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Every Beat
- Through It All

This Used to Be My Playground

Bible Story: This Used to Be My Playground (The Fall) • *Genesis 3:1-24*

Key Question: What is at stake if you don't obey?

Bottom Line: Trust and obey even when you think your way is better.

Memory Verse: *The way we show our love is to obey God's commands. He commands you to lead a life of love. That's what you have heard from the beginning.* 2 John 6, NIRV

Life App: Obedience—Trusting who is in charge by doing what you're asked to do

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: *Mission Control 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 discusses recent/upcoming events: Summer X Games, World Police and Fire Games, US Open, Book Lover's Day, National S'mores Day, National Creamsicle Day, movie opening (Artemis Fowl, The Angry Birds Movie 2, Playmobil), a viral video on YouTube, 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. The stage should be prepared for the game as kids walk into the large group room.

Opener

HOST: "Hey, hey galactic geeks and cosmic freaks! Throughout my entire life, I've spent large chunks of time memorizing very difficult and very complicated sequences that have carried me far. For example, one of the harder sequences I learned many moons ago goes like this . . ."

Host recites the alphabet or counts to 100 by 10s.

HOST: "My mind is like a steel trap. Nothing gets out. Here is another very challenging example."

Host recites the first 10 numbers in Pi or the five human senses.

HOST: “Anybody want to hear another? (*Don’t pause for response*) I thought so!”

Host recites something significant such as the names of the presidents or the states in alphabetical order, or something else that the Host already knows.

HOST: “(*Waving hands*) I know . . . I know . . . I know your mind is blown. Quickly pick up the pieces because I want to test YOUR knowledge of a very specific sequence that goes beyond this room . . . and this state . . . and this country . . . and even this VERY stratosphere. I need two volunteers for a game with a great knowledge of our solar system. Anybody want to play? (*Pause for response.*)”

Host selects two volunteers and brings them to the stage.

HOST: “Awesome! (*To volunteers*) Thanks so much for volunteering to be our two contestants. (*To audience*) I also need ten volunteers to hold up these felt boards.”

Host selects 10 volunteers, gives each of them a felt board, and spaces all 10 volunteers across the back of the stage shoulder to shoulder. If felt boards are unavailable, consider using five-gallon buckets to catch the planets.

HOST: “The name of the game is SOLAR FELT BOARD 10,000. It’s an easy game where our volunteers must throw these Velcro-covered balls from the front of the stage and stick them on the correct felt board at the back of the stage. Each ball represents a planet in our solar system. We’ve written the name of the planet on each ball. To win, you need the correct sequence of planets on the felt boards starting with the Sun and ending with Pluto. Yes! In [*Name of Environment*], Pluto IS a planet!”

“Now, you only get one throw for each ball. If you miss the target, you miss out on some points. For each planet that you correctly place on the felt boards, you get a whopping 1,000 points. If you get them all in the correct order, you will be awarded 10,000 points. While the first volunteer is playing, the second volunteer will sit backstage wearing noise cancelling headphones so they can’t hear how the first volunteer is doing. Make sense? Any questions? (*Pause for response*) Alright! Then let’s play SOLAR FELT BOARD 10,000!”

SFX: *High-energy game music*

The volunteers who are holding felt boards can move the boards to help the balls stick to the felt board, but they can’t move their feet. If a ball hit the ground, it’s out of play. Consider reading the planet name out loud before the volunteer tries to throw it, so the audience can participate by screaming where the ball should go. After the first volunteer goes, the second volunteer gets a chance.

HOST: “That was OUT OF THIS WORLD! Both our volunteers clearly know a thing or two about our planets AND have great planet-throwing abilities! However, there can only be one winner! Give it up for both of our volunteers as well as our felt-board-holding people, but go a little bit crazier for our winner!”

Host directs volunteers to sit down. Consider giving winner a space-themed prize such as a Milky Way or Starburst.

HOST: “Now let’s get to our feet and give a rousing round of applause for my favorite worship leader and yours, *[Name of Worship Leader]*!”

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!”

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

WORSHIP LEADER: PRAY

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro

CG: Blank Key Question Slide

A table is center stage with typical smoothie ingredients and supplies, including blender, spatulas, etc. Blender should be functional with an extension cord.

COMMUNICATOR: "Before we get started, I need a volunteer—someone who's really good at following directions. Do I have any takers? *(Pause for response.)*"

Communicator selects a volunteer and brings him or her to the stage. Should be someone who can easily follow instructions.

"Excellent, you'll be perfect! Now, you and I are about to make one of my all-time favorite drinks—a fruit smoothie! Anybody else a fan of smoothies? *(Pause for response.)* Exactly! Who DOESN'T like smoothies?! *(To kid volunteer)* Just remember: you'll need to follow my instructions EXACTLY to make the PERFECT smoothie. Got it? Okay, let's go!

Communicator should be hands-off and just giving verbal cues for the volunteer. Communicator should not come over to help except to help run the blender.

"As you look around the table in front of you, you'll see all of the ingredients you'll need to make a strawberry-banana smoothie. First, I'm going to need you to pick up the cup of strawberries right there. That's two cups of fresh, juicy strawberries for you! I need you to lift that cup, take the lid off of the blender, and dump all those strawberries into the blender. *(Pause for response.)*

"Great job. Next, you'll take that frozen banana—don't worry, it's already been peeled for you! Take the banana and put it into the blender along with the strawberries. *(Pause for response.)*

"Next, you'll take that half cup of vanilla yogurt and put it into the blender as well—if it doesn't all come out, you can use the spoon to get whatever's left, just make sure it all goes into the blender! *(Pause for response.)*

"Last, take that half cup of milk and pour it into the blender as well. *(Pause for response.)*

Communicator can help with the blender if assistance is required

to ensure the safety of the volunteer.

“Perfect! Now, put the lid back on the blender and hold it down with one hand. With your other hand, press the ‘blend’ button on the base of the blender and hold it for about ten seconds. Everyone, count it down with me! *(lead the countdown)* And . . . presto! Friend, you and I have made a delicious strawberry banana smoothie that looks absolutely PERFECT! In a few minutes, you and I can enjoy a huge cup. How about a round of applause for our volunteer everybody?”

Communicator dismisses volunteer to his or her seat.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Great job to *[Name of Volunteer]*! You placed all of those ingredients into the blender with perfect proportions and gave us a perfect smoothie! Perfect blending time to give us the perfect consistency. Anybody else want a taste of this perfect smoothie? *(Pause for response.)* I know you do! Maybe if we have leftovers, I can share with everyone who wants a cup.

“The reason this smoothie looks so good is because of *[Name of Volunteer]*’s willingness to follow my instructions to the letter. Plus, our volunteer only had good options to choose from, and that makes following instructions EASY.”

“I wish following instructions was always that easy! I feel like in life it is so much more difficult to listen and obey. We are asked to listen to our teachers, parents, coaches, small group leaders, tutors, babysitters, and so many others. Sometimes it’s easy, like the times your parents tell you to finish your ice cream sandwich before you head to bed. But if we are being honest, we would probably all admit it’s not always easy to do what is asked of us. At home, we are instructed to rake the yard or wash the car a certain way. At school, teachers ask us to solve complicated math problems or write essays with specific instructions. At basketball practice, we are told to run a complicated offensive play to get layup.

“So many times, we choose *not* to listen and obey because we think WE know what’s best. These are the moments we try to wash the truck without scrubbing and only using the water hose. These are the moments we don’t show our work in math or only write two paragraphs instead of five for our essays. These are the moments we look to shoot the three-pointer without running through the set play to get a layup. We THINK we know what’s best, but many times, it leaves us creating one big mess.

“Every single person in this room is guilty of this at one time or another. In fact, when we look back in history, people have had trouble with this from the very beginning. This can be traced back all the way to Adam and Eve. Let me show you what I mean.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “In the beginning, there was nothing. However, with His voice, God began to create. He spoke words to make light . . . the universe . . . sky and land . . . rivers and oceans . . . birds, animals, and fish. When He paused to look at this creation, He was pleased because it was good. *(Referencing perfect smoothie)* It was . . . perfect. But His job was not complete. So God created a man name Adam and a woman named Eve and placed them in a perfect home, the Garden of Eden.”

“This garden was filled with the perfect amount of sunlight to grow perfect plants. Cool, swift rivers cut through the land watering delicious food to eat. God allowed Adam and Eve to go anywhere and do anything. *(Referencing perfect smoothie)* Again, everything was perfect. And God gave them only one rule to follow. In the middle of the garden, there was a tree: a tree called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said they could eat from any other tree in the garden, but this one was off limits for eating.”

“Then came the serpent.”

“It was crafty and questioned Eve when she was near. In Genesis 3, we read that the serpent asked, *(Read directly from Genesis 3:1b)* “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. But God did say, ‘You must not eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.’” “You will certainly not die,” the serpent said to the woman. “God knows that when you eat fruit from that tree, you will know things you have never known before. Like God, you will be able to tell the difference between good and evil.”

“Unfortunately, this was all Eve needed. The fruit looked delicious, and she wanted to gain knowledge. So she grabbed the fruit and bit into it. Handing it to Adam, he also took a big bite of the forbidden fruit. *(Referencing perfect smoothie.)* Prior to this moment, everything was perfect. But in this moment, sin and disobedience entered into the world for the first time and everything changed.”

Communicator walks to the perfect smoothie and picks up the drink.

“It’s as if Adam and Eve looked at this perfect delicious smoothie and added pickled beets to the drink.”

Communicator adds pickled beets.

“It’s like they looked at our flawless smoothie and plopped a couple of hard-boiled eggs to the liquid.”

Communicator adds a couple of hard-boiled eggs.

“It’s as if the duo dropped sardines into this amazing strawberry-banana mixture.”

Communicator adds sardines.

“You get the picture. What was perfect was perfect no more. Everything had changed. At this point, Adam and Eve were flooded with new and terrible thoughts. For the first time, they felt guilt and shame. And for the first time, they recognized they weren’t wearing any clothes! Using fig leaves, they sewed something to wear.”

“Around this time, God approached them in the garden. Fearing the worst, both Adam and Eve tucked behind a tree to hide. Once God caught up with them, He found out the reason they hid—they were naked. Check this out. God responded by asking, *(Read directly from Genesis 3:11)* “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten fruit from the tree I commanded you not to eat from?” God knew what happened, but He asked

anyways. Adam answered by blaming Eve, who blamed the serpent. Regardless of who they cast blame on, it was Adam *and* Eve who chose to break the rule. Instead of trusting God, they listened to the serpent and did what they wanted to do.”

“Though God still loved them, He was sad. Because God is perfect and they were no longer perfect, Adam and Eve couldn’t have a perfect relationship with God. On top of that, there were consequences. God kicked them out of the perfect garden, forcing them to work hard for food and face great pain.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “The world was absolutely perfect. God looked at all He created and knew it was good. The mountains, plants, animals, and Adam and Eve lived in harmony. It was void of pain, work, and evil. God had a plan, and both Adam and Eve knew the rules. But everything changed the day Adam and Eve chose to ignore God’s plan and opted to go their own path. The devastating consequences are still felt today.”

Communicator picks up smoothie concoction and takes a swig.

Communicator does a little gag for dramatic flair.

“Thankfully, one of the consequences is not drinking disgusting sardine smoothies everyday, but the effects of Adam and Eve’s actions are still bad. When they broke God’s rule, sin entered the world. Every person since can’t help but sin and do things that go against God’s plan. Sin is what separates us from God and makes it impossible for people to have a relationship with Him. But God had a plan to bring people back to Him through Jesus. It is through a relationship with Jesus—and only Jesus—we are able to have a relationship with God.”

“God had a plan, knew what was best, but His plan was ignored. Many times, growing up, I was guilty of not only ignoring God’s way, but also my teachers, parents, and so many others who had been in charge. They knew more than I did, but I opted not to trust them and do what they said. Maybe this is true about you as well. It’s hard for us to trust and obey your leaders because you believe your way is better. But more often than not, the people in charge of us know what they’re talking about. And following their lead is the wisest choice we can make.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Adam and Eve learned a great lesson. There are consequences for not trusting and obeying God. As we head to small groups, we want you to consider this question.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“**What is at stake if you don’t obey?** If you opt to choose a path different than your leader’s request, what could happen? That’s a big question, one that you’ll get to talk more about once you get to Small Group. But before you head there, let’s pray and thank God for not giving up on us and for making a way for us to have a relationship with Him.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

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

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop