



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Five kid contestants
- Large roll of craft paper (see “What You Do”)
- Markers
- Washable ink pads for making thumbprints
- Pool noodles; enough to make two parallel lines across the length of your room when taped together
- Large black circle made of paper or fabric
- 15 ball pit balls or foam balls; three balls each of five different colors
- Bible

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Obedience Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

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:

- Do an Internet search to find a picture of a mission control room. As always, make sure you obtain proper permission to use anything you find on the Internet.
- Roll out enough craft paper to extend across the length of your Large Group room. Draw a horizontal line across the length of the craft paper, with a dot at each end. (This will be your timeline for the Bible story.) Set the craft paper out at the beginning of Large Group so the kids can add their fingerprints to it.
- For this curriculum year, we'll be following God's Big Story from beginning to end. We suggest giving your kids a visual timeline so they can follow along with where they are each week. There are two ways to do this: using CG slides of the overall timeline as well as a CG slide to represent each individual story OR attaching a craft paper timeline to the wall(s) of your environment and attaching printouts of the story each week. (You could also do this by hanging pictures on fishing line.) If you choose the craft paper option, you can use paper timeline that you're creating for today's Bible story; simply put it up on the wall(s) after the Bible story and begin using it as your timeline for the whole year.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible, marked with numbered sticky notes at the following places:
 - Book of 1 Kings
 - Book of Daniel
 - Book of Joshua
 - Proverbs 3:5-6
 - Proverbs 26:11
 - 1 Corinthians 11:1
 - Psalm 23:1
 - Psalm 119:115
- Craft paper timeline, from the Opener
- Bible Story Images #1-6 printed on 8.5x11-inch copy paper

Large Group Visuals:

- One Big Story Intro Video
- Blank Bottom Line Slide

- Bottom Line Slide
- Bible Story Images #1-6

What You Do:

- The One Big Story Intro Video is available with the monthly download. You can find it in the “Prelude” folder under “Monthly Planning.”
- Print the Bible Story Images on copy paper.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- We are Royals
- Who You Say I Am

I'll Remember

Bible Story: I'll Remember (What Is the Bible?) • *Psalm 119:105*

Bottom Line: When you learn about God, it's easier to follow Him.

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's 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

Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.

As kids are entering the Large Group environment, have them put their thumbprint on the designated spot on the large craft paper timeline. Don't tell them why they're doing it. Roll up the craft paper before you start Large Group.

Optional Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme

Opener

HOST: "Hi, everyone! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad you're here today. Welcome to Mission Control!

"If you've ever seen a TV show or read a book about astronauts, you've probably seen a room full of really smart people who are giving the crew instructions from back home.

CG: Mission control picture (optional)

"That's Mission Control. They help to make sure the astronauts are safe and successful. And the astronauts have an important part to play, too. They have to trust Mission Control and follow their directions.

"We may not be astronauts in space, but we DO need to make that same kind of choice every day—to listen to the people who lead us and to choose obedience.

CG: Obedience Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

“Obedience is trusting who’s in charge by doing what you’re asked to do.

CG: Theme Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

“We can obey what our parents and teachers and Leaders tell us, because they know what’s best for us!

“Obedience isn’t always about obeying a person, either. When we play games, we use obedience when we play by the rules. How about we do that today with a fun game that I like to call ‘Black Hole’? I need five volunteers to join me up front.

Choose five kids to join you on the floor at the front of the stage.

(To volunteers) “First, let’s make a lane—using these! Leaders, can you help me out?”

Start to place the pool noodles end-to-end in two parallel lines, creating a “lane” across the center of the room. Get some adult Leaders to help you tape the noodles together (optional).

(To contestants) “All right, contestants. This game is sort of like bowling—except instead of trying to knock something over, you’re trying to roll your ball down the lane toward this black hole.

Place the “black hole” circle inside the lane about 3/4 of the way across the room.

“The goal is to roll your ball as close as possible to the black hole WITHOUT it going in. Here, let me show you.

Demonstrate one or two rolls so the kids understand what to do.

“Each of you will get three tries. Whoever’s ball is closest to the black hole at the very end will be the winner!

Hand three balls to each kid. Make sure each kid has three of the same color, and make sure no other contestants have that same color. That way you’ll be able to keep track of whose ball is closest.

(To contestants) “Is everyone ready? Great! [Kid’s name], you’re up first.

Give each contestant three tries to roll their balls down the lane. Make a big deal about how great everyone is doing, and praise their effort.

After all five kids have rolled, determine which color ball is closest to the black hole without going in.

“That was incredible! You all were really good at that. Let’s give our contestants a big hand as they head back to their seats.

Dismiss kids 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! 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!

We Are Royals

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!

Who You Say I Am

WORSHIP LEADER: *PRAY*

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro
CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! Here at [your environment’s name], we talk a lot about the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)* Maybe you’ve read the Bible at home, or maybe someone has read it TO you. You can read it online or on an app, you can listen to it as an audiobook, or you can hold an actual Bible in your hands to read it. But have you ever thought about what the Bible actually IS?

“However you read it, here’s what’s true: the Bible is a library of 66 different books that fit together to form God’s One Big Story.

“I’ve asked [Host’s name] to come out and show you what I mean.

Host enters. Hand him the Bible.

“Each book and each author of the Bible is different, but God inspired every word.

“You’ll find stories of adventure—like when Elijah called down fire from heaven to prove that God is the one true God . . .”

Host quickly flips through the pages to 1 Kings.

HOST: “1 Kings!”

STORYTELLER: “. . . or when Daniel survived a night locked in a room full of hungry lions . . .”

Host quickly flips through the pages to Daniel.

HOST: “Daniel!”

STORYTELLER: “. . . or when Joshua led an army to destroy the huge walls around a city called Jericho.”

Host quickly flips through the pages to Joshua.

HOST: “That’s here in Joshua!”

STORYTELLER: “The Bible has words of wisdom that remind us to trust God no matter what.”

Host flips to Proverbs 3:5-6 (NirV) and reads.

HOST: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways remember him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.”*

STORYTELLER: “Some of those wise words are even a little funny.”

Host flips to Proverbs 26:11 (NirV) and reads.

HOST: *“Foolish people who do the same foolish things again are like a dog that returns to where it has thrown up.”*

STORYTELLER: “Gross, right? The Bible also has letters with encouraging words, like when Paul wrote this.”

Host flips to 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NirV) and reads.

HOST: *“Follow my example, just as I follow the example of Christ.”*

STORYTELLER: “It has songs and poems written by people who loved God and wanted to tell the world about Him.”

Host flips to Psalm 23:1 (NirV) and reads.

HOST: *“The Lord is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.”*

THE O.T.

STORYTELLER: “God’s Big Story starts with the 39 books of the Old Testament.

Host gets the craft paper timeline and unrolls it about halfway across the length of the room. Use the same empty area where the lane was in the Opener.

“In the beginning, there’s nothing. But in Genesis, God creates the entire universe. He makes the first people, Adam and Eve, but they disobey.

CG: Bible Story Image #1 (Adam and Eve)

Host holds up the printed Bible Story Image #1 (Adam and Eve) and then attaches it to the far left side of the timeline.

“Even as Adam and Eve leave God, He never leaves them. God promises to make a great nation from Abraham’s family.

CG: Bible Story Image #2 (Abraham looking at the stars)

Host holds up the printed Bible Story Image #2 (Abraham looking at the stars) and then attaches it to the timeline, just to the right of Image #1.

“The rest of the Old Testament tells the story of Abraham’s family, the Israelites. Over and over, the Israelites turn away from God. And over and over, He rescues them and sets them free.

CG: Bible Story Image #3 (parting of the Red Sea)

Host holds up the printed Bible Story Image #3 (parting of the Red Sea) and then attaches it to the timeline, just to the right of Image #2. (By this point, you should have the three images attached to the left side of the timeline, followed by an empty space before the remainder of the roll.)

“God even sends prophets who speak His words. They tell of a Savior who will rescue not just the Israelites, but also the whole world.

“But we reach the end of the Old Testament and . . . nothing.

Point out the big empty space in the timeline.

“For hundreds of years, we don’t have a single recorded word from God. But then, God sends angels— one of them to a teenager named Mary.”

THE N.T.

Host unrolls the rest of the timeline to reveal the remainder of the line, representing the New Testament years.

STORYTELLER: “The 27 books of the New Testament tell the story of Jesus and His followers. In the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we see how Jesus is born.

CG: Bible Story Image #4 (Jesus’ birth)

Host holds up the printed Bible Story Image #4 (Jesus’ birth) and then attaches it to the timeline. Attach it at the beginning of the newly unrolled section, to the right of the empty space in the middle.

“We see how Jesus becomes a kid who grows in wisdom, faith, and friendship. We see Jesus as a man who teaches and heals and shows God’s love to every single person he meets.

CG: Bible Story Image #5 (Jesus healing a blind man)

Host holds up the printed Bible Story Image #5 (Jesus healing a blind man) and then attaches it to the timeline, to the right of Image #4.

“Sadly, we see how Jesus is killed by the religious leaders. But we also see how God raises Him back to life.

CG: Bible Story Image #6 (empty tomb)

Host holds up the printed Bible Story Image #6 (empty tomb) and then attaches it to the timeline, to the right of Image #5.

“It’s the single most important moment in history. Jesus has defeated death! Throughout the rest of the New Testament, Jesus’ followers spread the news, no matter what it costs them. The final book of the Bible, Revelation, tells what it will be like when God makes everything right again . . . forever!”

Point to the very end of the timeline (the point on the far right).

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

WHAT ABOUT US?

STORYTELLER: “Now, I want you to take a closer look at our timeline here on the floor. This is God’s Big Story! We’ve got the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Point out the Old Testament and New Testament sections of the timeline.

“We’ve got just a few stories that we’ve put on here today . . . and of course there are SO many other amazing things that God has done in people’s lives all throughout the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)*

“But what else do you see on this timeline? *(Pause for response.)* That’s right! Fingerprints. OUR fingerprints. You see, the most amazing part of God’s story is that YOU’RE in it!

“You and I are living right here . . .

Point to the section of the timeline after the empty tomb (Image #6).

“. . . between the time of Jesus and the early church . . . and the time when Jesus will return and make everything right. Right here, right now, we can follow Jesus and share His story as we love God and love others. And God didn’t leave us to do it alone. He gives everyone who follows Jesus the power and presence of His Holy Spirit.

“The Bible is God’s Big Story. And WE are part of it!

(To Host) “Thanks for helping me today, [Host’s name].”

Host rolls up the timeline and exits.

Optional: You may want to make your timeline an ongoing prop that you hang on the wall of your environment. Take a moment to tell the kids about it—that you’ll be adding images to it each week as you continue through God’s Big Story.

Storyteller goes back to the stage to wrap up the story.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: *(Hold up Bible.)* “Here’s what’s so cool about the Bible. As you read these words that God wants you to know, He will help you understand them. He will give you the power to obey. The more you dig into the Bible, the more you discover who God is and how you can follow Him in all you say and do.

“Listen to these words from Psalm 119.

Open the Bible to Psalm 119:115 (NirV) and read.

“Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me.

“The Bible helps us know more about God. It’s like a bright light that shows us which way to go. Remember this.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “When you learn about God, it’s easier to follow Him.

“It’s so true, isn’t it? When we read the Bible and get to know God better, it’s easier for us to trust Him and obey. Let’s pray.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for letting us be part of Your Big Story. You’ve had a plan from the beginning for us to have a close relationship with You. We know that Your way is the best way to live. Help us to trust You and follow Your plan. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “Wow! It’s incredible to think that we’re all part of God’s Big Story. *(Hold up Bible.)* When we take time to read the Bible for ourselves, we get to know God more and more. Then it’s easier for us to trust Him and obey. It reminds us that *[Basic Truth]* we can trust Him no matter what.

“Remember:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “When you learn about God, it’s easier to follow Him.

CG: Timeline (optional)

Optional: If you’ve put your paper timeline on the wall, reference it here. Or you could use a different type of timeline on the wall (such as fishing line), or the images on screen.

“The Bible is the story of Jesus. It’s one Big Story of how much God loves you. He loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for you. And whoever believes in Jesus receives eternal life.

CG: Today’s Story Image (optional)

Optional: Place Today's Story Image on your timeline.

“So, how do you learn more about Jesus? Find time to read the books in the Bible that were written to help us know what Jesus did and said. Check out Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (*hold up Bible*)—on an app, on the computer, or in an actual book. Read some verses every day if you can. Make it a habit. Ask your parents for help. The Bible will help you know God so you can follow Him!

“Speaking of following, now it's time for you to follow your Small Group Leader back to your group. See what I did there? 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