



PLAY WELL.  
FINISH STRONG.

WEEK  
**THREE**  
JANUARY 2021

LARGE GROUP

**K-6**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Ants Marching**  
Ant and Sluggard  
Proverbs 6:6-8

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you had to work hard?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work hard.

### 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.

### 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

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Love Works Sunday - THIS WEEK - January 17th
- Collecting items for **House of Refuge**
- Use card on stage to promote

#### WORSHIP:

I Choose You  
Who You Say I Am

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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## BASIC TRUTH

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## 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 discusses recent/upcoming events: National Rubber Ducky Day, National Sticker Day, National Dress Up Your Pet Day, National Hat Day, National Strawberry Ice Cream Day, National Popcorn Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, movie openings (Peter Rabbit 2, Rumble), 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. The stage should be prepared for the game as kids walk into the large group room.

## OPENER

**HOST:** "What's up, everyone!? Now, I know we've been talking about board games for the last couple of weeks and even spent some serious time playing blown up board games in this room!"

"I don't know about you, but I thought we could use a bit of a palette cleanser, as they say. Board games are a great way to have fun with your friends and your family, but VERY RARELY while playing a board game does someone fall down dramatically. Sure, it happens sometimes—for instance, when my Aunt Ethel got a little overexcited about winning Monopoly one time—but today let's get a handful of volunteers up on the stage to join me in a fresh new take on an classic old game: Musical Chairs. Only this game is called DRAMA BUCKETS!"

**SLIDE: DRAMA BUCKETS**

Host selects five brave volunteers to play the game and brings them to the stage.



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"For those who've never played DRAMA BUCKETS before, the rules are simple. On stage, we have four buckets and five volunteers. When the music starts, our volunteers will roam around the stage where the buckets will be scattered. As soon as the music stops, our volunteers must rush to the nearest bucket and take a seat. The last person left not sitting on a bucket will be eliminated. The game will continue until there is only one kid left. HOWEVER! I'm not one to keep things simple. After all, variety is the spice of life! For an added challenge, I have a BLINDFOLD all of our players. NOT ONLY THAT, but I might just move the buckets around while you walk. What can I say, I'm a rascal! Does everyone understand how to play? *(Pause for response.)* Well then, let's get to walkin'!"

**AUDIO: HIGH ENERGY GAME MUSIC**

*Host facilitates game with help of Communicator and/or Small Group Leaders. To increase the difficulty of the game, move the buckets around the space. Host monitors players closely to prevent any injuries.*

"Excellent job, everyone! Incredible effort by all our volunteers! I haven't seen drops and falls that dramatic since I fumbled my phone visiting Niagara Falls State Park! Let's have a HUGE round of applause for our winner."

"And while we are at it, let's get rowdy as we welcome [Name of Worship Leader] and worship our amazing God!"

*Host exits as Worship Leader enters stage.*

**WORSHIP**

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "I've been waiting for this moment all week. I love to make our praises loud in this place! I hope you're ready. Let's sing to Jesus and tell Him that we'll trust Him.

**AUDIO: I Choose You**

**AUDIO: Who You Say I Am**



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## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “King Solomon recognized ants make up their own minds to work hard. They are not motivated by an allowance or extra screen time. Their hard work pays off with food reserves for times of shortage. Ants do whatever it takes to keep their colony safe! And you know what’s crazy? They know how to get the job done with only about 250 thousand brain cells.”

“But you are different than an ant. God made us with about 10 million brain cells! It’s plain to see God has given us what we need to work strong, smart, and creatively. Because He’s given much, God expects more of us. But fear not! In this room, we have people who are uniquely wired to accomplish unique goals. Kids in this room are determined and incredibly gifted to do God’s work! The people in this room were made in God’s image! When we combine what we’ve been given with hard work, we can show love to God and to the people God’s made!”

“Working hard might look like mowing extra yards to support a friend in the hospital. Sometimes that might look like waking up and straightening your room before your mom asks. It can even look like helping your little sister put together that massive LEGO® palace.”

“All we have to do for inspiration is look to Jesus. When He came to earth, Jesus knew exactly what He needed to do. He lived a perfect life, performed miracles, taught lots of people, and died on a cross for you and me.”

“Laziness is easy. Working hard is not. Taking the initiative to get the work done instead of waiting for someone to tell you to do something requires effort! It’s important to remember God gives us what we need to follow through.”

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

### “Work hard.

“Let’s give our best effort. Let’s show others that we can be responsible. Let’s **work hard** so we can make a difference for other people. Will you pray with me?”

## PRAY

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, please help us choose to work hard, no matter what. Sometimes it’s tempting for us to take a shortcut or avoid the job altogether. Sometimes we think, ‘Someone else will do it.’ But we know that You want us to step up and give our best effort. Help us do our very best to show love to You and to everyone we meet. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

**SLIDE: KEY QUESTION**

As you head to your small groups think about this:

**“When have you had to work hard?”** Think about the times in your life when you had to give everything it took to finish a project at school or a task at home. How did it feel to accomplish those things? And how do you think knowing that you can work hard can help you in the future? Those are big questions. You’ll have chance to talk more about all of those with your Small Group. Before you head out though, let’s pray and ask God to help us work hard.”

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

**SLIDE: THEME**

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