



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Rectangular folding table
- Balloons (see "What You Do")
- VIP Area (Same as last week)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme 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.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- When blowing up balloons, put a little weight (a few un-popped corn kernels, rice, etc.) inside just to keep them from flying off of the table. You don't want it heavy so that it is slow—you just want it so that it doesn't rise up every time it's blown.
- Set up the table perpendicular to the audience. Because kids will play on the long side of the table, have the short side of the table facing the audience so they can see the action.
- Create a VIP area for the small group that wins the Opener game. Stock it with water bottles, snacks, and whatever else you think would be fun for your kids. The area can be roped off, have a leader

standing outside of it as a bouncer, etc. You'll use this VIP every week as a special prize for the small group that wins the game.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Chair labeled "throne"
- Royal robe
- Military clothes (of Jonathan)
- Sword
- Bow
- Belt
- Three arrows

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Key Question Slide
- *Optional:* Slides for the Friend Matching Activity

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.
- The One Big Story Intro Video is available with the monthly download. You can find it in the "Prelude" folder under "Monthly Planning."
- *Optional:* Search for images of the characters represented in the Introduction activity: Buzz Lightyear and Woody, Bert and Ernie, Han Solo and Chewbacca, Calvin and Hobbes, Robin and Batman, Phineas and Ferb, Wallace and Grommitt, Watson and Sherlock Holmes. This might make the activity easier for the kids. Download them and have the ready to use in your presentation software.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Through It All
- Let Go

You've Got a Friend

Bible Story: You've Got a Friend (David and Jonathan) • *1 Samuel 18:1-9; 19:1-7; 20:1-42*

Bottom Line: Honor others by putting them first.

Key Question: What are the best ways to honor your friends?

Memory Verse: *Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves.* Romans 12:10 (NIRV)

Life App: Honor—Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

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: *Hall of Fame Theme Slide*

Host enters.

Welcome

Opener

HOST: "Well, what a great-looking bunch of people we've got here! Good to see you all. November is already off to a great start!"

"Today starts off with another small group sports challenge . . . with the ultimate small group VIP package waiting for the winner. I will need teams of two to represent each Small Group. So leaders it's up to you—pick two formidable competitors and send them to the stage!"

"Here's how the game works. This table is the football field. And this (*balloon*) is the football. You and your partner will line up on the wide side of the table across from the other team. When the football is dropped into play, you will blow the football, no hands, off your opponents' side of the table. If it goes off the short end of the table, it is out of bounds. The first team to two touchdowns wins. We will play tournament-style quickly until we have a winner. Get it?"

NOTE: If you have a lot of partners, you may want to consider having multiple tables at the same time for the sake of time. Keep things moving quickly until you declare a winner.

declare a winner and usher their whole small group into the VIP experience area.

HOST: "That was a blast . . . get it? Because of all the air . . . oh, never mind . . . let's all stand and worship God together!"

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: "

Communicator enters Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

VIDEO: *One Big Story Intro*

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey everyone! So good to see you here today! Let’s start off today with a little exercise. I’ll say a name, and you call out his or her famous friend. Like, for example, if I said ‘Buzz Lightyear,’ you would say . . .”

Kids should respond with “Woody.”

“Exactly. Woody from *Toy Story*. Two famous friends. Alright, let’s give it a try . . . and be forewarned, some of these are tricky.”

CG: *Optional Slides of Each Character*

“I say Bert. You say _____ (*Ernie*).”

“I say Mario. You say _____ (*Luigi*).”

“I say Han Solo. You say _____ (*Chewbacca*).”

“I say Calvin. You say _____ (*Hobbes*).”

“I say Robin. You say _____ (*Batman*).”

“I say Phineas. You say _____ (*Ferb*).”

“I say Wallace. You say _____ (*Grommit*).”

“I say Watson. You say _____ (*Sherlock Holmes*).”

“Awesome job. Alright, I have one more for you. I say David. You say _____. What do you think? Certainly not Goliath. That was last week, and I don’t think they were really friends. Anybody know the answer?”

If someone yells out the answer, acknowledge it, otherwise wait until you get to the Truth section.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Have you ever noticed that in a lot of these famous friends we just named, there always seems to be one that is the star and the other seems to be the ‘sidekick’? We tend to think of one first and then remember the other second. Take Batman and Robin. Sure, Robin fights a lot of crime, but we usually focus on Batman and his accomplishments, right?”

“Now obviously Batman and Robin and all of these characters live in fictional worlds, but have you ever thought about this in real life? Are there times when you can help your friend get credit or honor, and by doing so, it would mean that you . . .”

well, DON'T? Would you do it? That's a tough question! And when we have tough questions like this, the first place we should turn is the Bible. In the Bible we find people who had relationships with God and wrote down what they experienced. They can help us understand the wise choice when it comes to questions like this."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "And today we pick up where we left off last week after David's victory over Goliath. Now, something important to know. At this point in his life, David had already been anointed as the next king of Israel. God had chosen him to be the next king, but Saul was still the *actual* king. But check out how this story starts."

"(Read directly from 1 Samuel 18:1b, NIV) 'Jonathan and David became close friends. Jonathan loved David just as he loved himself.' Does anyone know what is so strange about that statement?" (Pause for response.)

"Does anyone know who Jonathan is? *(Pause for response.)* He's King Saul's son. NOW why is this such a strange statement that Jonathan would be friends with David? Because Jonathan *should* be next in line to be king and instead David is going to be!"

Communicator walks over to the throne.

"This throne should belong to Jonathan, and yet it will eventually be David's. There's only one throne, and that can certainly cause some tension. It certainly will between Saul and David in a moment. But before that, check out what happened next."

"(Read directly from 1 Samuel 18:3-4, NIV) 'Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him just as he loved himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David. He also gave him his military clothes. He even gave him his sword, his bow and his belt.'"

Communicator takes a robe out of the prop box.

"Alright let's unpack this a bit. So Jonathan made a promise to David and then took off his robe and handed it to David. What do you think the robe represented?"

Pause for responses.

"Exactly! It is a picture of Jonathan's royalty. The fact, that he's part of the royal family. When he gave David the robe, Jonathan was telling him that the throne and the royalty was now his. It's like a picture that David is taking his place. And that's not all! He then gave David his sword, his bow, and his belt!"

Communicator takes all of these items and puts them on the throne.

"Almost immediately after this, David was promoted to a high rank in Saul's army. You can imagine how this might make Jonathan feel. Who knows? Maybe he even used Jonathan's sword and bow in battle. But it's not Jonathan who became jealous. It was actually Saul. You see, people started to notice how successful David was as a military leader, and they started to sing about all of his many victories—his many MORE victories than Saul. This didn't go over well with Saul, and Saul began to watch David closely."

"Saul's jealousy continued to grow the more David succeeded, and finally Saul had enough. One day he told his son Jonathan and his attendants to KILL David! Now besides the whole killing thing, what else might be a problem with asking

Jonathan to do that? *(Pause for response.)* Right. Jonathan is best friends with David. On top of that, they swore a covenant to each other! Look what happens next. *(Read directly from 1 Samuel 19:2-3, NIRV)* ‘So Jonathan warned him, ‘My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be very careful tomorrow morning. Find a place to hide and stay there. My father and I will come and stand in the field where you are hiding. I’ll speak to him about you. Then I’ll tell you what I find out.’”

“Do you see how this is dangerous for Jonathan? Well, he met with his dad and tried to smooth things over. He told him some good things about David and pleads David’s case. Check it out. *(Read directly from 1 Samuel 19:4b-5a, NIRV)* ‘Please don’t do anything to harm David. He hasn’t done anything to harm you. And what he’s done has helped you a lot. He put his own life in danger when he killed Goliath. The Lord used him to win a great battle for the whole nation of Israel. When you saw it, you were glad. So why would you do anything to harm a man like David?’”

“Saul listened to Jonathan and made a promise that he would not do anything to kill David. Jonathan went and had David brought before, Saul and it SEEMED like things were back to normal.”

“It wasn’t long though before Saul was back to his old ways. While David was playing his harp, Saul threw a spear and attempted to pin David to the wall. Wow, right? I guess he *really* didn’t like that song! But in all seriousness, this was tricky because Saul had promised Jonathan that he wouldn’t do this. Yet here he was trying to kill David again! Jonathan couldn’t believe it, but David knew Saul was hiding his plans from Jonathan. So they came up with a plan of their own, and it involved these.”

Communicator holds up three arrows.

“David went and hid in a field instead of showing up to eat at the king’s table like usual. The king didn’t really think much of it the first day, but when David’s place was empty again the next day, Saul asked where he was. This was a part of the plan. You see, Jonathan was to gauge Saul’s feelings toward David by how he reacted. Well, Jonathan informed Saul that David went to Bethlehem to offer a sacrifice with his family. The reaction?”

(Read directly from 1 Samuel 20:30, NIRV) ‘Saul became very angry with Jonathan. He said to him, “You are an evil son. You have refused to obey me. I know that you are on the side of Jesse’s son. You should be ashamed of that. And your mother should be ashamed of having a son like you.”’”

“Woah. I’d say he’s angry. And that’s not all . . .”

(Read directly from 1 Samuel 20:33 NIRV) ‘But Saul threw his spear at Jonathan to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father wanted to kill David.’”

“What is with this guy and his spears?! Jonathan ran out, and the next day he went out into the field where David was. This is where the three arrows come in. See, they had arranged a sign. Jonathan would pretend to target practice with a young boy. If he shot the arrows to one side of the stone and said to the boy, ‘The arrows are on this side of you,’ then you are safe. But if I shoot the arrows and tell the boy, ‘The arrows are far beyond you,’ then you go far away because your life is in danger.”

“Jonathan shot the arrows and the boy went after them. *(Read directly from 1 Samuel 20:37-38, NIRV)* ‘The boy came to the place where Jonathan’s arrow had fallen. Then Jonathan shouted to him, “The arrow went far beyond you, didn’t it?” He continued, “Hurry up! Run fast! Don’t stop!” The boy picked up the arrow and returned to his master.’”

“David received Jonathan’s message loud and clear. They said goodbye to one another with tears, and David fled for his life. Jonathan’s actions had saved David’s life, and David would never forget it.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “You know, there were definitely times when Jonathan could have changed his mind if he wanted to. Think about it—nobody would have known if he had just let Saul kill David. It wouldn’t have been his fault. It would have been Saul’s! And then, maybe all of this (*pick up props from throne*) and even this (*sit down on throne*) could have been his again. But he was faithful to David to the end. He put him above himself, even when it cost him.”

“It’s easy to honor your friends when it means you are going to experience it as well, like when you invite your friend to a concert or game. You’re still getting to go to the concert or game, right? You’re just also giving your friend a chance to go as well, which is a pretty cool thing. But what about the times where honoring somebody else means you might miss out? Or celebrating somebody else’s success might come at a cost to you?”

“For Jonathan, there was one throne, and if David was going to get that throne, it would mean that he wouldn’t. In band, there’s only one first chair. Sometimes it is clear that somebody else is more deserving of that seat and deserves to be honored. But that means you have to move down. On your sports team there may be only one starting position open and you may find someone starting ahead of you which means you have to sit on the bench for a while.”

“These are not easy moments, but sacrificing our own honor so that others can be honored never is. But it makes us like Jesus. Jesus had all of the honor and glory you could ever imagine, but He gave it up so that He could come to earth and be a servant. He traded his honor for shame, and now our shame can be traded for honor. Now THAT is self-sacrifice.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Today as you go to groups, think about this question.

CG: Key Question Slide

“**What are the best ways to honor your friends?** Think about the people in your life. How can you show honor to your friends? How can you put them first even when it means you might be second or even last? You’ll talk more about this with your Small Group, but before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for all of our friends and for sending us the best friend ever, Jesus. Let’s pray

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