



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Rise Up**  
Daniel's Integrity  
Daniel 1

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How do you want  
people to describe you?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be truthful with your whole life.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Anyone who lives  
without blame walks safely.  
But anyone who takes a  
crooked path will get caught.  
Proverbs 10:9, NIV

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

Integrity—Choosing to be truthful  
in whatever you say and do

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### **SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

Early Arriver  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

#### **STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways** **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener  
Worship  
Bible Story (Communicator Script)  
**Bottom Line**  
Key Question  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### **GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot and  
Discussion Questions  
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review Memory Verse  
Activity: Verses to Take with You  
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)  
GodTime devotional for kids  
Studio252.tv  
Parent Cue App

# UNMASKED DROP THE ACT



WEEK  
**ONE**  
OCTOBER 2020

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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in whatever you say and do**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

Host enters . . .

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## 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, 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]. It is time to kick the month of October off right! I am so excited about what we are about to do—I can't even stand it. Earlier I asked two Small Group Leaders if they'd be willing to help out with a game. Well, the time has come. Will my friends come join me up on stage?"

Leaders come up on stage. Host introduces them to the rest of the audience.

"Hey, all! I am so glad you volunteered for this. You like eating? (Pause for responses.) Well, do I have a smorgasbord of delectable delights for you. Well, that's not entirely true. It will be delightful for one of you. At times it might be downright terrible. Here's why . . ."

Host brings out tray with all of the food.

"On this tray you'll find some delicious eats. BUT, that's not all. I also have some lookalikes that are not so delish. In just a moment, I will hand you a plate. All you have to do is take a bite of whatever is on the plate. It's

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possible you will get the good food, or you may get the look-alike gross food. BUT whatever you got, your goal is to NOT react. You don't want anyone in this room to know it if you got the look-alike. Then we'll vote. That's right. It's up to you (*point to audience*) to decide who you think got the real food and who you think got the look alike."

"This will be so fun . . . for most of us. Okay, our first food is **yogurt OR sour cream**. Here we go!"

*Have the leaders eat separately and react with "Yum!" Then have kids vote – "Who do you think is not being honest about the 'Yum' and actually got the sour cream?"*

*Continue this rhythm for the following rounds:*

- **Sour Cream vs. Yogurt**
- **Chocolate vs. Baker's Chocolate**
- *caramel apple vs. caramel onion*
- *green pepper slice vs. jalapeño slice*
- **powdered sugar vs. flour**
- **Sugar vs. Salt**

"(After the game) That certainly did not disappoint! Well done to the leaders!"

"This month we're talking about integrity.

**SLIDE: LIFE APP**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP**

**"Integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME**

"Integrity is about more than just telling the truth. It's BEING truthful, in every part of your life. You don't go around pretending to be something all the time—like you might pretend to be a giraffe or a princess in a castle. You just act like yourself! You follow God and live His way, whether you're at home, school, church, or anywhere!"

## SEGUE TO WORSHIP

**Song 1 - Alive Again**

**Song 2 - Good Grace**

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## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey, everybody! Great to see you. What a fun day already! We have some pretty awesome leaders, right? I mean, eating a caramel onion? Come on! But have you ever wondered what some of your leaders are like at home? Like . . . what they would do if they didn’t think anyone was watching? Yeah, I think we all wonder what happens with people we know. So we went undercover and caught a few leaders who didn’t know I was recording them. Check THIS out!”

**SLIDE: CAUGHT ON CAMERA VIDEO MONTAGE**

“OK, ok, ok . . . of course we didn’t really go undercover, that’d be crazy, but that was still pretty awesome, right? It is amazing what we’ll do when we don’t think anyone else is around. Maybe you sing and dance around your bedroom to your favorite song. Maybe you still love playing with a toy your friends would think is too little for you. Whatever it is, we probably all have something.”

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Which brings up the question—have you ever stopped to think about the difference between who you are in school or with your friends and who you are at the place you live? How do your actions change when people are watching? Or maybe the opposite is true: maybe your actions change when you DON’T think anyone is watching. The people we are in public versus who we are in private is definitely something to consider. Actually, it’s something that the writers of the Bible discuss a lot, too. The Bible is full of moments when people had to decide if they would be true to who they knew they should be. Let’s find out what they learned.

### TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Today, we head to the Old Testament of the Bible. The Old Testament is where we find what happened in the life of God’s people before Jesus came. In the Old Testament we find a guy named Daniel. You might have heard something about his story with the lion’s den. Well, there is definitely more to his story than that. We start with what was happening in the world of the Israelite people in his time. You see, as a consequence for their unfaithfulness to God, the land of Judah, where Daniel and the rest of the Israelites lived, had been conquered by a superpower empire called Babylon. Many Israelites were carried off as captives to Babylon by the king—a guy by the name of Nebuchadnezzar.”

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 1: CAPTIVES BEING LED AWAY**

“Nebuchadnezzar recruited the best captives to enter his personal service. They would work for the king now.”

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 2: NEBUCHADNEZZAR GIVING ORDERS TO ISRAELITE SUBJECTS**

*“(Read directly from Daniel 1:4, NIV) ‘He was looking for young men who were healthy and handsome. They had to be able to learn anything. They had to be well educated. They had to have the ability to understand new things quickly and easily. The king wanted men who could serve in his palace.’”*

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"The king only wanted the best of the best. These recruits would be challenged to learn the Babylonian language, study their history and writings . . ."

### **SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 3: ISRAELITES STUDYING BOOKS AND SCROLLS**

"Their training would last for three years! Then they would be fit to serve the king."

*"(Read directly from Daniel 1:6-7, NIV) 'Some of the men chosen were from Judah. Their names were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names. He gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar. He gave Hananiah the name Shadrach. He gave Mishael the name Meshach. And he gave Azariah the name Abednego.'*

### **SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 4: STICKER WITH "DANIEL" CROSSED OUT AND "BELTESHAZZAR" WRITTEN IN**

"Now you might imagine that when they were taken captive from Jerusalem, they probably had a lot of images running through their minds about what might happen to them. But I'm guessing this was an image that never crossed their mind . . ."

### **SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 5: PEOPLE PIGGING OUT AT THE KING'S TABLE, PILED WITH FOOD**

"The king's table. I mean, it was possible that they'd eat better in Babylon than they did back home!"

"There was a problem with all of this, though. Even though there was a lot of amazing food and drink served at the king's table, there was also food on that table that God had told His people it was 'unclean' for them to eat. So to eat these foods would mean they would disobey God."

"Now that was reason enough, but there is something else you should know about the food. It is possible that some of the food was sacrificed to the false gods of Babylon before it made its way to the table. Eating the food was in a way like saying they were okay with the false gods, and that would have DEFINITELY gone against what God had said."

"Daniel and his friends had a decision to make. This was not like telling your parents that you don't like what they made for dinner and want something else. That might be rude, but it probably isn't going to cost you your life! But what about Daniel? Should he go against God or should he risk offending a king who has the power to take his life?"

### **SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 6: DANIEL THINKING**

"Now before we see what Daniel chose, let me ask you a question. Who would know? I mean, what's the big deal? They were in Babylon. All of the people he was with were eating from the king's table. It's not like he was back in Jerusalem with his family or anything. Why do you think this was a decision he needed to care about?"

*Pause for responses.*

"Excellent thoughts! We will come back to some of those in a minute. But let's check out Daniel's response now. *(Read directly from Dan 1:8a, NIV) 'Daniel decided not to make himself "unclean" by eating the king's food and drinking his wine.'*"

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#### SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 7: DANIEL WALKING AWAY FROM THE KING'S TABLE

"Daniel made a decision. He would not go against God's instructions for the sake of the king's command. Daniel spoke with the official and asked for permission to not eat from the king's table, but even the official was worried about what the king would do! So Daniel spoke with one of the guards who was appointed to watch over him and his friends."

#### SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 8: DANIEL TALKING WITH THE GUARD

"(Read directly from Daniel 1:12-13, NIV) 'Daniel said to him, "Please test us for ten days. Give us nothing but vegetables to eat. And give us only water to drink . . .'"

#### SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 9: VEGETABLES AND WATER VS. KING'S FOOD TABLE

"". . . Then compare us with the young men who eat the king's food. See how we look. After that, do what you want to.""

"The guard agreed to this arrangement. Daniel and his friends would be tested after ten days of this veggie menu."

"Well ten days went by . . . and you would probably think that Daniel and his friends would be all tired and weak."

#### SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 10: DANIEL AND THREE FRIENDS LOOKING WIMPY AND TIRED

"But actually, the opposite was true!"

#### SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 11: DANIEL AND THREE FRIENDS OVERLY MUSCULAR

"Okay, I didn't quite mean opposite. What I meant was, after ten days, they were looking better and healthier than everybody else!"

"(Read directly from Daniel 1:15, NIV) 'After the ten days Daniel and his friends looked healthy and well fed. In fact, they looked better than any of the young men who ate the king's food.'"

#### SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 12: DANIEL AND THREE FRIENDS GIVING A THUMBS UP

"I'm glad it all turned out well for Daniel. That really could have gone south pretty quickly. In fact, Daniel and his friends passed even more tests, and after their training they entered the service of the king. But in all of this, Daniel never forgot who his TRUE King was. Time and time again, he would be tested, and time and time again he would pass the test."

## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Now, let's go back to that question I asked earlier . . . who would really know if Daniel and his friends just decided to eat from the king's table? And you came up with some great answers (*use the answers if possible*). I think Daniel knew an important truth: Only doing the right thing when you think people are watching isn't enough. It's important that you are truthful with your whole life. The way you live and act when you think no one is watching matters just as much as when there are others around."

**"Say, for instance, that you see some trash on the ground and also see a garbage can five feet away. Someone is a bad shot. Now, when there are people around, it is easy to pick up that piece of trash and throw it away. Why? Because it makes you look good! But what about when there is no one else around at all? Do you still pick it up? Why should you? Because it is the right thing to do and it helps someone else out!"**

**"Or maybe something a little more serious. You are hanging around school and you hear some guys start to make fun of one of your friends who is not there at the moment. These guys don't know that this person is your friend, and they start to invite you to join in on the joking. Now, you could say a few things about your friend that would make them all laugh. And your friend would NEVER have to know it! But is acting like that truthful? Not at all."**

**"There will be times we want to talk a certain way or act a certain way just because of the people we are around even though we would never want other people to know we are like that. Or we might be tempted to lie and say things that are not true just to make ourselves look better. But that is not the truth. And that is not who we really are."**

**"And on top of all of this, consider God, who loves you and knows you better than anyone. We can't hide who we are from Him. And the good news? We don't have to. God sent Jesus to live a perfect life, die on the cross, and come back to life, so you and I can have forgiveness not need to hide anything from God. Jesus was the perfect example of this whole idea. He was truthful in what He said and did, no matter who was around."**

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## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** “That’s integrity: Being truthful with what you say and what you do, even when no one is looking. Throughout October, we’ll start figuring out what integrity looks like in all sorts of areas in our lives. For today, though, as you go to groups, think about this question:

### SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

**“How do you want people to describe you?** In other words, if people saw you for who you REALLY are, what would you want them to say? In Small Group, you’ll talk more about this question, but consider how you want people to talk about you when you’re not around. Before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for Daniel and his friends and their example of integrity. **Let’s also ask God for help to show integrity in our own lives. Let’s pray.”**

## CLOSER

**HOST:** We can see that in stories from the Bible like the one we heard today—how Daniel and his friends chose to live God’s way even though they’d been taken to a strange, new land.

“We can trust God just like they did. We can continue to be truthful and live the way we know He wants us to live.

### SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

**“Be truthful with your whole life.**

“That’s how you can live with integrity! You don’t have to be afraid to be yourself, wherever you are. You don’t have to pretend to be someone you’re not. Just be who God wants you to be . . . and then trust Him to take care of everything else.

“Remember, we can always look at Jesus and see how HE showed integrity. Everything Jesus did was truthful. He was the same wherever He went. He always did what was right—even though it meant He had to die on the cross for us.

“Our memory verse is Proverbs 10:9. It’s a great reminder for us of what it looks like to live with integrity. Let’s take a look.

### SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE

*“Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught, Proverbs 10:9 (NIRV)*

“It’s true! Being truthful is ALWAYS the best way to live. You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about how you can **be truthful with your whole life.** See you later!”

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

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**