



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Contestants: one Small Group Leader and one kid per grade
- Game show host attire for the Host (optional)
- Starting line for each grade, taped on the floor at the back of the room
- *Optional:* Multicolored construction paper to create a pathway for each grade, like a giant game board (see “What You Do”)
- Answer cubes; one for each grade plus one for the Host (see “What You Do”):
 - Six-inch square cardboard box; one for each grade plus one
 - Printed Answer Cube Art (from the LG Assets), sized to match the sides of your box; enough for all of your boxes
 - Glue stick
- Printed script for the Host (so he/she can read the game questions)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Knowledge Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Answer Cube Art (printable)
- “The Big Quiz: Battle of the Grades” Slide

What You Do:

- Assemble a cardboard box for each grade. Print the Answer Cube Art to match the size of your boxes (for example, six-inch square panels for a six-inch square box). This can be found in the file labeled “2001_LG_Assets_K3_W1.” On each box, glue the squares so that A, B, C, and D are going around the box, ? is on the top, and the blank side is on the bottom.
- Tape a starting line for each grade, in the back of the room. *Optional:* Lay out the construction paper to create a pathway for each grade, like a giant game board (similar to Trivial Pursuit®).
- *Note: Be sure to save your Answer Cubes, as you’ll use them for the rest of the month!*

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Three kid helpers
- Bible
- Two rectangular tables
- Two two-sided paper signs:
 - One with “Nazareth” on one side and “Marketplace” on the other
 - One with “Jerusalem” on one side and “Temple” on the other
- A variety of potatoes (ideally, distinguishable from each other):
 - Two medium-sized potatoes, to represent Joseph and Mary
 - One small potato, to represent Jesus
 - Bag of multicolored small potatoes, to represent Jesus’ friends and family (traveling companions)
 - A few russet potatoes, to represent the teachers
- Accessories and art supplies to make the potatoes into characters, such as googly eyes, yarn/cotton balls for beards/hair, fabric for robes, toothpicks, and other pieces drawn on construction paper (see “What You Do”)
- Two (working) mini flashlights

Large Group Visuals:

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Blank Bottom Line Slide

- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Ahead of time, create the potato characters for the story. The potatoes representing Mary, Joseph, and Jesus should be the most elaborate—with hair/beards made from yarn or cotton balls; robes made from fabric; googly eyes; mouths and hands drawn on construction paper; and toothpicks as arms, with the paper hands attached at the ends. The potatoes for representing the friends and family and the teachers don't need to be customized; although you could always add googly eyes to the teachers.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Alive Again
- Good Grace

The Boy Is Back in Town

Bible Story: The Boy Is Back in Town (The Boy Jesus at the Temple) • *Luke 2:41-52*

Bottom Line: Knowing God is the most important thing.

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, wearing game show host attire (optional).

Opener

HOST: *(In your best game show host voice)* "Happy New Year . . . and welcome to everyone's favorite game show: The Big Quiz! Each week we'll try to show what we know through an exciting game of trivia!

(Normal voice) "Hey, how did I do? I've been so excited about this month's theme of The Big Quiz that I've been studying up to try to perfect my best game show host voice. Did I nail it? *(Pause for response.)*

"Well, thank you for your kind response! This month we'll have a lot of fun sharing our knowledge—and maybe even learning something new, too. Knowledge is actually our Life App this month.

CG: Knowledge Slide

“Knowledge is learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do!

CG: Theme Slide

“Knowledge is so important! No matter what you want to be good at, you have to learn about it first. Like, if you want to play a sport like soccer, you need to learn the moves, the rules, and the positions. If you want to learn to play an instrument, you have to learn how to read the notes and understand the instrument itself. And it’s the same way with God. If we want to get to know God, we’ve got to learn more about Him!

“Let’s kick things off today by playing The Big Quiz. All month, it’s a Battle of the Grades!

CG: “The Big Quiz: Battle of the Grades” Slide

“Let’s get one Small Group Leader and one kid to represent each grade.

Choose one Leader per grade, and have that Leader bring up one kid from his/her group. Have each pair of contestants stand behind the tape line for their grade, at the back of the room. Give an answer cube to the pair representing each grade.

“I’ll ask our contestants a series of trivia questions. *(To contestants)* Contestants, you’ll choose your answers with your cube. Just hold out the box with the letter you think is the answer facing forward. *(Demonstrate.)* When every grade has an answer, I’ll reveal the correct answer and see who got it right. Every pair that got the correct answer will then get to move one step closer to the stage. We’ll see which grade can go the farthest.

“Oh—I almost forgot! *(To contestants)* There’s another side of the cube that you can use. It’s the question mark—your lifeline. *(To Leader)* If you get stuck, hold out the question mark. *(Demonstrate.)* You can only use your lifeline ONCE . . . but when you do, you’ll get to ask your grade and see if THEY know the answer.

“There can only be one lifeline per question, so whoever chooses the question mark first gets to use it. We’ll do the lifeline AFTER all other contestants have chosen an answer.

“Audience, when you hear the question, make sure you don’t shout out the answer, okay? It’s time for our contestants to show what they know!

“Our topic today is . . . Disney movies and shows! Fun! All of our questions will be about the wonderful world of Disney. *(To contestants)* Contestants, are you ready? Let’s begin.

CG: Upbeat music (instrumental)

Ask the questions, and give the contestants a few seconds per question to hold out a letter on their answer cube.

Once all contestants have chosen an answer, use your answer cube to reveal the correct answer. Let those who got it correct take one step forward. (If you have “pathways” made from multicolored construction paper, they can step to the next square.)

If a contestant holds out the question mark on his/her answer cube, give the kids from that grade a chance to shout out the answer. (But wait until the other contestants have all chosen an answer first.) Give the Leader/kid pair from that grade a chance to choose the answer with their cube. Then reveal the answer to the question like usual.

Disney trivia questions:

1. Which Disney princess has a raccoon as a sidekick?

A. Ariel

- B. Belle
C. **Pocahontas**
D. Mulan
2. In the movie *Finding Nemo*, which country has Nemo been taken to?
A. Argentina
B. **Australia**
C. Japan
D. Italy
3. Randall Boggs is a villain in which movie?
A. *The Lion King*
B. *Toy Story*
C. ***The Incredibles***
D. *Monsters, Inc.*
4. What type of animal does Princess Jasmine have as a pet?
A. A dog
B. A parrot
C. **A tiger**
D. Some mice
5. Which show is about a regular girl who becomes a princess overnight?
A. ***Elena of Avalor***
B. *Doc McStuffins*
C. *Puppy Dog Pals*
D. *Mickey and the Roadster Racers*
6. Which movie features the song "I Just Can't Wait to Be King"?
A. *The Jungle Book*
B. ***The Lion King***
C. *Moana*
D. *Aladdin*
7. In the movie *Robin Hood*, what kind of animal is Robin?
A. **A fox**
B. A bear
C. A dog
D. A lion

8. Which movie takes place in the small town of Radiator Springs?
- A. *Coco*
 - B. ***Cars***
 - C. *Monsters, Inc.*
 - D. *Toy Story*
9. Who says “Squirrel!”
- A. **Dug (from *Up*)**
 - B. Pongo (from *101 Dalmatians*)
 - C. Slinky Dog (from *Toy Story*)
 - D. Nemo (from *Finding Nemo*)
10. Who says, “To infinity and beyond!”
- A. Bo Peep
 - B. Jessie
 - C. Woody
 - D. **Buzz Lightyear**

After you finish _____ congratulate the Leader/kid pair that made it closest to the stage. Collect the answer cubes and dismiss the contestants to their seats.

“Great job, everybody! That was a lot of fun—and we’ll have another chance to play next week. Now everybody get up on your feet and get ready to sing and worship God!”

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, everybody! As we get started with today’s story, I need some help. Our story today features some people you might have heard about before: Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

Reference the potato figures.

"I have these potato puppets, and I need some puppeteers to make them move around and act out the story as I tell it. Raise your hand if you want to be Joseph's puppeteer.

Bring up a kid (with his hand raised) to be Joseph's puppeteer. Have him stand behind the tables, all the way on the far left (if looking from the audience).

"Great. Let's add Mary. Raise your hand if you want to help with her.

Bring up another kid (with her hand raised) to be Mary's puppeteer. Have her stand with the other kid, on the far left.

"Last but not least, we have Jesus. But just so you know, this isn't baby Jesus; this is 12-year-old Jesus. Not much older than you!

Bring up another kid (with her hand raised) to be Jesus' puppeteer. Have her stand with the other two kids, on the far left.

Note: If you have a large environment, you may want to take a minute to walk the potato family around the room so the kids can see them up close. Then go back up on stage to tell the story.

"All set? Great. Let's jump in!

Note: If you have a large environment, you may want to take a minute to walk the potato family around the room so the kids can see them up close. Then go back up on stage to tell the story.

"Before Jesus was born, the angel Gabriel told Mary all about how her baby, Jesus, was God's Son. But after Jesus was born, He had to learn to walk and talk just like any normal child. We can imagine that He worked

with His dad, Joseph, building things in the carpenter's shop. He must have had chores to do around the house, too.

CARAVAN TO THE TEMPLE

Place the "Nazareth" and "Jerusalem" signs on opposite ends of the tables—with "Nazareth" on the far left side where the three kids are standing.

STORYTELLER: "Every year, Mary and Joseph would take Jesus from their home in Nazareth (*point to the 'Nazareth' sign*) to the temple in Jerusalem (*point to the 'Jerusalem' sign*) for the Passover feast. Passover is a celebration each year to remember how God had saved His people from slavery in Egypt.

"But Mary, Joseph, and Jesus didn't travel alone. They went together with lots of friends and family, in a large group.

Set the bag of multicolored potatoes on the table next to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

(To the kids on stage) "Okay, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Let's head to Jerusalem."

SFX: "On the Road Again" instrumental

Move the bag of multicolored potatoes across the table from the "Nazareth" sign all the way to the "Jerusalem" sign. Get the three kids to move their potatoes with you, bobbing to the music.

I FEEL LIKE WE FORGOT SOMETHING . . .

STORYTELLER: "They all had a great time celebrating at the feast.

Guide the kids to make their potatoes dance and “celebrate.”

“They took time to remember all the amazing things God had done. Then, after the feast was over, Jesus' parents left for home.

SFX: “On the Road Again” instrumental

Move the bag of multicolored potatoes back across the table from the “Jerusalem” sign toward the “Nazareth” sign, getting about halfway across. Get the Mary and Joseph kids to move their potatoes with you, but have the kid playing Jesus stay behind at the “Jerusalem” sign.

“Jesus stayed behind . . . but they weren't aware of it. They thought He was with them, so they traveled toward home for a day. Then they began to look for Jesus among their relatives and friends.

Hold the bag of multicolored potatoes in the air next to the Mary and Joseph potatoes. Try to get the kids on stage to interact with you.

“They were like, ‘Have YOU seen Jesus? Have YOU seen Jesus? Has anyone seen Jesus?’

“They couldn't find Him, so they went back to Jerusalem to look for Him.

SFX: “On the Road Again” instrumental

Get the Mary and Joseph kids to move their potatoes back toward the “Jerusalem” sign. Take the multicolored potatoes off the table and hide them from view.

FOUND HIM!

STORYTELLER: “Let’s zoom in on Jerusalem for this next part.

Flip the “Nazareth” sign over to reveal “Marketplace,” and flip the “Jerusalem” sign over to reveal “Temple.”

“Let’s see . . . we’ve got the marketplace and the temple. *(Reference the signs; this is for the non-readers.)*

“When Mary and Joseph got to Jerusalem, they looked everywhere for Jesus!

Have the Mary and Joseph kids bring their potatoes over to the “Marketplace” side of the table. Give each of them a mini flashlight (turned on). Show them how to make their potatoes shine the flashlights around.

“They went all throughout the giant marketplace. They searched and searched and searched for three whole days.

“Then—finally—they found Jesus in the temple courtyard!

Have the Mary and Joseph kids shine their flashlights onto the “Jesus” potato (which is still over by the sign that now says “Temple”).

“Jesus was sitting with the teachers.

Pick up the russet potatoes and set them on the table behind “Jesus.”

“He was listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Him was amazed at how much He understood and His answers to their questions.

“As you can imagine, Mary and Joseph were very relieved . . . and also very upset.

Move the Mary and Joseph kids (and their potatoes) over to the “Temple” area, near Jesus and the teachers.

“So Mary warmed up her very best mom voice. She said this to Jesus.

Reference the “Mary” potato. Open the Bible to Luke 2:48 (NirV) and read.

“Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been worried about you. We have been looking for you everywhere.

“Mary didn’t get it. She didn’t know why Jesus had stayed behind at the temple. Jesus answered her this way:

Reference the “Jesus” potato. Open the Bible to Luke 2:49 (NirV) and read.

“Why were you looking for me?” he asked. ‘Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?’

“Mary and Joseph didn’t totally understand what Jesus was saying. Later, Mary continued to wonder and think about it. But for now, they were so relieved to have found Jesus safe and sound!

“Let’s thank ALL of our potato actors . . . and our awesome puppeteers!”

Get the three kid volunteers to make their potatoes bow, while you pick up the other assorted potatoes and make them bow. Then dismiss the kid volunteers to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “After Mary and Joseph found Jesus, they all went home to Nazareth, and Jesus obeyed them. And that’s not all.

Open the Bible to Luke 2:52 (NIRV) and read.

“Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.

“Here’s what I think is so amazing about this story. Jesus is God’s Son—but as He grew up, He still needed to learn things like you and me. He knew it was important to discover all He could about God. That’s why he was in the temple talking about God with the leaders.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Jesus knew that **[Bottom Line] knowing God is the most important thing.**

“The same thing that was true for Jesus is true for us today. We need to take the time to get to know God. We need to search for knowledge about Him. That’s the most important kind of knowledge we could ever find!

“Let’s pray.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for the reminder today that the most important thing is to know You. We want to be like Jesus and take time to get to know You better every day. Help us to spend time learning about You, talking to You, and asking questions about You, so we can be better at following You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “Even as a boy, Jesus knew this for sure:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “**Knowing God is the most important thing.** That’s why Jesus wanted to learn more about God.

CG: Today’s Story Image

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

“That’s why He stayed at the temple—or as He called it, His ‘Father’s house.’ That’s why He was talking with the teachers and asking questions.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

“The more you get to know God, the more you’ll discover that He is SO worth knowing! He’s the best! He loves us. He wants us to make wise choices with our life. **[Basic Truth] We can trust Him no matter what.**

CG: Timeline

“When we look at God’s Big Story, we can see how God created the entire universe—and everyone in it. We can see how God promised to one day make a way for people to know Him better. That’s why He sent Jesus. Because of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God without sin being in the way.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Remember: **[Bottom Line] Knowing God is the most important thing.**

CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide

“We’re learning a new verse this month to help us remember that wisdom comes from God. It’s Proverbs 2:6.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth, Proverbs 2:6 (NirV).

“You see—when we get to know more about God, He gives us knowledge and understanding. When you know what God cares about and how He cares about you, it can change how you look at everything else in your life.

“Now it’s time for you to head to Small Group and talk some more about how you can know God better!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide