



PLAY WELL.
FINISH STRONG.

WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2021

LARGE GROUP

K-6

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Greatest

The Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:36-40

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are things you're
expected to do?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Love God. Love others.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Suppose you can be trusted
with something very little.
Then you can also be trusted
with something very large.
Luke 16:10a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Responsibility—Showing you
can be trusted with what is
expected of you

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

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 *Mission*. Host is relatable and inviting. Host discusses recent/upcoming events. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect.

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everyone! How many of you out there love a good board game? (Pause for response.) Me too! They're the perfect pastime for when the electricity's out, when you feel like reading sixteen pages of rules to properly play, or when you have to spend time with your cousins who play a little too rough!"

"I'm kidding, of course—board games are fun for the whole family!"

"You know how when you're playing a board game, there are rules you have to follow? Well, in the same way, there are rules for LIVING that will help us live the way God wants us to live. We can show how much we trust God by the way we live every day. We can choose to live with responsibility!"

SLIDE: LIFE APP

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

"Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

SLIDE: THEME

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

RULES FOR LIFE

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"Speaking of responsibility . . . and speaking of following the rules . . . let me explain the rules for today's awesome game. I call it 'Number One'!

SLIDE: "NUMBER ONE"

"Leaders, you can pass out the dice—one for each person. When I say, 'Go,' you'll roll the dice and try to roll a one. (Point at the die on the screen.)

"If you get a one, raise your hand and keep it raised. If you don't get a one, keep rolling until you do. The goal is for EVERYONE in your group to roll a one! The first two groups to get ALL ones will move on to the next round." Is everyone ready? Let's do this! On your mark, get set, go!

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC

Walk around the room so you can clearly see which two groups complete the task first. Comment on the action and encourage the kids as they roll. If possible, let the game go until EVERYONE has rolled a one.

"That was so fun! You all did a fantastic job. Our first two groups to finish were [leader's name]'s group and [leader's name]'s group. So THOSE two groups will now compete in our final round. Let's all cheer them on, okay?

(to the two groups) "Ready, set, go!"

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC

Comment on the action as the kids roll. If possible, let the game go until everyone in both groups has rolled a one.

"Wow—what a finish! Congratulations to both our final groups. (to audience) Thank you ALL for playing 'Number One'!

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

"Now, everyone pass the dice to your leader, and let's get on our feet and get ready to sing and worship God together."

Host exits as Worship Leader enters stage.

WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADER: "Happy New Year! I can't believe we've made it to 2021. Let's start this year on the right foot by singing and praising Jesus. He's the best Friend ever! Come on—let's sing to Him.

ALIVE AGAIN GOOD GRACE

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "All of this might make you wonder, what does it mean to love God? How are we supposed to love our God who offers His love to us unconditionally? How do you express love to our God who is all powerful? A big way we can show love to God is by loving the people He created. Sometimes it can be simple, but it's not always easy!"

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"Showing love is more than a feeling. It's taking action! Giving away a pencil to a classmate when you have a mad stash is not a problem. Hugging your favorite grandparent after they've had a bad day is a no-brainer."

"But loving others goes beyond close friends and family. What does it look like to love perfect strangers? Is it easy to love others who look different than you? Are you willing to offer love to those who speak a different language? Often it's in our darkest and most uncomfortable moments that we find the most amazing opportunities to show love to others."

Note: You can use these examples or choose other stories about people in your own community.

"In Alabama, there is a young man by the name of Austin Perine. At the age of four he started asking questions about homelessness. His dad took him to see homelessness firsthand. After that trip, Austin regularly traveled with his dad to feed homeless people while wearing a superhero cape. Over the last couple years, Austin's efforts to help meet the needs of homeless people and pets have expanded to over a dozen cities. Austin frequently reminds others, 'Don't forget to show love.' Austin is an example of someone who loves beyond close friends and family to serve people in need!"

"Or how about this? Several years ago, a young boy named Jahkil Jackson began distributing hygiene products and other necessities to homeless populations. Items like socks, toothpaste, and food filled his blessing bags. Literally thousands of men, women, and children across the globe have been impacted by his efforts. During the Covid-19 pandemic, it would be understandable for Jahkil to slow down his aid. However, Jahkil has said, 'This lockdown is not holding me back' and expanded his reach by offering daily essentials, such as hand sanitizer, to senior citizens. Jahkil is an example of someone who wants to take action and share love to others."

"Some of you may be thinking, 'I want to help others . . . someday.' Don't wait! We do not need to wait until we are in high school or wait until you can drive or wait until you're an adult to show God's love to others. We don't need to wait for someone else to go first! We can be difference makers TODAY! In fact, Timothy once wrote,"

Open Bible to 1 Timothy 4:12 (NIRV) and read

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live. Also set an example in how you love and in what you believe. Show the believers how to be pure."

"In other words, the time to love others is now!"

"It was Jesus who showed us the perfect example of what it means to love God and others. If we want to follow Jesus, we have a responsibility to love God and love others."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "As we all head to Small Groups, let's think about this."

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"What are things you're expected to do? The dishes? Taking out the trash? Mowing the yard?"



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"As you mull over the things that are expected of you, think about the words Jesus said to the Pharisees. We are expected to love God and love others. If you want to love others but are unsure how, ask God to help you show love to the people around you. When they see how you love them, they can see how God loves them, too. This isn't always easy but...

Jesus made it so clear for us. Here's the number one rule we should live by, every day . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Love God. Love others."

"Let's pray and ask God to help us do that."

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

Dismiss students to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP