



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Several small pop-up tents (remove the instructions)
- Goggles (six)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

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.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- You will need to borrow or buy a few small, pop-up tents and remove the instructions.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Sorry!® board game
- “Sorry!” card from the board game
- Table for Sorry! game
- A sign for “Canaan”
- A sign for “Egypt”
- 12 beach balls, each with a name of one of Jacob’s 11 sons written on it plus one with Jacob’s name written on it.
- A gold beach ball with “Joseph” written on it.

Large Group Visuals:

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Key Question 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.
- The One Big Story Intro Video is available with the monthly download. You can find it in the “Prelude” folder under “Monthly Planning.”
- Have a table set up for the Communicator to put the Sorry! game. The game can be preset on the table before the Communicator comes out on stage. Pull out a “Sorry” card so the Communicator can easily take it out of the box.
- Before the kids arrive, hang the “Canaan” sign on one side wall and the “Egypt” sign on the opposite side wall.
- Write one of the son’s names on 11 different beach balls and write Jacob’s name on the 12th.
- Write Joseph’s name on a gold beach ball.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Never Gonna Stop
- Who You Say I Am

God's Plan

Bible Story: God's Plan (Joseph Forgives His Brothers) • *Genesis 42–45*

Bottom Line: You can trust God has a plan.

Key Question: When have you had to trust God?

Memory Verse: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5, NIV*

Life App: Trust—Putting your confidence in someone you can depend on

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

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 can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like holidays (Labor Day, Cheese Pizza Day, National Cheeseburger Day, Elephant Appreciation Day, Hobbit Day, etc.), a big sports game (College Football and NFL seasons start, MLB regular season is finishing up), movie opening, 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.

Opener

HOST: "What's going on, everyone?! We have such a great day in store for you. And that day starts with a true adventure challenge. How many of you have ever set up a tent before?"

Pause for responses.

"Okay, I need three teams of two who think they are experts at putting a tent together."

Host chooses six volunteers and arranges into partners. Hands each team a bag tent.

"When I say go, you and your partner will race to set up the entire tent and then get inside. Here are some safety goggles you can wear though because I'm sure some tent poles will be flying around, and I don't want anyone poking an eye. Make sure you work as a team, and we'll be cheering you on. Okay? Ready, set, and OHHHHH wait!"

“I forgot to tell you something. We took the instructions out. And GO!!!!”

SFX: Fun Game Music

Provide commentary while they set up the tents. If teams are really struggling, send a leader up to help them.

“(After the game) That was impressive! But you are going to have to come out of that tent now. Seriously though . . . I’d take you camping anytime. Now let’s stand and worship together!”

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.

Communicator enters Worship Leaders exit.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Hey, everybody! It’s so good to see all of you today. I’m excited to sing God’s praises with all of you.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everyone! Can you believe we are wrapping up September today? It has been an awesome month, and today is certainly no exception. Question, how many of you have ever played this game?”

Communicator shows everyone the Sorry!® board game. Kids respond.

“I loved playing this game when I was a kid. Actually, I still do. You race around the board trying to get to your home base when all of the sudden . . .”

Communicator pulls out a Sorry! card.

“SORRY! And you send your opponent packing for home. It’s great. But are you REALLY sorry? Not really. You’re happy because now you have a better chance at winning.”

“This is probably true in life, too. Maybe there are other times when we might say the word ‘sorry’ but don’t really *feel* sorry. Like when our friends get upset about something we say and we say back to them *[in a funny and sarcastic voice]* ‘I’m so SORRY you were offended by that.’”

“Am I really saying that I’m sorry? How do you know?”

Pause for kids to respond.

“Exactly! I was more saying, ‘I’m sorry that you’re the kind of person that gets so easily offended that what I said bothered you.’ In other words, I was basically saying it was the other person’s fault! Not a real apology at all.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “I’m gonna be honest with you for a second. Getting along with others can be hard. We don’t always treat each other with love and respect. And when that happens, we don’t always know how to deal with it. On top of that, if we’re the ones who are left with hurt feelings, we don’t understand why any of this is happening. We start to wonder if we can trust our friends or family. We may even wonder if we can trust God. First of all, let me tell you, we’ve all been there. You’re going to feel that way from time to time, but when you do, it’s important to talk to the right people to help you through it. It’s important to talk with God and ask God to help you find some answers.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Of course a great place to find answers to big questions is the Bible. Throughout the pages of the Bible we can read about all sorts of people who dealt with relationships that were hard. We’ve been talking about one of those guys for most of this month. Remember his name? Right, Joseph!

We’ve gone from Joseph’s days with his family in Canaan to his crazy experiences in Egypt. Sold into slavery, wrongfully imprisoned, forgotten and left alone—Joseph had sure been through a lot. But as you might remember from last week, God gave Joseph the ability to interpret the Pharaoh’s dreams and warn him about a famine that would destroy the land. Because of this, Pharaoh made Joseph second in command in all of Egypt and put him in charge of preparing for the famine. Talk about a promotion!”

“Now, today’s story has a lot of back and forth between the land of Canaan and the land of Egypt.”

“If you remember, Canaan was the land where Joseph and his brothers were from. You also might have heard it referred to as the Promised Land. For today, this is going to be Canaan.”

Communicator walks over and points to the sign on one side wall that says “Canaan.”

“Joseph left Canaan when we was sold by his brothers to some traders. He eventually ended up in Egypt, where the majority of our story has taken place.”

Communicator walks over to the opposite end of the room and points to the sign for “Egypt.”

“So as our story starts today, Jacob and his 11 sons are in Canaan . . .”

Pull beach balls out for Jacob and each son and reveal their names, written on the beach balls. The Communicator sends all of the beach balls into the crowd and tells the kids to pass them over to Canaan.

“And Joseph is still in Egypt.”

“Send” Joseph beach ball to Egypt.

“Speaking of Egypt, they certainly did enjoy seven years of abundance. The harvests were amazing, and with Joseph there, they were careful to not waste any of it. Instead, they followed his plan to stockpile grain in the storehouses. And at the end of the seven years, just as predicted, a terrible famine ripped through the land of Egypt. (*Point to the Egypt sign*) In fact, the famine was terrible everywhere, including Canaan (*Point to Canaan sign*).”

“Jacob said to his sons, (*Read directly from Genesis 42:2*) ‘I’ve heard there’s grain in Egypt. Go down there. Buy some for us. Then we’ll live and not die.’”

“Everybody is out of grain except Egypt! Jacob gets word that SOMEHOW, Egypt had been prepared for the famine and still has grain. Now, a little math for you—if Joseph is one of twelve brothers and he is already in Egypt, how many brothers then are headed from Canaan to Egypt?”

Pause for responses.

“You would think eleven like many of you called out. But it was actually ten, because Joseph had a younger brother named Benjamin, and Jacob refused to let him go because he was afraid he would be harmed. Sounds kind of familiar, right?”

“So ten sons of Jacob head down to Egypt in order to buy some grain. Send all the brothers except Benjamin to Egypt!”

10 Beach balls are sent from Canaan side to Egypt side.

“Now, because Joseph was in charge of the grain, he was also the one who sold it to the people. So, of all of the people for the brothers to get grain from, they have to talk to Joseph! (*Read directly from Gen 42:6b*) ‘When Joseph’s brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.’ Anybody see anything interesting about that?”

Pause for responses.

“Yes! Good memory! Joseph had a dream where the bundles of grain were bowing down! It’s come true! Now you might be thinking ‘Wouldn’t the brothers recognize him?’ You have to remember though, it’s been years, and

they probably don't even think he is alive anymore. Plus, Joseph probably looks very Egyptian by now—at least in how he's dressed, hence the gold beach ball. But even though they don't recognize him, Joseph does recognize his brothers and decides that he's not going to make this easy on them.”

“Listen to this. *(Read directly from Genesis 42:9b-11)* ‘So Joseph said to them, “You are spies! You have come to see the places where our land isn't guarded very well.” “No, sir,” they answered. “We've come to buy food. All of us are the sons of one man. We're honest men. We aren't spies.”’”

“Joseph accuses them of being spies! He is making his brothers shake in their boots . . . or sandals. They tried to convince him otherwise, but he is not letting them off the hook. Instead, Joseph is going to put them to the test. *(Read directly from Genesis 42:15a)* ““So I'm going to test you. And here's the test. You can be sure that you won't leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.””

“So what Joseph proposes is that Benjamin (*hold Benjamin beach ball*) go all the way from Canaan to Egypt, which is the one thing Jacob, the dad, said he would not let happen. What a test!”

“After three days, Joseph lays out a new plan. *(Read directly from Genesis 42:19-20b)* ‘If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison. The rest of you may go and take grain back to your hungry families. But you must bring your youngest brother to me. That will prove that your words are true.’”

“So all of the brothers are loaded up with grain, while Simeon was thrown into prison. The nine brothers head back to Canaan with grain, while Simeon stays in Egypt.”

Nine beach balls sent back—not Simeon beach ball

“Upon returning home, the brothers told their father about everything that happened in Egypt—about the Egyptian who treated them harshly and was going to punish them for being spies if they didn't return with their youngest brother and prove otherwise. To top it all off, when they got home they realized that all of their money that they used to pay for the grain was hidden in the bags. The brothers were terrified. Of course, their father, Jacob was very upset, but pretty soon the grain ran out again and there was no other choice. Either he would have to take a chance and send Benjamin, or his entire family would die because of the famine.”

“Jacob still did not want to send him, but Judah assured him that he would protect him and guard him with his life. See, the brothers were sticking up for their brother in a way they never did for Joseph, and this is exactly what Joseph wanted to see.”

“So now all the brothers in Canaan make the long journey back to Egypt, including Benjamin

All beach balls from Canaan to Egypt.

“Once again, they stand before Joseph, but they still don't know it is their brother. And when he sees his youngest brother, Benjamin, he is deeply moved and has to leave the room to hide his tears.”

“Now all of the brothers are back together again, but Joseph isn't quite done. He has one more test. He loads up more grain for the brothers to send them on their way, but first, he has one of his men put a valuable silver cup in Benjamin's grain bag without him knowing it—a set up! As soon as they left Egypt, Joseph sent some of his men

to track them down and bring them back. Joseph accused them of stealing from him, but the brothers pleaded their innocence, even promising to be Joseph's slaves if they were guilty!"

"So one by one, the grain bags were opened, and sure enough, when they got to Benjamin's, there was the silver cup that Joseph's men had planted! What will the brothers do now? Will they selfishly abandon another brother?"

"Judah spoke up. *(Read directly from Genesis 44:32-33)* *"I promised my father I would keep the boy safe. I said, 'Father, I'll bring him back to you. If I don't, you can put the blame on me for the rest of my life.' Now then, please let me stay here. Let me be your slave in place of the boy. Let the boy return with his brothers."*

"Judah offers to stand in the place of Benjamin . . . and the brothers seem to agree. They are willing to do anything to protect Benjamin."

"Joseph couldn't take it anymore. *(Read directly from Genesis 45:1)* *'Joseph couldn't control himself anymore in front of all his attendants. He cried out, "Have everyone leave me!" So there wasn't anyone with Joseph when he told his brothers who he was.'*

"Joseph looked at his brothers and said 'It's me . . . Joseph!' Now what do you think the brothers said next? Well, they couldn't say a thing. *(Read directly from Genesis 45:3b)* *'But his brothers weren't able to answer him. They were too afraid of him.'*

"Think about all they had done to their brother. They were the reason Joseph left his homeland of Canaan *(quickly walk Joseph beach ball to Canaan)* to become a slave in Egypt *(move Joseph beach ball back to Egypt)*. If it hadn't been for them, he would have never spent that terrible time in jail. But what Joseph tells his brothers is incredible. Check this out—*(Read directly from Genesis 45:4b)* *'I am your brother Joseph. I'm the one you sold into Egypt. But don't be upset. And don't be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me ahead of you to save many lives.'*

"Did you catch what Joseph is saying? He is saying that even though his brothers sold him, God was actually sending him to save lives. If Joseph hadn't of been there, who would have interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh and told him to prepare for the famine? Who would have had grain to give to the people? Where would Jacob and his family have gotten grain?"

"Later on, Joseph will say it another way—what you meant for evil, God meant for good."

"Joseph threw his arms around his brothers and hugged them. And then he gave them instructions to go get their father and all of their families. Joseph wanted them to move down here to Egypt, and the brothers did it. They went back to Canaan *(All beach balls back to Canaan)*, got their father *(Jacob beach ball)*, and they all moved to Egypt to be with Joseph. *(All beach balls to Egypt)*"

"A pretty powerful ending, right? I'm always amazed at Joseph's response to his brothers. Just imagine if we had gone through everything that Joseph had. We might want revenge. We might want to be bitter and mean. But Joseph understood that even though he had gone through a lot of pain, God had a bigger plan in mind. God was able to take circumstances that seemed really bad at the time and use them for good. And as a result, many people were saved. It may have been hard at times, but Joseph learned what it means to trust God even when it doesn't make sense."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “In a way, Joseph told his brothers, you **SOLD** me, but God **SENT** me. In other words, you tried to harm me, but God was able to take what you intended for harm and turn it into a way to save. It’s pretty incredible when you think about it. God can use some of the worst times in our lives to do something amazing. It’s even true with Jesus. If you look at the way He suffered and then died, it would be hard to believe that anything good could come out of **THAT**. But His death **WAS** the plan. God used it to save us . . . just like he used the pain of Joseph to save his family.”

“At the time, it can be really hard to understand some of the bad things we are going through. That is okay. We won’t always get it. But the amazing thing about God is that He is able to take these bad times—moments that look so broken that they can’t be fixed—and to still do something positive with them. All He asks us to do is to trust Him, even when it’s really hard.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Today as you go to groups, I want you to think about this question—”

CG: Key Question Slide

“When have you had to trust God? This could be something small or something major. God wants you to trust Him, no matter what is happening in your life. And maybe you’re going through one of those really hard times right now where you can’t imagine how anything good could come from something so bad. You don’t have to go through this alone; be sure to talk to someone about that. You’ll get a chance to talk through this question with your Small Group, but before you head out let’s pray and thank God for being so trustworthy no matter what is going on in our lives.

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

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

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop