



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Worship Leaders (*optional*)
- Masking or gaffer's tape
- Six brand-new, never-used plungers (see "What You Do")
- 10 beach balls
- Host's phone
- Craft paper/fishing line Bible timeline and Today's Story Image (*optional*)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Forgiveness Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Timeline (*optional*)—CG or printed
- Today's Story Image (*optional*)—CG or printed

What You Do:

- Tape a line down the center of the room to divide it into two equal sections.

- It's up to you how many plungers you want to use; the important thing is to have the same (or similar) number of Leaders with plungers on each side of the line.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Two volunteers: one older boy and one male Leader
- Bible
- Printed script with the Storyteller's lines highlighted
- For the boy:
 - Fake gray beard
 - Large jacket (such as an adult-size sport coat)
 - "Father" nametag
 - Index card with "Now, son." written on it
- For the Leader:
 - Child's hat, propeller hat, or Mickey ears
 - Giant lollipop
 - "Older Son" nametag
 - Index card with "Ugh, Dad!" written on it
- Poster board sign with "Oh, yeah!" written on it

Large Group Visuals:

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

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 (Father and Older Brother) • *Luke 15:21-32*

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 is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: "Hey! What's up, everybody? My name is [your name], and this is [your environment's name]. It's a great day to be here, because I can promise that none of you have ever played the game we're playing today.

"All month long we're talking about forgiveness. Forgiveness is a real 'do it yourself' project—but not in the usual way, like fixing up a house. Forgiveness is a way that we can fix our relationships . . . and we need God's help to do it!

CG: *Forgiveness Slide*

“Forgiveness is deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

CG: Theme Slide

“Our game today uses a very special D.I.Y. tool. It’s a truly amazing invention: the plunger!

Hold up one of the plungers.

“Usually you would use a plunger to unclog a toilet. Gross! But don’t worry—this one is brand-new, so it’s never been used. That’s great, because we’ve got a game to play with it!

“Have you ever played ‘Plunger Beach Ball Hockey’? *(Pause.)* Anyone? Anyone at all? Of course, you haven’t! But I promise it’ll be fun!

“You might have noticed that there’s a dividing line right down the middle of the room. *(Point to the tape line.)* The people on the same side of the line as you are on your team! In just a minute, we’re going to toss a bunch of beach balls onto the ‘field,’ and your goal is to get as many as possible to the other side.

“Here’s the catch: you can’t just kick or throw the beach balls to the other side of the line. You’ve got to get them to your Leaders, who have these handy plungers.

Hand a plunger to three Leaders on each side.

“Only the Leaders with the plungers can hit the beach balls to the other side—and they have to use the plungers to do it. When time is up, whichever team has the FEWEST beach balls on their side of the line wins! Are you ready? Are you set? Let’s GO!

Set a timer on your phone for 60 seconds.

SFX: Fun music

As soon as the music starts, toss all the beach balls into the field of play. (Get the Worship Leaders to help, if possible.)

Comment on the action as the kids and Leaders play.

When the timer ends, count how many beach balls are on each side, and declare the winning team. Collect the beach balls and plungers and put them out of sight. (Again, the Worship Leaders can help.)

“That was even more fun than I thought it would be! And now you can tell people you’ve played ‘Plunger Beach Ball Hockey’!”

“Stay on your feet, because now it’s time for us to sing and worship God together.”

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship 2: Wide Open

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, everybody! It’s great to be here with you. Today we’re picking up where we left off in a story that Jesus told. *(Hold up Bible.)* We told the first part of the story last week, so today we’ll take a look and see what happened next.

“When Jesus wanted to share something important, He often told a story to explain what He meant. There were some religious leaders who were upset because Jesus chose to hang out and eat with people who had done wrong things. Jesus knew that these leaders thought they were better than everyone else. So Jesus told a story of a man with two sons.

“We told the first part of this story last week. Let’s review it.”

THE MAN WITH TWO SONS . . .

STORYTELLER: *(In TV announcer voice)* “Last week, on *The Man with Two Sons . . .* *(Back to normal voice)* Just kidding!

“Here’s a quick recap: There was a father who had two sons. The younger son asked for his share of his father’s money. He took off from home and wasted the money on whatever he wanted. His money ran out, and he ended up with a miserable job feeding pigs while he starved. He decided to head home, beg his father for mercy, and ask if he could live as a servant.

“Well, guess what! The father had been waiting for his son to return. He welcomed the son with open arms, and he even threw a huge party in the son’s honor! It seemed like a happy ending. But Jesus wasn’t finished with the story yet . . . so neither are we.

“Before we get to the next part, I’ll need some help. I need two volunteers who want to act out the story—one adult and one kid.

Choose an older boy. Give him the fake gray beard, the large jacket, and the “Father” nametag. Also give him the cue card that says, “Now, son.”

“[Boy’s name], you’ll be the father.

Then choose an adult Leader. Give him the child’s hat, propeller hat, or Mickey ears (it’s great if these are way too small), the giant lollipop, and the “Older Son” nametag. Also give him the cue card that says, “Ugh, Dad!”

“[Leader’s name], you’ll be the older son.

“Every time I say the word ‘father,’ the father will say, ‘Now, son.’ Let’s practice. (Pause.) Father.”

KID: “Now, son.”

STORYTELLER: “Perfect. And every time I say ‘older son,’ the older son will say, ‘Ugh, Dad!’ (Pause.) Older son.”

LEADER: “Ugh, Dad!”

STORYTELLER: “Great. And that’s not all! Every time I say, ‘Party,’ all of YOU (point to the audience) will say, ‘Oh, yeah!’ Got it? (Pause.) Party.”

Hold up the “Oh, yeah!” posterboard sign.

AUDIENCE: “Oh, yeah!”

STORYELLER: “Fantastic! Let’s pick up the story.

Pick up the printed script and read this next section directly from it (you might want to use a highlighter to mark your lines to easily find them). That way you'll be able to say the cue words at the right times. Each time you do, pause for the volunteers/audience to respond.

PARTY ON THE HOMEFRONT

STORYTELLER: *(Reading from the script)* "The older son . . ."

LEADER: "Ugh, Dad!"

STORYTELLER: ". . . was in the field.

"When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. He asked a servant what was going on. The servant said that his father . . ."

KID: "Now, son."

STORYTELLER: ". . . had thrown a party.

Hold up the "Oh, yeah!" poster board sign for the audience.

AUDIENCE: "Oh, yeah!"

STORYTELLER: "The father . . ."

KID: "Now, son."

STORYTELLER: “. . . had thrown the party . . .”

Hold up the “Oh, yeah!” poster board sign for the audience.

AUDIENCE: “Oh, yeah!”

STORYTELLER: “. . . because his younger brother had come home.”

TEMPER TANTRUM

STORYTELLER: “The older son . . .

LEADER: “Ugh, Dad!”

STORYTELLER: “. . . was angry. He refused to go inside and join the party.

Hold up the “Oh, yeah!” poster board sign.

AUDIENCE: “Oh, yeah!”

STORYTELLER: “The father . . .

KID: “Now, son.”

STORYTELLER: “. . . went out and begged his son to come in. Here’s the conversation that happened between them. Let’s pause our speaking lines while we read this part from the Bible, okay? This is what the older son said to his father.

Put down the script. Open the Bible to Luke 15:29-32 (NirV) and read.

“Look! All these years I’ve worked like a slave for you. I have always obeyed your orders. You never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But this son of yours wasted your money . . . Now he comes home. And for him you kill the fattest calf!

“The father said this to his older son.

“My son . . . 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.”

Set down the Bible and look at the audience as you wrap up.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “That’s where Jesus ended the story. We don’t know what happened next with the father, . . .”

KID: “Now, son.”

STORYTELLER: “. . . the older son, . . .”

LEADER: “Ugh, Dad!”

STORYTELLER: “. . . or the younger son. *(As an afterthought)* Or anyone else at the party.”

Hold up the “Oh, yeah!” poster board sign.

AUDIENCE: “Oh, yeah!”

STORYTELLER: “Let’s give our volunteers a big hand, okay?”

Take the props from the kid and Leader and dismiss them to their seats.

“Jesus didn’t tell us if the older brother listened to his father. Did he choose to come inside, forgive his brother, and join the party? I hope so. I know that if he stayed on the outside, he would miss out on so many good things.

“When we don’t forgive, we miss out on what God is doing in our lives . . . and in the lives of the people around us.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “When you don’t forgive, you miss out.”

“Sometimes we don’t FEEL like forgiving someone. Maybe we think it isn’t fair; we don’t feel like they DESERVE forgiveness. But the truth is, all of us have messed up. All of us need forgiveness. God wants us to experience the joy of being forgiven, and He wants us to be able to forgive others, too.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us forgive.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, it’s so clear when we think about Jesus’ story that You want us to forgive. It’s good for the person we forgive, and it’s good for us, too. We were never meant to stay angry and frustrated at people. Please help us not to be unforgiving like the older brother was. Help us to forgive others like You forgive us, so we don’t miss out on all the good things You’re doing in our lives and in the lives of the people around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

CG: Today’s Story Image

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

HOST: “Sometimes, I think all of us can think like the older son in Jesus’ story. We get angry with people, and we don’t WANT to forgive. Instead, we want to get even. But remember, forgiveness is deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn’t have to pay. Forgiveness means choosing to let it go.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

“The truth is, forgiveness needs to come from your heart. It’s not something you do because you have to; it’s something you CHOOSE to do because you know it’s best. So don’t hold things against people. If you do, you’ll miss out on that relationship.

CG: Timeline

“From the very beginning, God had a plan to fix our relationship with Him. He sent Jesus to be our Savior. Because of what Jesus did for us, we know we can find forgiveness when we talk to God—no matter what we might have done wrong.

“God wants to help us fix our relationships with each other, too. It’s important to forgive others so you don’t miss out on those friendships. Because it’s true:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “When you don’t forgive, you miss out.”

“If your best friend hurts your feelings, do you really want to walk away from that relationship? Of course not! You forgive because Jesus forgave you . . . and also because you don’t want to miss out on all the good things that can happen when you and your friend make things right.

“When you have a chance to forgive someone, don’t miss out. *[Basic Truth]* Treat them the way you want to be treated . . . and forgive! Don’t be afraid to join the party.”

Hold up the “Oh, yeah!” poster board sign from the Bible story.

AUDIENCE: “Oh, yeah!”

HOST: “I love talking about this with all of you. Let’s keep the conversation going in Small Group!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide

