



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

In My Life

Israelites Long for Egypt
Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7

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.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What is good in you
life right now?

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction
Just for Fun
Opening Activity

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't miss out on
what you have now.

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- NONE

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."
Luke 12:15, NIRV

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

- Week 1 – The Best Is Yet To Come & The Blessing
- Week 2 – Might Get Loud & Way Maker
- **Week 3 – There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & Never Lost**
- Week 4 – This Is Living & Graves Into Gardens

HOST SUPPLIES

- Three small boxes
- Three large boxes
- Three desirable prizes
- Three undesirable prizes

STORY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Stationary/spin bike (Skate board if bike not available)

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



WEEK
THREE
NOVEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

In My Life
Israelites Long for Egypt
Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What is good in your life right now?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't miss out on what you have now.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."
Luke 12:15, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Contentment—Learning to be okay with what you have

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

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! I am so ready to celebrate with all of you today.

AUDIO: There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do

AUDIO: Never Lost

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, holiday (National Bundt, America Recycles Day, National Fast Food Day, National Homemade Bread Day, National Princess Day, Mickey Mouse Birthday, Great America Smokeout, National Peanut Butter Fudge Day, National Adoption Day), 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, hey everybody! It's so good to see you in Mission! Let's start with a quick poll the room. How many of you like riding bikes? (Pause for response) Of course, so many of you love to ride a bike! They are awesome! What is it about riding bikes you love so much?"



WEEK
THREE
NOVEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Host calls on several kids to explain their love of biking.

"I agree! There are SOOOO many things to love about going for a ride! Biking gives you aerobic exercise, allows you to go fast, and gives you a sense of freedom! Of course, riding a bike does have some risks. Aside from the bumps and bruises many of us have experienced, there is also the chance of something much, much worse. When I say 'worse,' I'm talking about something that makes me want to gag at the very THOUGHT of this happening. Some of you know EXACTLY what I am about to say because

you've experienced this hazard firsthand. Let's have a show of hands – how many of you have ever swallowed a bug while riding a bike? *(Pause for response)* IT IS THE VERY WORST! Imagine pedaling your bicycle as fast as you can and needing to take a deep breath. As you inhale the much needed oxygen, a fly hits you in the back of the throat. NOPE! Nobody has time for that!"

"Regardless, we want to acknowledge those moments on a bike that really bug me in the form of a game called BOXES AND BUGS! Anybody want to play?"

SLIDE: BOXES AND BUGS TITLE

Host selects three volunteers and brings them to the stage.

"This is an easy game. One at a time, you will be presented with a small box. If you choose to open the box, it is yours to keep with no strings attached. Inside the box will be something really, really good or (beat) not! It could be a bug. Before you open the box, though, you will have the option to open an even bigger box. If you choose the bigger box, you will get to keep the object inside. The object could be EVEN better (beat) or worse! Regardless, I'm so excited you volunteered! Let's play BOXES AND BUGS!"

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Each volunteer will be presented with a small box. The small box will either have something good like a piece of chocolate or something awful—a bug. Host facilitates game. Host opens the big box to show the audience what they won or what they passed on. Hershey's kiss -> Bugs. Gravel -> Bike. Licorice -> Bugs. Granola Bar -> Helmet.

"Wow! That was WAY too entertaining. I love this game because it is one where everyone walks away a winner . . . sort of. Some of you were incredibly fortunate with some pretty sweet prizes while the rest of you got bugs! Regardless how you fared, you are incredibly grateful you played BOXES AND BUGS! Let's give a huge round of applause to all of our volunteers."

Host dismisses volunteers back to their seats.



WEEK
THREE
NOVEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everyone! Now, I know it's still November, but I can't help but think that in just a few weeks we'll be celebrating Christmas! I'm curious how many of you already have decorations up where you live? *(Pause for response)* Awesome! Me too. It's like once it's November first I can't help but start putting up decorations, listening to Christmas music, and getting ready for the big day! Question for you: what do love most about Christmas?"

Communicator allows a moment for small groups to discuss. Communicator calls on several small groups to share a couple of the reasons they love Christmas.

"Those are great reasons to love the upcoming holiday! I'll be honest with you. As a kid, every year I would anticipate Christmas with making my Christmas list the first week of November. It was a different time back then."

Communicator tells a personal story about making a Christmas list similar to the following.

"I want you to imagine a time before YouTubers starting unboxing random toys to spark Christmas dreams or before you could sit on a device and endlessly scroll on Amazon for gifts. In fact, this was a time before our phones were smart! This was before the existence of tablets or even the internet. Sounds kind of scary, right? This was my childhood!"

"Some may be wondering how in the world I managed to make a Christmas list without wi-fi. Well, we were scrappy back then. Our lists came primarily from three sources. First, cartoons came on Saturday mornings. They brought with them a plethora of commercials showing the latest and greatest playthings! Second, we had large stores dedicated to toys like TOYS R US! Imagine aisles and aisles of trinkets and knickknacks made with kids like me in mind! Sounds like a dream, but it was better than that! Third, we had magazines that came in the mail bringing the newest and coolest games and goods kids loved! I would spend hours flipping through the pages circling all the toys, gadgets, and gizmos I couldn't live without."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Each year, it was the same. Leveraging those big three sources, I would dream up a massive list of the Christmas gifts I NEEDED! At the start, I began the season high on hopes of acquiring all the things! These items were toys I'd never seen before or items I used to have but lost over time!"

"I am fairly confident I'm not the only one who has had an annual Christmas list routine! I'm pretty sure there are others in the room who focus much time and effort on dreaming about the NEXT BIG THING we can add to our collections of stuff. Others in this room, I know, have thought about the goods you USED TO HAVE but were lost or broken and you long to get another!"

"But think about this. What if this hyper-focused energy on gaining more causes us to miss out on something big? What if all the scrolling through Amazon toy lists or watching YouTubers unboxing the most fantastic items can cause us to miss out on what we have right now? Does that even matter? Is there harm to be so focused on what we DON'T HAVE without pausing to look around at the good we ALREADY POSSESS?"



WEEK
THREE
NOVEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

“Well, guess what. These are questions people have been wondering about for thousands of years. I’m serious. If you’ve been coming to [name of environment] for a while, you already know this. But when it comes to hard questions, we have a place we turn to first to find answers. Where is that? *(Pause for response.)* That’s right! The Bible. And in the Bible we read that long ago there was a group of people who ran into a very similar situation. Let’s check it out now!”

TRUTH

SLIDE: IMAGE 1

COMMUNICATOR: “For hundreds of years, God’s people, the Israelites, lived as slaves in Egypt. The jobs of slaves varied during this time. Some worked long hours as carpenters, jewelers, or craftsmen. Others labored in homes or digging in mud pits. Regardless of their jobs, all slaves were closely watched by slave masters whose job it was to keep them working as fast and as hard as possible. To say it was a hard life would be an understatement. However, slavery in Egypt didn’t last forever, and they were able to move on!”

Communicator gets on stationary bike to imply moving out of slavery.

“God used Moses and his brother, Aaron, to free The Israelites from slavery with miraculous signs—including the parting of the Red Sea! When Pharaoh’s army went into the sea and the Israelites were free, they celebrated!”

Communicator gets off stationary bike and looks around.

SLIDE: IMAGE 2

“There was singing and dancing! It was a party on the east bank of the Red Sea! After a celebratory moment, they continued to journey forward away from Egyptian captivity into the desert.”

Communicator gets on stationary bike to imply moving away from the Red Sea.

“For the first time in many generations, they were free. But it didn’t take long for the excitement and adrenaline to turn into whining. God’s people continued on and traveled to a place called the Desert of Sin.”

Communicator gets off stationary bike and looks around.

SLIDE: IMAGE 3

“The scenery was dry, barren, and filled with sand and stone. Food was hard to come by, and the Israelites began to grumble. They approached Moses and Aaron and said,”

Open Bible to Exodus 16:3b (NIRV) and read.

“We wish the Lord had put us to death in Egypt. There we sat around pots of meat. We ate all the food we wanted. But you brought us out into this desert. You must want this entire community to die of hunger.”



WEEK
THREE
NOVEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

However, instead of moving them to an area with more food options, God brought the food to the people. With specific instructions on how to handle it, God promised to send bread down from heaven called manna to feed the people. Each day God’s people were to gather just enough for that day.”

“Moses and Aaron called the people together to share God’s words. As Aaron spoke, the glory of the Lord appeared as a cloud in the desert. In that moment, God told Moses,”

Open Bible to Exodus 16:12 (NIRV) and read.

“I have heard the people of Israel talking about how unhappy they are. Tell them, “When the sun goes down, you will eat meat. In the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.””

“Moses and Arron explained it all to the Israelites. And just as God promised, that evening quail flew to the camp and everyone had their fill.”

SLIDE: IMAGE 4

“The following morning, again, just as God promised, the ground was covered with thin flakes like white frost.”

SLIDE: IMAGE 5

“The Israelites would gather it off the ground. They could bake it or boil it and it tasted like crackers made with honey. God instructed the people to gather only as much as they needed for the day. When some people disobeyed God and attempted to save leftovers, it spoiled and was filled with maggots.”

Communicator gets on stationary bike to imply moving around the desert.

“The Israelites moved away from the Desert of Sin and traveled from place to place. As long as the Israelites were in the desert, the Lord continued to provide manna each morning. When they arrived in Rephidim, God’s people ran into a different problem.”

Communicator gets off stationary bike and looks around.

“They couldn’t find water anywhere. Even though God had worked miracle after miracle to bring His people to this moment, the Israelites panicked. They turned to Moses and said,”

Open Bible to Exodus 17:3b (NIRV) and read.

“Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? Did you want us, our children and our livestock to die of thirst?”

“After turning to God, Moses was told by the Lord to walk ahead of the people with a few elders of Israel. Using his staff, God instructed Moses to strike the rock before him and water would come out for the people to drink. Moses followed God’s instructions. After hitting the rock, water began to pour from the rock just as God said it would.”

SLIDE: IMAGE 6



WEEK
THREE
NOVEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "This story is so interesting to me. The Israelites were trapped in slavery with no freedom. When the slave masters gave instructions, they were required to obey or face a painful punishment! When God freed the Israelites using miracle after miracle, they were no longer forced to labor for the Egyptians. One would think the Israelites would have been overjoyed and never want to return. However, in the desert, God's people whined and complained about what they didn't have! They questioned why they had been brought out of Egypt. However, throughout the exodus, God continued to provide for everything they needed when they needed it!"

"It's easy for us today to look at the Israelites' story and think we would never whine or complain in their situation. But our stories are not too different from the Israelites' story."

Communicator gets on stationary bike to imply moving

"One minute we are cruising through life without a care in the world. Everything seems to be going our way! We try out for football and land one of the best positions on the team! The class you are enrolled in at school is the same homeroom as your best friend! Under the tree, you notice several big gifts with your name on it. Again, everything is cruising along great."

Communicator gets off bike and looks around disappointed.

"However, the next moment we are grumbling because last year's football team didn't lose as many games as this year's. We get upset because we received 'better' gifts at Christmas last year. We pout because last year's teacher didn't give us as much homework. It doesn't take much for each one of us to whine and complain when we don't immediately get what we want!"

Communicator gets on stationary bike to imply moving

"But what if life could look different? Instead of looking at what we don't have or what we had before, we could look at what we have right now! Just like the Israelites, God provides for us—here and now. God won't guarantee a win every time we play football, but God will give us opportunities to make new friends. God won't gift us every present we could possibly want on Christmas, but God did provide a reason to celebrate every Christmas—Jesus! God won't always give us easy teachers, but we always get the opportunity to trust God matter what."

"God provides for us because He loves us so much! God's love is so great. Jesus came to die on a cross to rescue us so we could have a relationship with God that would last forever!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "As we head into Small Groups, take a moment right now and think of what you do have. As yourself:"

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"What is good in your life right now?" Ignore the thoughts of what's missing or what has changed from the past. Focus on all the ways God has provided for you today. If you're not quite sure how you'd answer that, don't worry. You'll talk more about all of this in Small Groups. Let's pray to thank God for all He's provided. Let's ask God to help us find contentment in all situations."



WEEK
THREE
NOVEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

Communicator gets off bike and 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