



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Four girl volunteers
- Four guy volunteers
- 15 Laundry baskets
- Timer (Optional: Timer on Host's smart phone)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Theme Slide
- "D.I.Y. Speed Wall" 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.
- Preset 15 laundry baskets on stage before the kids arrive.

2. Communicator

- Bible
- Six markers
- Six sheets of paper
- Clothing line
- Clothespins

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids 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.
- Extend a clothing line across the front of the stage to hang the sheets of papers from. Each image should serve as a prompt for the communicator. Attach all six of the clothespins on the line in advance.
- At the top of each sheet of paper, write the one of the following: stack of money, party horn, pig face, sad face, happy face, grumpy face

3. Worship

What You Need:

- I Choose You
- Wide Open

I Don't Want to Miss a Thing

Bible Story: I Don't Want to Miss a Thing (Older Brother) • Luke 15:21-32

Key Question: What do you lose if you don't forgive?

Bottom Line: When you don't forgive, you miss out.

Memory Verse: "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13 (NirV)

Life App: Forgiveness – Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

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: Theme Slide

Worship 1: I Choose You

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host discusses recent/upcoming events: March Madness, World Team Table Tennis Championships, National Little Red Wagon Day, National Tolkien Reading Day, National Spinach Day, National Something on a Stick Day, National Pencil Day, National Crayon Day, National Tater Day, National Take a Walk in the Park Day, movie openings like Onward, Mulan, 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: "Hey, hey, everyone! I'm so pumped to have all of you here this morning in [Name of Environment]! I hope you're ready for incredible morning of talking about what's most important . . .

when it comes to DO IT YOURSELF projects and what it means about how we offer forgiveness to others.”

“Now let’s talk for a minute about what’s MOST important for any D.I.Y. project. Many would argue carefully mapping out and planning your BUDGET to create sugar cookies to look like your principal’s face is what should most important. But the budget is definitely NOT most important. Some would say having the NECESSARY SUPPLIES to build a chic coffee table made out of a pallet would reign supreme. Nope. Not even close to most important. Others might argue following the appropriate SAFETY GUIDELINES to properly build a birdhouse out of toothpicks is king. And again, I would say NO WAY!”

“So what is most important when it comes to DO IT YOURSELF projects? It’s one word. *(Pause)* Speed!”

“Oh, you heard me correctly. Speed. Speed is the most important element whenever you are working on a really, really important project. Everything else is just a hinderance to completion. To get the job done really well, you must have speed. In fact, I feel this is so important I’m dedicating an entire segment to evaluating the speed in which some of you can complete a D.I.Y. project. Would anybody like to play a game we like to call DIY SPEED WALL? *(Pause for response.)*”

Host selects four guys and four girls to come to the stage.

“This will be a classic boys versus girls D.I.Y. challenge! To play this game, we have fifteen laundry baskets. Each group will need to stack these fifteen laundry baskets in a pyramid: five baskets on level one, four baskets on level two, three baskets on level three, two baskets on level four, and one basket on level one. Each group will get a chance to build a wall . . . really, really fast. The name of the game is D.I.Y. SPEED WALL.”

CG: “D.I.Y. Speed Wall” Slide

“The group who completes this task the fastest will be the D.I.Y. SPEED WALL CHAMPIONS! Any questions? *(Pause for response.)* Good. Girls, you’re up first!”

SFX: Upbeat Game Music

Host brings the first group center stage with all fifteen laundry baskets and ushers the other group to the edge of the stage. Host times each group but holds the time secret to build suspense for the big winner reveal at the end.

“That was incredibly fast! Both of our groups performed the D.I.Y. SPEED WALL challenge much, much faster than I expected. However, we definitely did NOT have a tie because that would be incredibly disappointing. The winner of the D.I.Y. SPEED WALL challenge was . . . *[Name of the winning group]!*”

“Congrats to both groups! However, the first group just gave a little more hustle to their build! Give it up for both groups! *(Pause for response.)* While you’re at it, go ahead and stand to your feet and welcome my friend and yours, *[Name of Worship Leader]* to the stage!”

Host exits while Worship Leader enters.

Worship 2: Wide Open

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

Introduction

COMMUNICATOR: “Welcome, everybody! It’s great to hang out with all of you. You all look prepared to have fun and maybe even learn something along the way. Looks like everybody dressed in some sweet duds, rocking some clean kicks, and took the time to shave. *(beat)* Just kidding about shaving, but seriously, you came prepared.”

Communicator tells a personal story about a time he or she was not prepared and missed out on something important. Use the following as a template for your own story or as a hypothetical situation.

“I remember this one time my sister wasn’t prepared. I remember the day well because it was the first Saturday of spring break, and our neighbors were throwing a massive block party to celebrate. The pool was open. Hamburgers and homemade fries on the menu. Yard games, a Mario Kart tournament, and even an outdoor movie. To top it off, there was going to be an ice cream sundae buffet. Literally every single person we knew was going to the party. Missing it was NOT an option.”

“But before we could go, I had some work to do. My parents made it clear—finish all the yard work first. Unfortunately, our yard was pretty huge. I got an early start on the push mowing, weed eating, and edging. By lunch, I was done and ready to party. My sister opted to wake up late and postpone her riding mower duties until closer to lunch. As a result, she started getting ready for the party a little bit later than she needed. My sister was a teenager and liked to dress up all fancy. I’m talking curlers in her hair using cans—yes, CANS—of hairspray. She took the time to put on mascara, bronzing powder, eyeliner, a bold lip color, and a few other products. All that for a POOL PARTY! I’m not sure what she was thinking. By the time we were supposed to head to the party, she was unprepared.”

“My parents let me go without her. And let me confirm what you’re probably asking . . . the party was amazing! Easily, it was the party of the year! Just as expected, everybody was there . . . everybody except my sister. It wasn’t until everybody started to leave that she showed up. Her friends were gone, the ice cream was melted, awards had been handed out, and all the inflatables were taken out of the pool. My sister missed the party. She was so disappointed. She never intended to miss out.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Have you ever missed out on something important because you weren’t prepared or showed up late? It could have been a big dance recital practice, a birthday party, or a really cool field trip. When this happens, it’s the worst because we know we don’t get to fully experience a cool event.”

“What if we look at this another way? What if it isn’t an event that we will miss out on? Could we miss out on something great because we can’t let go of how we feel about someone? What if your refusal to apologize to your mom after a big fight causes you to miss out on family game night? You never miss family game night. What if a big disagreement while working on your group project causes you to miss out on completing the project? You really care about your grades. What if your refusal to forgive that friend who called you names caused you to miss out on new friends in the future for fear they will treat you the same?”

“It’s important to think about questions like this. That’s why we come here and discover how to make the wise choice in situations like these. We can learn a lot from seeing how Jesus talked about these sorts of moments. If you were here last week, you’ll remember how we looked at a parable that Jesus told about a younger son who really hurt his father’s feeling. Today, we see how his older brother responded to all of this.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Before we jump into this story, gather in your small groups.”

Communicator allows groups to gather and gives out one sheet of paper to six groups. Each sheet of paper needs one of the following written on top—stack of money, party horn, pig face, sad face, happy face, and grumpy face.

“If your small group has a piece of paper, you will notice something written on the top corner. I need your group to take about 30 seconds to illustrate that image. Each piece of paper will help us today tell the story. So without further delay, draw as quickly as you can starting right now.”

Communicator allows groups time to quickly draw the images. Once time has expired, collect each of the images to be used in recapping the story of the prodigal son.

“Great job, everybody! These will work perfectly. Now if you were here last week, you should be able to help me tell this story as we continue from last week.”

“At this time, Jesus could attract a crowd. When He wanted to share something important, Jesus often told a story to explain what He meant. One day, some religious leaders were grumbling because Jesus chose to welcome outcasts and people who had done wrong things. Jesus knew their hearts and recognized these leaders believed that they were better than everyone else. As a result, Jesus told a story about a father who had two sons.”

Communicator hangs up the first image representing a stack of money.

“Can anyone tell me what this image represents? *(Pause for response.)* That’s right! It’s a huge stack of money. In our story, the younger son went to his dad and asked for his share of his father’s money, which traditionally was not given until the father died. The younger son took his huge stack of cash and moved to a far away country.”

Communicator hands up the second image representing a party horn.

“Anybody know what this is? *(Pause for response.)* Yes. It is a party horn representing what the younger son did with his big stack of cheese. Jesus explained the son spent his money on big parties and anything else he wanted. But the money . . . ran out. With no money and a famine happening, the younger son hit the road.”

Communicator hangs up the third image representing the pig farm.

“This picture hints at where he landed. Do anybody know where he went? *(Pause for response.)* Correct. He went to work on a pig farm where he found himself longing to eat the pig slop. Anybody want to guess if he was enjoying life at this moment? *(Pause for response.)* Yep. He was not happy.”

Communicator hangs up the fourth image representing how the younger son must have felt on the pig farm.

“Desperate, the younger son headed home, planning to beg his father for mercy and ask to live as a servant. Instead something else happened.”

Communicator hangs up the fifth image representing the fathers joy in his return.

“Does anybody know what this picture represents? *(Pause for response.)* His dad was overjoyed at his return. The younger son was welcomed home with open arms and was thrown a huge party. I like to think the whole town would have been invited, including the servants.”

Communicator hangs up the seventh image representing the unhappy older brother.

“But while the celebration was happening, something else was going on. Anybody know why I would hang up an unhappy face in this story? *(Pause for response.)* Not everyone was happy in the story Jesus was telling. The older son was working in the field possibly plowing. As he headed back to the house, he heard music and people laughing at the house. After speaking with one of the servants, he learned the celebration was for his lost brother. The fattened calf was killed and everyone was honoring his safe return. While the dad was overjoyed, the older son had a different reaction.”

Communicator stands near the grumpy face.

“Check it out. *(Read directly from Luke 15:28)* ‘The older brother became angry. He refused to go in. So his father went out and begged him,’ *(NirV)*. After years and years of obedience and faithfully working, the older brother was mad over the fact his father had never even given him a goat to have a party with friends. But when his kid brother returned after running away with his dad’s money and wasting it, he got a giant shindig.”

“I love the father’s response to his son’s anger. Jesus told the crowd, *(Read directly from 15:31b-32)* ‘You are always with me. Everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad. This brother of yours was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found,’ *(NirV)*.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Many of you have heard this story before. Often times in church, we focus our attention on how the father welcomed the younger son back to their home with love and forgiveness. It

is a picture of the love and forgiveness God offers all of us regardless of our mistakes. However, we do not always focus on the older son in the story. He had every right to be angry at his younger brother. His brother had disrespected his father and wasted his inheritance.”

“Jesus didn’t say whether or not the older brother listened to his father. We don’t know if he decided to forgive his brother and join the celebration. But we do know that if he stayed outside, he missed out on many good things, like fun at the party and his family being reunited. Not to mention missing out on a good relationship with his dad and his younger brother!”

“We have the choice to forgive. It should not be something we ‘have to do.’ Rather, it is something we get to do that comes from the heart. God has made it clear that He desires for all of us to experience the joy of forgiveness. In the process of letting go, we can gain so much including the chance for us to repair our relationships with each other.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “You have a lot to gain when you forgive others. As we head to small groups, think about it like this.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“What do you lose if you don’t forgive? What’s at stake if you choose to hold on to your hurt? What will you miss out on? If you’re having trouble thinking of some ideas, don’t worry. You’ll have a chance to talk more about this in Small Group. But it really is important to consider this question so you can recognize what you are giving up when you don’t forgive. It might completely change your perspective on the situation. Before we head to groups, let’s pray and thank God for forgiving us and ask Him to help us forgive the people in our life. Let’s pray.”

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