



Send Me on My Way

Bible Story: Send Me on My Way (Jesus' Final Orders to His Disciples / Ascension) • *Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11*

Bottom Line: Keep going even when it seems impossible.

Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9 (NirV)*

Life App: Determination—Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

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.

Host enters.

Opener

HOST: “Hi, everyone! Welcome to [your environment’s name]. My name is [your name], and I’m so glad you’re here. This is a place where we have tons of fun as we learn about God!

“This month we’re talking about determination.

“Determination is deciding it's worth it to finish what you started.

“Sometimes, in life, we might feel like we get stuck, and determination can help us get UNstuck.

“Speaking of getting stuck, I think you’re going to love our game today. I’ll need a few volunteers.

Choose six volunteers: two kids from three different small groups. Have them join you on the stage behind the table, facing the audience, standing in front of the three bowls that are filled with slime and LEGO®s.

“When I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll work with your partner to reach into your team’s bowl and get all of the LEGOs out of this sticky slime. When you find a LEGO piece, dip it in the bowl of water to clean it off, and then you can drop it in your team’s bucket. Let’s see how many pieces you can get ‘unstuck’ in 60 seconds. Are you ready? Let’s count it down. Three, two, one . . . go!

Set a timer on your phone for 60 seconds.

Provide funny commentary during the game.

“That was amazing! I was wondering if you’d be able to get those LEGOs out of that gross, sticky slime—and you totally did! Great determination! *(To audience)* Let’s give them a hand as they head back to their seats.

Give the volunteers some wet wipes to clean up, and send them back to their seats.

“Now let’s all stand up, because it’s time for us to sing and worship God together.”

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! Let’s pick up God’s Big Story and look at what the disciples did right after Jesus rose from the dead. The disciples were a group of Jesus’ closest friends and followers. They had seen everything that Jesus had done and everything that had happened to Him.

“They saw His amazing miracles and the crowds of people who followed Him everywhere. They remembered how God had declared to the world that Jesus was His Son when Jesus was baptized. The disciples had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. They saw how His friend, Judas, betrayed him. But most amazingly of all, they had seen Jesus literally die on a cross and then come back to life!”

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

STORYTELLER: “After all they had seen and heard, it’s no wonder that the disciples showed up when Jesus told them to meet Him on a mountain in Galilee.

Stand next to the mountain prop.

Jesus had a really important job for them, and He wanted to tell them about it.

“Here’s what Jesus said:

Open the Bible to Matthew 28:19-20 (NirV) and read.

“You must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”

“I wonder what it would have been like for the disciples to hear those words from Jesus. *(Pause and think.)* I know! It’s kind of like if you play a sport where you have a coach.

Pull out the whistle, visor, and sports clipboard from behind the mountain prop. Put the whistle around your neck, put on the visor, and hold up the clipboard so the kids can see the “plays.”

“Raise your hand if you play a sport with a coach or if you’ve ever seen one on TV. *(Pause for response.)* Coaches give direction. They tell the team what plays they should do to accomplish the goal. They encourage their team to give their best effort.

“That’s like what Jesus was doing. Jesus was trying to make sure the disciples knew their mission: to tell people in EVERY NATION about Him. He wanted to make sure they felt ready for what they were supposed to do. He had given the disciples a big job, but I bet it felt really good for them to hear that He would ALWAYS be with them!”

Put the coach props back behind the mountain prop.

WAIT FOR IT . . .

STORYTELLER: "After the disciples returned to Jerusalem, He led them to a hill outside the city, near Bethany.

Move across the stage so you're standing next to the hill prop.

"Listen to what happened.

Open the Bible to Acts 1:4-5 (NirV) and read.

"One day Jesus was eating with them. He gave them a command. "Do not leave Jerusalem," he said. "Wait for the gift my Father promised. You have heard me talk about it. John baptized with water. But in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Pull out the alarm clock from behind the hill prop, and hold it up.

"Jesus was telling His friends to wait. He knew He had given them a big job—a mission, but He also knew they would need help. He wanted them to wait until the Holy Spirit would come to be their helper!

"Jesus told them:

Open the Bible to Acts 1:8 (NirV) and read.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other."

Put the alarm clock back behind the hill prop.

UP AND AWAY

STORYTELLER: “Then, Jesus was taken up to heaven.

Find the box behind the hill prop and remove the lid. The helium balloon will float all the way up to the ceiling.

“Now, obviously we know that Jesus didn’t fly up to heaven in a hot air balloon. I was just being silly. But we DO know that Jesus rose up into heaven, right there in front of the disciples! They stood there and watched Him until a cloud hid Him from their view. Suddenly, two men dressed in white stood beside them.

Open the Bible to Acts 1:11 (NirV) and read.

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go.”

“These angels showed up and basically told the disciples it was time to get moving. Jesus had already told them what to do. Now it was time to go do it!

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Jesus had given His followers what seemed to be an impossible job. He told them to share His story and His love in every country across the entire world!

“The disciples weren’t sure how to begin such a huge mission. But for now, Jesus had told them to wait in Jerusalem. He had promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them. So they waited in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come. They trusted that God would give them exactly what they needed to not only start the job but also to keep going!

“The mission—the HUGE job—Jesus gave His disciples is actually the same one we have today: to share God’s love with others and to share the good news about Jesus. We can keep going—with determination—because we know God is with us.

“Remember:

[Bottom Line] “Keep going even when it seems impossible.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You so much for sending Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for trusting the disciples with the big job of telling the world who You are. Thanks for letting us do part of that job, too. Please help us to **[Bottom Line]** keep going even when it seems impossible. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

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

HOST: “It must have seemed impossible for the disciples to do what Jesus had told them to do. I mean, how could they get His message all over the world? Sometimes things seem impossible for us, too. But when things seem impossible, we can remember that God is always with us. **[Basic Truth]** We can trust Him no matter what.

“From the beginning, God had a plan to rescue us. That's why He sent Jesus. Jesus knew He was eventually going to leave His disciples behind. He died, came alive again, and gave His friends a mission . . . and a promise. Jesus told them He would send a helper: the Holy Spirit.

“With the help of the Spirit, the disciples could find the determination they needed to share the good news about Jesus—and we can continue their mission today!

“Just like the disciples, we can **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible**. Remember, God is always with you. He can do impossible things!

“It might feel impossible to learn all of your spelling words for school this week. Remember that God can do things that seem impossible. Pray and ask Him for help!

“Maybe you've had a fight with a friend, and it seems impossible that you could ever make up. Well, remember that God can do things that seem impossible. Pray for help, and make the first move to tell your friend that you're sorry.

“Pray, trust God, and **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible**.

“Our memory verse reminds us that good things can happen if we keep going. It's Galatians 6:9.

“Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don’t give up, Galatians 6:9 (NirV).

“You can head to Small Group now and talk about what it takes for you to keep going. I’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.