



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Large plastic beverage cups (SOLO® type—see “What You Do”)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide

What You Do:

- For the opening game, you will need lots of large, plastic beverage cups, such as SOLO cups. Because of how the game works, the more cups you use, the more your kids will need to work to win. We suggest having at least 10 more cups than number of kids per team to make the game challenging and engaging, but you can add more if you prefer.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Host

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- “Would You Rather” Slides 1-7
- 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.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

The Way

Bible Story: The Way (Jesus Prays in Gethsemane) • *Matthew 26:36-56 (Supporting: Luke 22:39-46)*

Bottom Line: Put others first.

Key Question: How do you put others first?

Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* Philippians 2:3 (NirV)

Life App: Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

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*

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, movie opening (Trolls World Tour, etc.), 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, everyone! I am so pumped for another month here at [Name of Environment]. This month, we're going to take a look at everything from a different perspective and see how Jesus came to flip everything UPSIDE DOWN. Speaking of upside down, we're going to start with a game that involves everybody!"

HOST: (*Holds up a plastic cup*) “Here I have your pretty standard plastic beverage cup. This way is right-side up (*turns rim facing up*), and this side is upside down (*turns rim facing down*). In a moment, you’ll divide into two teams. We will then put cups throughout the room. When I say go, one team will be the right-side up team, and it will be your job to run and turn every cup so that it is sitting properly—rim facing up. The other team will try to turn every cup upside down. Cups can be turned right-side up and upside down as many times as possible until I yell time. Then we will count and determine a winner.”

HOST: “That was great. Everybody, take a deep breath, and now let’s stand and worship together!”

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “

Communicator enters Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everybody! Great to see you today! Here’s the thing. I know you just ran around like crazy flipping cups over, but I have one more activity that involves everyone. I promise this one is not quite as intense. But I need everybody up!

“Alright, how many of you have ever asked ‘Would you rather’ questions before? Yeah, they’re kind of fun. But most of the time, they involve some pretty hard choices because there are definitely some things we DON’T want to do. This should not be that hard.

“In a moment, you will see two choices appear on the screen, with a line down the middle separating the two. Walk to the side of the room that represents the choice you want to make. Not the choice your friends are making . . . but the choice YOU want to make. Pretty easy, right? Great, let’s go!

The slides are as follows. After the kids move, go to the larger of the groups each time and ask a few kids if they would be willing to switch sides. Say things like “There are too many people eating Chocolate ice cream. I know it might not be your favorite, but could you choose vanilla? Or would someone else be willing to switch so they could have chocolate?” Try to mix up the reason why you need kids to switch, but have a dialogue about needing a few kids to move each time.

■ *Eat Chocolate Ice Cream | Eat Vanilla Ice Cream*

- *Go on Roller Coasters | Go on Water Rides*
- *Munch on Waffle fries | Munch on Tater tots*
- *Play Sports | Play Music*
- *Eat Hamburgers | Eat Grilled Cheese*
- *Play Board Games | Play Video Games*
- *Fly in an Airplane | Ride on a Train*

CG: “Would You Rather” Slides 1-7

(After the last one) “Alright you can all come back and sit down. Did anyone notice that I was stopping some of you each time? What was I asking? (Pause for responses.)

“Right! I was trying to see if some of you would give up what you wanted for what someone else wanted. Basically, this was an opportunity to sacrifice your first choice because there was somebody else who wanted the same thing.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “This might be easy to do in an activity when the things in questions aren’t in the room. But in real life, it’s a bit different, isn’t it? We live in a world that’s set up so that we can get what we want anytime we want it.

“So we come to believe that we should have our first choice . . . every time. But what would happen if getting the first choice or my choice didn’t influence how we made decisions or treated others? What if we didn’t get so focused on being the most important and put others ahead of ourselves? Great questions to think about! But because this isn’t usually our first response, we’ll need some help figuring this out. When we need help understanding something, the first place we should look is the Bible. In the Bible, we get to hear from those who interacted with God and were inspired to write down their experiences. When we read about the experiences, we get to see what God wants for our life, too!”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “As we get into the story today, I need *[Host’s Name]* to come out and help me.”

Host enters.

“Hey, *[Host’s Name]*, I was hoping to have you do some of the Bible reading for us this morning. Sound like something you could do?”

HOST: “Yep. I’ll be ready and waiting!”

Communicator hands Bible to Host.

COMMUNICATOR: “Perfect. Just grab a seat on the side of the stage there, and when it’s time to read, I’ll let you know.”

Host gets comfortable and opens the Bible. He will start to doze off but not be distracting.

“Before we get into the story, let me set the scene a bit for you. During the final week of Jesus’ life, there were some pretty important events that went down. You see, the Jewish religious leaders had been plotting for a while on how they could get rid of Jesus, who they saw as a threat to everything they stood for. That Sunday before Passover, Jesus had entered into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, fulfilling a powerful Old Testament prophecy about the coming king. This did not go over too well with the leaders.

“Meanwhile, Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, crafted a plan with the religious leaders to hand over Jesus in exchange for 30 pieces of silver. There were a lot of things happening in this final week, and sadly many people who misunderstood Jesus were out to get rid of Him. NONE of this would catch Jesus by surprise, though. He knew why He came . . . and He knew what needed to happen.

“As families all around Jerusalem were celebrating the Passover meal, Jesus gathered with His closest friends and shared the meal with them but also tried to prepare them for all that would take place next.”

Communicator looks over at Host, who is looking a little glassy-eyed.

(To Host) “You okay?”

HOST: *(Perking up a bit)* “Oh yeah, I’m great.”

COMMUNICATOR: “After the meal, Jesus led His disciples out of Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives. Judas had already slipped away to begin his plan. As they were walking, Jesus made a shocking statement—He told the disciples that on that very night each one of them would turn away from Him. They would leave Him. That brings us to our text. *[Host]*, if you could start reading for us in verse 36 . . .”

Communicator doesn’t look at the Host but there is no response.
Finally, after an awkward pause . . .

“Host?”

HOST: *(Waking up)* “I don’t want to go to school today, mom! Wait. What? Oh . . . sorry. *(Looking at the Bible)* Where are we?”

COMMUNICATOR: “Verse 36.”

HOST: “I knew that. *(Reads directly from Matthew 26:36-38, NIV)* Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two

sons of Zebedee along with him. He began to be sad and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sad. I feel close to death. Stay here. Keep watch with me.

COMMUNICATOR: "This may be a side of Jesus that you aren't used to seeing. Sad? Troubled? VERY sad? Close to DEATH?! What was happening here? Jesus seems to be going through something pretty serious. I think we need to read a little further to understand it . . ."

No response from Host.

"I said . . . I THINK we need to read a little further to understand it!"

HOST: *"(Reads directly from Matthew 26:39, NIV) He went a little farther. Then he fell with his face to the ground. He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. But let what you want be done, not what I want."*

COMMUNICATOR: "This was a powerful moment. In a garden the night before He knew He would die, Jesus wrestled with the reality of what was about to happen. He knew the events that were to follow would be terribly difficult . . . the betrayal, the trial, the cross . . . and He asked His Father to take it away. But in the very next breath, He acknowledged that this was not about what He wanted. Let's keep reading . . ."

No response. Host is out cold.

COMMUNICATOR: "Ahem! Let's keep reading!"

Still no response. Communicator walks over and takes the Bible away and lets the Host sleep.

COMMUNICATOR: *“(Reads directly from Matthew 26:40-42, NIV) ‘Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. ‘Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?’ he asked Peter.*

“Watch and pray. Then you won’t fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” Jesus went away a second time. He prayed, “My Father, is it possible for this cup to be taken away? But if I must drink it, may what you want be done.”

“In the moment when He needed them most, (says it aimed at the sleeping Host) HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS WERE SLEEPING! But notice how, once again, Jesus faced the reality of what was going to happen, but then asked God for the strength to do it.”

(Reads directly from Matthew 26:43-44, NIV) ‘Then he came back. Again he found them sleeping. They couldn’t keep their eyes open. So he left them and went away once more. For the third time he prayed the same thing.’

“Three times Jesus wrestled. Three times He was able to say . . . not what I want . . . but may YOUR will be done.”

“(Reads directly from Matthew 26:45-46, NIV) ‘Then he returned to the disciples. He said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look! The hour has come. The Son of Man is about to be handed over to sinners. Get up! Let us go! Here comes the one who is handing me over to them!”

Communicator goes over to Host and nudges him or her.

“You can get up now. Your portion is over.”

HOST: *“Okay, I’m glad I could help!”*

Host yawns and exits the stage.

COMMUNICATOR: “As Jesus was talking to His disciples, Judas arrived, but he wasn’t alone. He had a large crowd carrying swords and clubs—a small army—come to arrest Jesus. After Judas signaled to the crowd which One was Jesus, they grabbed Jesus to arrest Him. At this moment, one of Jesus’ disciples, Peter, grabbed a sword and began to fight back. But get this: Jesus stopped him. Why?”

“(Reads directly from Matthew 26:53-54, NIV) ‘Do you think I can’t ask my Father for help? He would send an army of more than 70,000 angels right away. But then how would the Scriptures come true? They say it must happen in this way.’”

“Jesus told His disciples, ‘I could stop this if I wanted to. But it has to happen this way.’ Remember, Jesus just came from an intense time of praying to His Father about His mission and resolving Himself for the hard journey ahead. And immediately, that hard journey began. Betrayal. Arrest. But Jesus was ready. He did not resist, even though He could have. Jesus knew that this was the Father’s plan, and that He would put that plan first no matter what.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “I think it is safe to say that God did not WANT His Son to die. But God knew that this was what was necessary to take care of the damage that sin had caused on all of humanity . . . for the sinless One to take the sin of all. God knew what had to happen, and Jesus trusted that plan, even when it meant it would cost Him.”

“Sometimes putting others first can be costly. Now in the opening game of Would You Rather, it really wasn’t THAT costly. I mean, if you were going to have chocolate ice cream and ended up sacrificing by eating vanilla instead, you’re *still* getting ice cream! Or if you have to settle for tater tots when you’re a waffle fry kind of gal, I think you’ll find a way to deal.”

“But what about when putting others first is really costly? Imagine you make plans with a friend to go over to their house and play video games, but when you run into the living room to ask your mom to drive you, you can see just how overwhelmed she is with the laundry and trying to get caught up on a never-ending pile of socks. You want to play video games, but you know the right thing to do would be to pitch in and help your mom out instead. That costs you, but it sure helps someone else.”

“Or you decide to sit with the new kid in the cafeteria rather than sitting at your normal spot with your friends. It’s awkward and a little bit lonely and you miss out on the latest and greatest daily conversation with your friends. That costs you, but it sure helps someone else.”

“It may not be on the same level as Jesus being willing to give up His life, but in small ways, we have the opportunity to give up our lives for others every day. And that makes us more and more like Jesus.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “As you head to Small Groups, think about this question:

CG: Key Question Slide

“How do you put others first?” Think about some ways you currently choose to put the needs of others ahead of your own. Then consider the ways you might be able to do that this week! You’ll talk more about this in Small Group, but before you head out, let’s pray. Let’s thank God for sending Jesus, and ask God to help us put others first. 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.