



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Two kid volunteers
- Large box
- Items for game – cottage cheese, jelly, mayonnaise, Vienna sausages, anchovies, relish, a live animal, Small Group Leader's head
- Table
- Two blindfolds

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide

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

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video

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.
- Set up a table center stage with a box placed on top. Prepare the box by cutting a round hole in the side large enough to allow a volunteer's hand to slide inside. Cut an entire side of the box off, allowing the audience to see what mystery item is being placed inside and to see the volunteer's interaction with the substance inside the box. Place all non-toxic non-martian substances used in the game in small bowls.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- One kid volunteer
- 16-oz. plastic soda bottle
- Three tablespoons of warm water
- One tablespoon of dry yeast
- Half cup of 20 volume hydrogen peroxide liquid
- Food coloring
- Liquid dish washing soap
- Lab coat
- Goggles
- Lab gloves
- Spoon
- Table
- Table covering
- Paper towels
- Large glass serving dish

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

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

What You Do:

- A table should be placed center stage. All the necessary ingredients should be premeasured and placed in easy-to-pour containers. All ingredients should be labeled with the correct corresponding letter. The ingredients should be labeled as follows: 16-oz. plastic soda bottle (Object A), 3 Tbsp of

warm water (Object B), 1 Tbsp of dry yeast (Object C), 1/2 cut 20 volume hydrogen peroxide liquid (Object D), food coloring (Object E), and liquid dish washing soap (Object F).

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Never Gonna Stop
- Wide Open

Live to Tell

Bible Story: Live to Tell (Abraham to Isaac) • *Genesis 12-21*

Key Question: What do you think your leaders know that you don't?

Bottom Line: Trust and obey even if you don't know how it will work out.

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 can trust God no matter what.

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 Video*

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, National Dog Day, Toasted Marshmallow Day, International Bacon Day, National Eat Outside 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: "How's it going, galactic geeks and cosmic freaks? Boy, do I have a treat for all of you today! See, I've been spending the last few days doing a lot of research on DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION! We're not talkin' about the simple stuff stuff like going to the moon or seeing what the weather is like on Venus today—no, I'm talking about MANNED MISSION TO MARS. From my research, if everything goes according to plan, we could have the first human base on Mars by 2030! Can you believe it?! In only like 10 years' time, we can achieve something people in the 1960's only DREAMED about! Truly we are living in the future!

"Now, as cool as that is, I'm . . . a pretty impatient person. We could be colonizing Mars in the near future, but when it finally happens I'll be OLD! I want to go to Mars NOW! Unfortunately, [Name of Pastor] wouldn't give me \$3.8 billion dollars to fund a solo mission through SpaceX to send me to space tomorrow afternoon, so I

had to make do with \$38 and a trip to the supermarket. That being said . . . who wants to play a game called BLACK HOLE?

Host selects two volunteers who will not be shy about blindly touching unknown substances.

HOST: "Alright! I have collected a variety of non-toxic, non-MARTIAN substances just for you. In a perfect universe, I would have rocketed to Mars to pick out authentic alien goop. However, as I mentioned before, the pastor is too cheap to send me to Mars proper, so I've just picked up a variety of items from the grocery store for you to handle. You'll stick your hands inside the BLACK HOLE of the box without looking and try to guess its contents! For each one you get right, you get ten points! Both volunteers will take turns. The person with the most points at the end of three rounds is the BLACK HOLE CHAMPION! Sound good to you? *(Pause for response.)* Then let's commence to commencing! AKA: Let's play!"

SFX: *High-energy game music*

Blindfold both volunteers. Play the game. Volunteers should take turns guessing a new substance each round. Consider increasing point value each round to decrease the chances of a tie.

HOST: "Wow! Both of our volunteers have a scarily accurate tactile sense. Let's give a round of applause for both of our volunteers. *(Pause for response.)* But we can only have one BLACK HOLE CHAMPION! Let's have a HUGE round of applause for our cosmonaut champ! You can go ahead and return to your small group, and let's get everyone standing to welcome [Worship Leader] to the stage!"

Host dismisses volunteers. Host exits, and Worship Leader enters.

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

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

VIDEO: *One Big Story Intro*

CG: *Blank Key Question Slide*

A table should be set up center stage with all the necessary experiment supplies and ingredients ready to go. Have the lab coat, goggles, and gloves easily accessible for volunteer to put on.

COMMUNICATOR: “Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls . . . I have a treat for you today. In honor of this whole space exploration initiative we seem to be on this month, I want to conduct an EXPERIMENT, right here, right now! I need a volunteer for this experiment, BUT! Before you start raising your hands, I want to make it VERY CLEAR: this experiment can be a little complicated, and sometimes the instructions I give won’t make a lot of sense! If you think you can trust me and follow along, I’d love to have you lend a hand. Any takers?”

Communicator selects a responsible volunteer to conduct the experiment. Have volunteer stand next to you behind the table.

COMMUNICATOR: “Thanks so much for joining me on stage. I realize you have no idea what you’re about to do, but if you follow my instructions, you will get to be part of something awesome! All you have to do is listen and obey. Sound good? *(Pause for volunteer to respond.)* Okay, what you see before you are all the components we will need for this experiment. I’ve labeled them all with letters to make things just a LITTLE easier on you. Let me run through them really fast . . .”

Communicator says this next part as quickly and confusingly as possible. The ingredients in layman’s terms include: 16-oz. plastic soda bottle (Object A), 3 Tbsp. of warm water (Object B), 1 Tbsp. of dry yeast (Object C), 1/2 cup of 20 volume hydrogen peroxide liquid (Object D), food coloring (Object E), and liquid dish washing soap (Object F).

COMMUNICATOR: “This is what you’re dealing with. Object A, as you can see, is your typical polystyrene bottle, used for liquid storage and transportation. Object B is a small receptacle containing roughly two tablespoons of dihydrogen monoxide, heated to the appropriate temperature—warm but not hot, because if it was too hot it would negatively affect. Object C, which is a container housing roughly one tablespoon of *saccharomyces cerevisiae*, commonly used in baking practices—it’s a surprisingly volatile substance! Object D is, of course, hydrogen peroxide, stored in the customary brown bottle and regularly used as a disinfectant. Object E is a small amount of a compound comprised of carotenoids, chlorophyll, anthocyanin, and turmeric—I believe this particular compound contains carminic acid, derived from harvesting the natural pigmentation of the cochineal. Lastly, Object F is a second, VERY DIFFERENT compound, made mostly from surfactants, preservatives, fragrances, and potentially some of the ingredients I mentioned from Object E.”

“Okay, you’ve got all that? *(Pause for response.)* Great! Before we get started, go ahead and put on your gear, including your lab coat, goggles, and gloves. *(Pause for response.)* Perfect!”

Make sure bottle is sitting in glass serving dish during this portion. Communicator and volunteer step back so audience can visibly see the non-toxic volcano erupt from the bottle.

“Now, please take the Object A, the polystyrene bottle, and hold it steady as you CAREFULLY pour in the surfactant-heavy compound—Object F, if you recall. Don’t use too much; one or two squirts will do! Once you’ve done that, take the cochineal extract—Object E—and pour it into Object A. Following so far? *(Pause for response.)* Next you’ll pour 1/2 a cup of the liquid in Object D into Object A—not a lot, but not a little! Okay, set Object A aside for just a moment. Please take the *saccharomyces cerevisiae* —the contents of Object C—and carefully . . . CAREFULLY . . . pour it into Object B, containing the dihydrogen monoxide. Now that you’ve done that, take Object A and hold it down firmly on the table, then use your free hand to pour the now mixed contents of Object B into Object A . . . then STAND BACK!”

COMMUNICATOR: “Voila! I give you . . . SCIENCE! Thank you so much for your participation and careful instruction following, *[Name of kid volunteer]*! Everyone, let’s give our volunteer a hand!”

Communicator dismisses volunteer.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “This was a great outcome! A mini volcano erupted because someone followed my complicated instructions. I realize it wasn’t clear what you were doing or what would happen as you did it, BUT YOU DID IT! And it was AMAZING!”

“Here’s something I’ve noticed. Following the instructions of a leader can be difficult. But following the instructions of a leader when you can’t see what will happen is impossibly hard! I realize most of you in this room would have blindly placed the ingredients in the container for the experiment without knowing what was going to happen, but it is harder when it’s real life and not a large group object lesson.”

“When the coach tells you to run the bleachers, it’s not easy, especially if you can’t see the end goal of endurance. It feels more like torture. When your parents are constantly telling you to clean up your mess, it’s not easy to do, especially if you can’t see the end goal of being responsible for your stuff. It feels like they just want to make you miserable. When your music teacher tells you to learn your chords, it’s not easy to do, especially if you can’t see the end goal playing a song at the recital. It seems boring and a little lame.”

“Trusting our leaders can be so difficult. Yes, we know we should listen to them, but there are times it’s downright hard! Everybody understands the leader should know what’s best for us, but this doesn’t always make it easy to follow them!”

“Today, let’s look at someone who would have understood this tension better than anyone. He was asked to do something crazy with no idea how it would turn out! The results were pretty cool. Let’s check it out together.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Back toward the beginning of the Old Testament in the book of Genesis, we read about a guy named Abram. Abram lived in a land called Haran with his wife, Sarai, and his nephew, Lot. Abram and Sarai and Lot were pretty well-off. They had no shortage of servants and staff and animal herders. But Abram and Sarai weren’t content. They didn’t have any children. Not only that, but they were getting up there in years, so having children . . . didn’t really seem very possible. Despite this, Abram and his small family lived comfortably and with a decent amount of wealth.”

“One day, though, God spoke to Abram. The people of Harran worshiped many false gods, and Abram knew right away that this was not a false god or some crazy dream. Abram recognized this voice to be God, and he listened. God said, *(Read directly from Genesis 12:1) “Go from your country, your people and your father’s family. Go to the land I will show you.”* In other words, God wanted Abram to pack up all of his belongings, leave everything he knew, including some of his family, and travel to an unknown destination to face an unknown certainty.”

“God continued to speak and made some incredible promises. He said, *(Read directly from Genesis 12:2-3) “I will make you into a great nation. And I will bless you. I will make your name great. You will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you. I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. All nations on earth will be blessed because of you.”*”

Now, to clear something up: when God told Abram that He would make him a ‘great nation,’ that was God’s way of saying that He would bless Abram with children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. God would

give Abram a family SO BIG that it would fill an ENTIRE NATION! In addition, all the nations on earth would be blessed through Abram's family. This was amazing!"

"At this point in the story, we don't know how long Abram prayed about his decision because the Bible simply says he left! Sure, he grabbed Sarai, his nephew Lot, their servants, and belongings. They headed out on the dusty road to a location only God knew. At the time, Abram was 75 years old, placing complete faith in the promises of God."

"Abram and his family and his posse traveled ON FOOT for hundreds of miles! When they finally set their eyes on the land God promised Abram's family, it was even more beautiful than Harran. As the years passed by, Abram and Sarai still did not have any children. However, God came to Abram in a vision and said again that not only would He give Abram's family all the land around him but also the children he promised."

"However, this didn't happen right away. Time passed, but Abram continued to faithfully follow God. One night, Abram went outside, and God spoke once more. This time God said, *(Read directly from Genesis 15:5)* "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can." Then he said to him, "That's how many children will be born into your family." Next God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means 'father of many,' and Sarai became Sarah meaning 'princess.'"

"More time passed. And then . . . one day . . . the Lord appeared with two travelers and met Abraham under the large trees near his tent! Abram and Sarai hurried to greet them, offering them bread and meat and a chance to rest. One of the men said to Abraham, *(Read directly from Genesis 18:10)* "I will surely return to you about this time next year. Your wife Sarah will have a son." Sarah heard this and laughed—she felt her son-having days were well behind her. But God heard Sarah laugh and assured Abraham his wife would have a son at the appointed time next year."

"And—wouldn't you know it—after a year's time Sarah DID have a child. Even though she and Abraham were old enough to be great-great grandparents, Sarah gave birth to a baby boy and named him Isaac, which means 'laughter.' After countless years of putting his trust in God, Abraham finally saw the fruits of God's promise. In the end, every one of God's words came true, bringing Abraham and Sarah deep joy."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Trusting God in uncertain times is not easy. When we are stepping on ground that is unknown, it feels like we've been abandoned. We don't always feel God's presence, and it can be easy to lean on our own understanding instead of what Abraham did . . . trusting God. Throughout Abraham's journey, God guided his path. Likewise, God can guide our path, especially during uncertain times. These could be moments when we are upset because our parents are getting separated or times when we strike out with the game on the line and we have to face our teammates. Maybe they're moments when we get a bad grade on a test and have to tell our parents."

"But here's the thing. When God promised Abraham that all the nations on earth would be blessed because of him, Abraham believed him. And you know what? God did something unbelievable through Abraham's family. Thousands of years later, one of Abraham's descendants, Joseph, would be the earthly father of Jesus. And all nations on earth were definitely blessed because of what Jesus did for us."

“God can be trusted because He is in control and has a BIG plan . . . bigger than we can even imagine. He uses leaders like our parents and small group leaders to help guide through this journey we call life.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “As we wrap up our time and head to small groups, take a moment to think about the leaders in your life. God has given you leaders who teach, coach, encourage, and lead you. Think about those leaders and ask yourself this question . . .”

CG: Key Question Slide

COMMUNICATOR: “**What do you think your leaders know that you don’t?** Good question, right? But when we start to realize that our leaders just might know something we can learn, it changes everything! You’ll talk more about that in Small Group, but before you leave, let’s pray and thank God for putting some amazing leaders in our life who care for us and help us through life.”

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