



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Trivia questions (cross out which are used from week to week to avoid repeats)
- Large die
- Small whiteboards and markers for each group to write their answers on (or pieces of paper on clipboards)
- Scoresheet to keep from week to week
- Prize for the winning group of THE BIG QUIZ

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- 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.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Biblical costume for disciple (robe, wig, etc)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- 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.
- Gather costume clothing for the Host.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Reason to Believe

Bible Story: (Reason to Believe) Jesus and John the Baptist • Matthew 11:1-6

Bottom Line: If you don't understand something about God, ask.

Key Question: When you have questions about God, who can you ask?

Memory Verse: *The LORD gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.* Proverbs 2:6 (NIRV)

Life App: Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you 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*

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 a big sports game (Winter X Games, NFL Playoffs), movie opening (The Voyage of Doctor Doolittle), 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, my people! Such a good day in store for you. And it begins with our final round of THE BIG QUIZ! That’s right—it all comes down to this!”

NOTE: If playing in teams rather than Small Groups, get teams back together. Have new kids join groups.

CG: *Theme Slide*

SFX: *Serious Game Show music*

HOST: “One more time, let me remind you how this works. Each week, your Small Groups have been competing against one another by answering a series of five trivia questions. Whichever team has the most questions correct out of 20 by TODAY will be the winner and crowned reigning champs of the Big Quiz. We’ve got a close race, and it’s anybody’s game!”

“So, after I read the question, each group will have 30-seconds to write an answer down on their board. Then I’ll reveal the correct answer and award points. Questions will come from one of four categories, and we’re choosing the category by rolling this!”

Host reveals large die.

“Remember our categories? History and Geography. Science. Arts and Entertainment. Sports and Games. And don’t forget we also have the U PICK and HOST PICK on the die, too, just to make it interesting”

“Does everybody understand? Are we ready to play? Then, let’s play . . . the BIG QUIZ!”

SFX: *Serious Game Show music*

Each round, do the following: Have a group roll the die. Choose the appropriate category. Read a question. Give 30-seconds. Markers down. Give the answer. Awards points. Cross of the question you used. Add up scores and announce the top three from three to two then number one.

(After five questions) **HOST:** “Incredible! And now the time has come . . . the big winner of THE BIG QUIZ . . . is . . .”

Award a prize. Throw confetti. Celebrate!

HOST: What an awesome ending to THE BIG QUIZ! Now, let's stand and worship together!"

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

CG: *One Big Story Intro*

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey everyone! Can you believe we are wrapping up January today? It's been an awesome month, and today is certainly no exception. Question for you: what is something that you couldn't figure out how to do but then you figured out a way to get help to make it happen? OK, take a moment to answer this. TURN and TALK with the person or people next to you."

Turn and talk.

"Alright, let me hear some of your responses!"

Allow several kids to share and interact with them. Then share a personal, age-appropriate story, similar to the one below, that answers the question above.

"Those are great. For me, there was one time I was trying to fix a problem with the window on my car, but I couldn't figure out how to get the inside panel off the door. I didn't want to just start BREAKING things, so I did what every good mechanic does, I'm sure—I Googled it and watched a YouTube video! Sure enough, my problem was solved and I was able to fix the issue."

“Maybe you didn’t understand how to beat a level on your video game, so you watched someone else beat it. Maybe you didn’t understand something in class, so you raised your hand and asked the teacher. We have all sorts of different ways of figuring out things we don’t understand.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “But what about when we don’t understand something about God? What do we do when we have questions or doubts or confusion about God? Who do we go to then? It’s not like we can go out for ice cream and have a face-to-face conversation with God, right? How do we deal with our questions about faith and church and the Bible and Jesus? First of all, know this: your questions about faith are important, so you can’t just ignore them. You need to ask them. But finding people you can trust with these questions can be hard sometimes, so what do we do? Thankfully, we can look to the example of all sorts of people mentioned in the Bible who at one time or another had some questions about what God was doing. Let’s find out what one of them did.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s head back to the Gospels in the New Testament. Now just a couple weeks ago, we were introduced to an interesting guy named John who was baptizing people in the Jordan River. You might remember that his whole job—his WHOLE role in life—was to prepare the way for Jesus. John knew he wasn’t the star of the show but more like a supporting role. An important supporting role, but still. Today we pick back up with John a little later on in his story.”

“Something you need to know about John is he was someone we would call a prophet. One of the main jobs of a prophet was to tell the truth, no matter what. And this is exactly what John did, even when it wasn’t so popular. Most of the time, John called people out into the desert to turn away from their sins. But the message that really got him in trouble involved a powerful leader named Herod. You see, John had the courage to tell Herod that some things that he was doing were displeasing to God and needed to change. And, well, Herod didn’t like that and had John thrown into prison!”

“Now imagine this with me for a second. John had been waiting for the Messiah along with everyone else. And John had PLENTY of expectations about what was going to happen when the Messiah would finally arrive. And now He had come AND John was in prison. Probably not quite what he expected.”

“Check out what happened next. *(Read directly from Matthew 11:2-3, NIV)* ‘John the Baptist was in prison. When he heard about the actions of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to him. They asked Jesus, “Are you the one who is supposed to come? Or should we look for someone else?”’”

“Remember, John also had disciples, or followers, and they were visiting him in prison and he sent them on a little field trip. Imagine what it would be like to get to talk to one of those disciples! To ask them about their experience. What would that look like . . .”

As Communicator is dreaming, Host enters stage dressed in a Biblical costume as a disciple of John. It is clearly the Host but also a disciple. He should play this fairly deadpan and matter of fact.

HOST as DISCIPLE: “Hey.”

COMMUNICATOR: *(Snapping out of it)* “Hey?”

HOST as DISCIPLE: “I’m Larry.”

COMMUNICATOR: *(Whispering to Host)* “Larry is what you went with as a disciple name? *(Going along with it)* Oh hi, Larry. Yes, Larry, as in Larry the disciple of John the Baptist.”

HOST as DISCIPLE: “Yep.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Funny because I was just wondering out loud about what it would be like to talk to one of John’s disciples and then you walked in.”

HOST as DISCIPLE: “Dreams really do come true, don’t they?”

COMMUNICATOR: “So we were just talking about John and the time he was put in prison because of Herod.”

HOST as DISCIPLE: *(Less deadpan, more engaged)* “Yeah that was a rough time for John. He was a righteous and a good man, and Herod, well, not so righteous and good. And I think this kind of caught John off guard. I mean, here was Jesus, the Messiah that we’ve all been waiting for! And it was the hope of our people that when the Messiah came, He would save all of the righteous people and punish all of the wicked people.”

COMMUNICATOR: *(Knowingly)* “Yeah, and for John, he was experiencing just the opposite.”

HOST as DISCIPLE: “Exactly.”

COMMUNICATOR: “So, Larry, I’m wondering if you can walk us through John’s question a little more here. John had you go to Jesus and ask if He was really the One who they had been waiting for or if they should expect someone else. This is a little confusing because just a little while ago, we looked at how John was telling everybody that Jesus was the Lamb of God and how John said that he was not even worthy to untie Jesus’ sandals. So what had changed for John?”

HOST as DISCIPLE: “Honestly, I think things didn’t happen the way John expected them to happen, and John started to question. Doubt even. You ever have a moment where you are sure something is going to happen one way and then it doesn’t go as planned? It can make you second guess some things.”

COMMUNICATOR: “So John sends you to Jesus . . . and you have a conversation, and Jesus sends you back to John. I have it right here. *(Reads directly from Matthew 11:4-6, NIV)* ‘Jesus replied, “Go back to John. Report to him what you hear and see. Blind people receive sight. Disabled people walk. Those who have skin diseases are made ‘clean.’ Deaf people hear. Those who are dead are raised to life. And the good news is preached to those who are poor. Blessed is anyone who does not give up their faith because of me.’”’

“This was kind of an interesting response from Jesus. What was going on here?”

HOST as DISCIPLE: “Jesus was paraphrasing the prophet Isaiah here, who told of the long-awaited day when a Messiah would come and do all of these kinds of miracles—help blind people see, help people walk, raise

people from the dead. In other words, Jesus says, 'I'm doing Messiah things! I just might not be doing THE thing you expected Me to do.'"

COMMUNICATOR: "So just because Jesus didn't do things the exact same way John expected didn't mean He wasn't who He said He was."

HOST as DISCIPLE: "For sure. Well, I should get going."

COMMUNICATOR: "Well thank you for your time. Larry the disciple, everyone!"

Audience cheers as Host exits.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "It's crazy to think that John had a moment like this in prison. And maybe we want to try and explain it away a bit because sometimes we see our questions as a weakness. But John definitely had some real questions about the way that things were going, and he wanted some answers."

"You ever been there? You ever have something going on in your life that you don't understand and you just have no idea where to start . . . and you can't just Google it or watch a YouTube video?"

"And what about when those questions are about God? That can be pretty scary."

"Let me ask YOU a question: where did John start when he had questions and doubts?"

Pause for responses.

“That’s right, he started with Jesus. I’m sure if he wasn’t in prison, he would have gone himself, but he sent his disciples *directly* to Jesus. Now I know what you’re probably thinking. ‘I can’t go directly to Jesus and talk to Him like John’s disciples did!’ Well, yes and no. Sure, Jesus isn’t walking around like He was when John was alive. But Jesus is still alive! And as He promised, He has sent His Spirit to be with us. God hears each one of us when we talk to Him. And He has given us His Word, which is alive and active. There are so many ways that God makes Himself known and available to us!”

“But there is even more. God has put important, godly people in your lives, followers of Jesus who you can look up to and ask questions when you might be struggling.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “I think it is really important for you to take a look at your life and identify at least one of these people right now. So, today as you go to groups, I want you think about this question.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“When you have questions about God, who can you ask? Maybe it is a family member like a parent or an aunt or uncle. Maybe it is your Small Group Leader or *[Host’s name or Pastor’s name]*. It might be a teacher or a coach. When we struggle . . . when things don’t quite go as we expected and it makes us question or doubt what we thought we knew, God has put these people in our lives to help guide us as well. In Small Group, you’ll talk more about the people who you can ask when you have questions about faith. Before you head to Small Group, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus and for always being willing to help us find answers to our big questions. 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.