



## GETTING READY

### 1. Welcome/Opener

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Obstacle course objects
- Timer
- Box with several nice prizes

#### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Theme Slide

#### What You Do:

- Create a Start to Finish obstacle course with objects like cones to weave through, boxes to step through, jump ropes to step over, etc. This course will be completed upside down, so it does not need to be as long as a regular obstacle course.
- Collect some good prizes (candy, trinkets from a dollar store, etc.) and have them in a box on stage for the Host to use during the opener.

## 2. Communicator Script

### What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Box with several terrible prizes
- Prop box with the following:
  - Baseball or softball glove
  - Lunch box
  - Video game controller

### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Key Question Slide

### What You Do:

- Collect several prizes that no one would like to receive (sardines, socks with holes in them, a gum wrapper, scrap paper, a completed coloring book, etc.) and place them in a box for the Communicator to bring on stage
- Collect the rest of the props listed above and place them in prop box. Have the box on stage for the Communicator to use.

## 3. Worship

### What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

# Lean on Me

**Bible Story:** Lean on Me (Servant Principle) • *Philippians 2:3-8*

**Bottom Line:** Put others first because Jesus put you first.

**Key Question:** What keeps you from putting 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! So good to see you here today! We’re going to get started right away with an obstacle course challenge. Who thinks they can handle it?”

*Host chooses a few participants (depending on time). Note:  
Because the participants will be upside-down, be sure they are not wearing skirts and can tuck in their shirts.*

“Okay, as you can see, we have a pretty basic obstacle course. *(Starts walking through and describing the elements.)* Fairly easy, right? But you know . . . this month’s theme is what? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“Upside down! That’s right! So, I thought, what if we actually did the obstacle course UPSIDE DOWN? Let me have a couple leaders help us out here.”

*Host calls leaders up to assist.*

“When I say GO, our first racer will do a handstand assisted by our leaders and ‘run’ through the obstacle course as quickly as possible, completing each task. Whoever does it the fastest wins.”

*Run the obstacle course race with as many participants as you have time for. Announce a winner at the end.*

“Well, that was fun. You know, that was so hard that I’m going to let all of our participants choose a prize out of the prize box.”

*Host lets kids choose a prize from the box that has good prizes in it. They will need to hold onto these prizes because they will be used later.*

“I’m guessing some of you are going to be seeing things upside down for a little while today! Let’s all stand and worship together!”

*Worship Leader enters as Host exits*

## **Worship**

*Communicator enters Worship Leaders exit, carrying a box labeled "Amazing Prizes."*

### **COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT**

*NOTE: If you are not doing the Opening game with your group, you will need another way for the kids to have prizes to trade during the introduction to the script.*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Well, good morning everyone! SO GOOD to be with you all today. I see that some of you just won some pretty amazing prizes during the obstacle course. Well, what if I told you that I have the opportunity for you to trade that prize in for something bigger and better?"

"It is as easy as answering a mega-challenging trivia question. If you get it right, then we will randomly draw a new prize from this box here. Pretty simple, right?"

*Approach first kid who won a prize from the obstacle course.*

"Alright, I see you won a pretty sweet [*name of prize*]. Well, let's see if we can upgrade that to one of my (*pointing to box label*) 'Amazing Prizes.' But first you have to answer this question: If  $3 + 4$  is 7, what is  $3 + 4$ ?"

*Pause for response.*

“Seven is right! Genius! Okay, I’m going to reach my hand in the box, and you tell me when to stop.

*After saying stop, Communicator reaches in and pulls out a very disappointing prize. Communicator announces it as if it is great. “A new pair of socks . . . actually an old pair of socks . . . already broken in for you . . . with holes for ventilation!”*

“So here is the big question—do you want to keep your original prize or upgrade to this ‘Amazing Prize’?”

*NOTE: It’s assumed no kid will want to trade. Ask why they don’t want to trade every time. They will most likely say “Because what they have is better” or something similar.*

*Continue this with the remaining contestants. Here are some potential questions.*

- *If a red train leaves Iowa travelling at 50 miles per hour, what color is the red train? RED*
- *What is the season that is between Summer and Winter, and is not Spring? FALL/AUTUMN*
- *If a tree falls in the woods and nobody is around to hear it, what fell? A TREE*
- *Bill and Joe are playing catch. Who did Joe play catch with? BILL*
- *The grass is green and the sky is blue. In this scenario, what color was the sky? BLUE*

*(After game) “So . . . who wants to be honest? Why didn’t you guys want to trade with me? Nobody wanted my ‘Amazing Prizes’!”*

*Pause for responses.*

“Absolutely. It’s hard to choose something worse when what you have is already pretty good, right?”

## TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “It is this way with a lot of things in life, right? Now deep down in our hearts, I’m guessing none of us has been surprised this month when we talk about putting others first. Hopefully we are learning some good reasons WHY we should, but at your age I think we all pretty much know that is something we are supposed to do. But let’s be honest for a second, isn’t it just hard sometimes? Doesn’t putting others first sometimes feel like you are trading in something good (*can reference one of the good prizes*) just to get stuck with a can of sardines or a pair of socks with holes in them? Why is it SO HARD to put others first? And what should we do about it?”

## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Last week, we celebrated Easter. You see, Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection changed everything. And one of the things it changed was the way we view others and how we treat them. This was actually something Paul wrote in a letter to Christians living in a town called Philippi. He encouraged them to be united. And look how he tells them to treat one another . . .”

*“(Read directly from Philippians 2:3-4, NIV) ‘Don’t do anything only to get ahead. Don’t do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others.’”*

“Paul told these followers of Jesus that there is a way that you can live where you see others as a way to help YOU get ahead. Like YOU are the most important and you can use people to help make that clear. OR . . . you can put OTHERS ahead of yourself and look out for THEIR good.”

“Here’s what I want to do. When I give you a scenario, take a moment with your small group and chat about what it would mean to see others as a way to help YOU get ahead, and then to talk about what it means to put others ahead of yourself and look out for THEIR good.”

*Communicator takes each prop from the box as they need it for the scenarios.*

“Here’s the first scenario. (*Hold up a baseball glove.*) You are at baseball/softball tryouts. The coaches ask everyone to partner up to do a throwing drill contest. You look around to try and decide who you should partner

up with. Turn to your group and talk first about what it would mean to see others at the tryout as a way to help YOU get ahead, and then talk about what it means to put OTHERS ahead of yourself and look out for their good.”

*After a few minutes, call everyone back. Have a few kids share afterwards.*

“Great stuff. Next scenario. *(Hold up lunch box.)* You walk into the lunch room at school and you look around to scope out your seat. There are quite a few options to choose from, some more ‘desirable’ than others. Turn to your group and talk first about what it would mean to see others in the lunch room as a way to help YOU get ahead, and then talk about what it means to put OTHERS ahead of yourself and look out for their good.”

*After a few minutes, call everyone back. Have a few kids share afterwards.*

“Well done. Final scenario. *(Hold up video game controller.)* All your homework is done, so you have a little screen time to play your new video game. But along comes your little brother/sister, asking you to play the game you have played a thousand times before. Turn to your group and talk first about what it would mean to see others as a way to help YOU get ahead, and then talk about what it means to put OTHERS ahead of yourself and look out for their good.”

*After a few minutes, call everyone back. Have a few kids share afterwards.*

“Great job with those. A lot of really good discussion and ideas. We said earlier that at your age you pretty much know that you SHOULD put others first. The truth is, it can be really hard sometimes. I think that’s why Paul, after telling Christians that they should put others first, gives the ultimate motivation and model for WHY we should do this. Check out what he says next.”

*“(Read directly from Philippians 2:5-8, NIV) ‘As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did. In his very nature he was God. Jesus was equal with God. But Jesus didn’t take advantage of that fact. Instead, he made himself nothing. He did this by taking on the nature of a servant. He was made just like*



*human beings. He appeared as a man. He was humble and obeyed God completely. He did this even though it led to his death. Even worse, he died on a cross!”*

“Paul tells us that Jesus is our model for putting others first. Jesus is the answer to our WHY questions. Jesus was equal with God but instead of holding onto that fact, He became like us—and even more—He become like a servant. And all of this eventually led to His death on the cross. That was not a very good trade for Jesus. But Jesus knew that this was necessary to put us first. THAT is true humility.”

## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Even the night before He died, Jesus was focused on others. At the last supper with His disciples, He even washed their feet like only the lowest of servants did. This would have been one of the most shocking of moments. Jesus was God’s Son. His whole life He could have pulled the ‘Do you know who I am?’ card, and yet, He didn’t. He didn’t cling to His status as God but put that aside in order to rescue us.”

“There are times where something is rightfully ours, like we can prove in every way how we deserve it, and yet, the right thing to do is still to put aside our ‘rights’ for the sake of others. In those moments, our model and our motivation is Jesus, who set aside more than we can ever imagine in order to put us first!”

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Still, even though we know how important it is to put others first like Jesus put us first, it can still be pretty difficult some times. So as you head to Small Groups, think about this question:

### CG: Key Question Slide

**“What keeps you from putting others first? What are the challenges you face when it comes to giving up what you want for what others want? It’s not easy, but when we do it, we can point people to Jesus. You’ll talk more about this in Small Group and come up with all sorts of ways you can put others first. Before you head to group, though, let’s pray and ask God to help us put others first.”**

*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.*