

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Need to Calm Down
Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

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 BOTTOM LINE

**When you lose control,
it can cause trouble.**

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction
Early Arriver
Opening Activity

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"God's power has given
us everything we need
to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV**

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- HAPPY NEW YEAR**

HOST SUPPLIES

- Six tri-fold display boards—ideally painted/decorated to look like Biblical-style walls (see "What You Do")
- Ten (or more) beach balls
- Plastic bin(s) to contain the beach balls
- Masking or gaffer's tape

- **Something important to us at MISSION is recognizing when people are growing in their faith and being transformed by the love of Jesus. One of the ways that we express that at MISSION is through Baptism. It is an outward expression of an inward change/commitment to following Jesus. Here is an example:**
- **BAPTISM HIGHLIGHT VID - ???**
- **Every month, we host a class that focuses on taking the next step in your faith. Baptism is a step people take when they want to tell others they are serious about following Jesus. If you want to attend this class NEXT WEEK and learn more, let your SGL know.**

STORY SUPPLIES

- Host
- Two Small Group Leaders or other adult volunteers—one male, one female
- Display boards (i.e. "walls") from the Opener
- Beanbag chair
- Two video game controllers
- Remote control

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - This Is Living & Way Maker

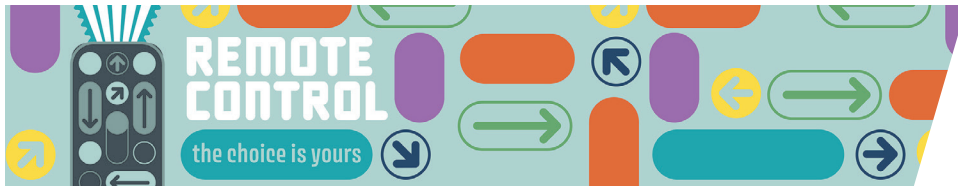
Week 2 - There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & Never Lost

Week 3 - The Best Is Yet To Come & The Blessing

Week 4 - Might Get Loud & Graves Into Gardens
Week 5 - There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & The Blessing

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



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

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Need to Calm Down
Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you lose control,
it can cause trouble.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

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 KIDS ENTER.
SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

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

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! It's a great day to be here at [your environment's name]. This month, we're talking about self-control! What IS self-control?"

SLIDE: LIFE APP

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

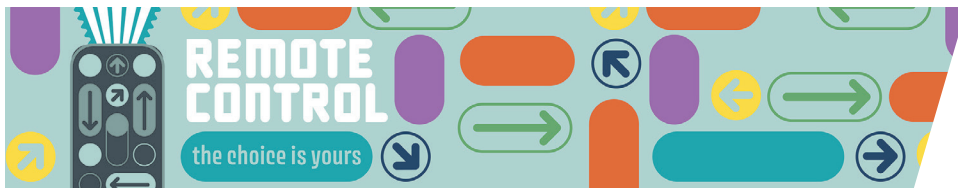
"It's choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to.

SLIDE: THEME

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

"Having self-control can be really tough—especially when we feel angry or frustrated. But we don't have to face those situations alone. God is always there to help us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and STAY in control.

"I've got a great game for us to play that will require lots of self-control—because you won't be able to use your hands! I call it 'Knockdown Kickball.'



WEEK
TWO
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP

K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Worship Leaders enter to help with the game.

"Do you see the tape line in the middle of the room? (*Point to the line.*) Everyone on this side of the line is on this team. (*Point to one side.*) Everyone on that side of the line is on that team. (*Point to the other side.*)

"Each team has three of these 'walls' that will be on your side of the line.

Worship Leaders set out the six tri-fold display boards (three per side), in various places on each side of the tape line.

"When I say, 'Go,' we'll toss a bunch of beach balls into the field of play. You'll kick the beach balls to the other team's side and try to knock down their walls. At the same time, you also have to defend YOUR team's walls so the other team doesn't knock them down. You can't cross the line. You have to stay on your team's side. Oh—and remember, you must keep your hands behind your back at all times! (*Demonstrate.*) Whichever side has the most walls standing at the end is the winner.

"Are you ready? (*Pause for response.*) Let's go!

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC

Worship Leaders toss out the beach balls in various places on both sides of the line.

Host provides funny commentary as the teams play. Remind the kids to keep their hands behind their backs.

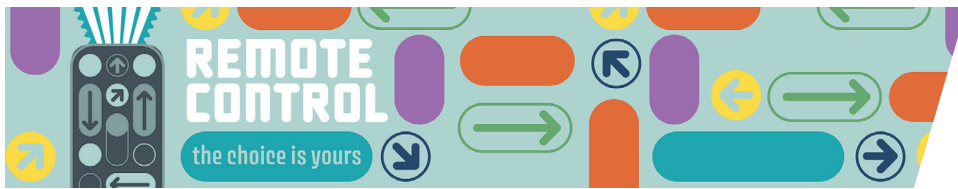
If some time passes and no walls have fallen, stop the action, move the walls closer to the tape line, then resume. Stop the music once one or two walls have fallen and declare the winning team. (If no walls fall, congratulate the kids on their defensive skills and call the game a tie.)

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

"THAT. WAS. AMAZING! Great job, everyone! Okay, toss the beach balls back to our friends up here

collect the beach balls in the plastic bin(s).

Host gathers the display boards and sets them on stage so they'll be accessible for the story.



WEEK
TWO
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP
K-3

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

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, everyone! I'm so glad we're learning about self-control and why it's so important. If you can figure out how to choose self-control NOW, that's something that will pay off big-time as you get older!

"One place where we can read a lot about self-control is in the book of Proverbs in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) Many of the wise sayings that we find in the book of Proverbs came from King Solomon. Solomon asked God for wisdom when he was young. And God made him one of the wisest people who ever lived!

"Listen to Solomon's words from Proverbs 25:28.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 25:28 (NirV) and read.

"A person without self-control is like a city whose walls are broken through.

"Let me explain what Solomon meant by that. I know these days we don't really see a lot of cities with walls around them.

Pick up the tri-fold display boards from the Opener. Place them around you in a big circle as you continue. (It's fine if they overlap.)

"But in Solomon's time, a city had to be surrounded by walls. The walls protected the city so that no one could come in and attack.

Remove one of the display boards so the "wall" around you is broken.

"So if a city wall was broken-down, the city was in great danger. It would be really hard for the people in the city to defend themselves.

"Now, listen again to what Solomon said about self-control.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 25:28 (NirV) and read.

"A person without self-control is like a city whose walls are broken through.

Point to the broken "wall" around you.

"Yikes! We really do need to have self-control so we can stay away from danger and trouble."

Step out of the "wall" but leave it intact. Move to a different part of the stage.



25 MINUTES

THE SCENE IS SET

STORYTELLER: "There are lots of things that can happen in our lives to make us lose control, right? Let's see what that might look like. Hmmmm . . . I need an actor for this part. How about you, [leader's name]?"

Call up a male Small Group Leader. (This could also be the Host or another adult volunteer. They don't need to know what to do in advance.)

"Let me introduce you to our friend [leader's name]. [Leader's name] is in second grade, and he really loves to play his favorite video game.

Place the beanbag chair on the stage and motion to the leader to sit down.

"[Leader's name] just finished his homework, and he can't WAIT to sit down and play. He's been waiting all day to use his screen time, and he's so excited! I mean, just look how happy he is!

Look at the leader to cue him to smile big.

"But wait! Where's the controller? [Leader's name] can't find it anywhere! He's getting pretty frustrated.

Look at the leader to cue him to look frustrated.

"Okay, let's pause it right there."

Hold up the remote control, point it at the leader, and pretend to press a button. The leader should freeze. (If not, pretend to "pause" him again.)

LOSING CONTROL

STORYTELLER: "Now, it seems to me that [leader's name] has a choice. He's getting frustrated, which is something that happens to all of us. But what does he do next? He can either calm down by choosing self-control, or he can let himself get even MORE frustrated until he completely LOSES control! Let's hit play and see what happens.

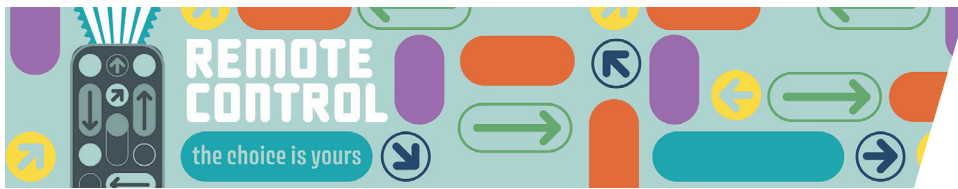
Hold up the remote control, point it at the leader, and pretend to press a button.

"Uh-oh. It looks like [Leader's name] is getting more and more frustrated. He's like, 'WHERE is that controller? It's supposed to be right here by the TV!' [Leader's name] . . . you're hopping up and down! You're flailing your hands in the air! You're so frustrated!

Look at the leader to cue him to do these actions. (Try to keep this silly and comical, not scary-looking.)

"Just then, [Leader's name]'s little sister walks in. (to leader) Let's find your sister, [leader's name].

Call up a female Small Group Leader (or other adult volunteer). Hand her the two game controllers.



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25 MINUTES

"All right. Here's [male leader]'s little sister, [female leader's name]. She walks into the room, and she's holding BOTH game controllers! Before [female leader's name] can say anything, [male leader's name] stands up and explodes!

Motion to the male leader to stand up. Hold up the remote control, point it at the male leader, and pretend to press a button.

"He says some really mean things . . . so it's a good thing we pressed mute so we can't hear him!

Look at the male leader to cue him to mouth some words. (If he doesn't do this automatically, just quickly mouth some words so he gets the idea.)

"Okay, let's hit pause again.

Hold up the remote control, point it at the leaders, and pretend to press a button.

"That was definitely not pretty! But I think [Leader's name] can do better. In fact, let's rewind and play that scene again."

Pretend to press another button. Motion to the male leader to sit back down in the beanbag chair. Motion to the female leader to walk back to the side of the stage.

TAKE TWO

STORYTELLER: "This time, let's see what that scene could look like if [Leader's name] asked God to help him choose self-control. (Clear your throat.) [Leader's name] just finished his homework, and he can't WAIT to sit down and play. He's been waiting all day to use his screen time, and he's so excited!

Look at the leader to cue him to smile big.

"But wait! Where's the controller? [Leader's name] can't find it anywhere! He's getting pretty frustrated.

Look at the leader to cue him to look frustrated.

"All right—PAUSE!

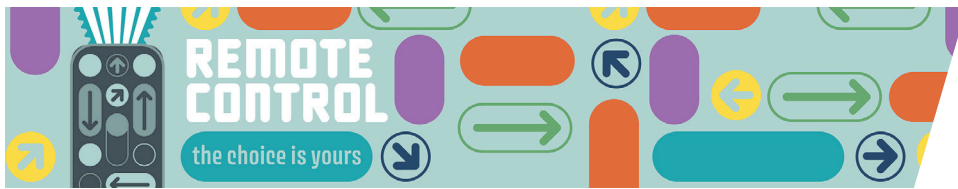
Hold up the remote control, point it at the male leader, and pretend to press a button.

"This is where [Leader's name] can choose differently than he did before. He doesn't have to get so frustrated that he's in danger of losing control. He can stop and take a breath. He can even pray and talk to God about how he feels. He can ask God to help him stay calm and in control.

Look at the leader to cue him to fold his hands like he's praying.

(to male leader) "Much better, [male leader's name]!"

"Just then, [male leader's name]'s little sister walks in.



25 MINUTES

Cue the female leader to walk toward the male leader.

"[Female leader's name] is holding BOTH game controllers! And because [male leader's name] is calm, [female leader's name] has a chance to explain.

"She says that she tried to play the video game earlier, and she realized that the batteries were dead. She knew that [male leader's name] would really want to play, so she took the controllers into the kitchen to replace the batteries. She was just coming back to put them where they belonged.

"Wow! [Female leader's name] was actually doing something KIND for [male leader's name]. But [male leader's name] might have missed it all if he hadn't used self-control! He might have really hurt his sister's feelings and said something that he wished he hadn't.

"[Male leader's name] and [female leader's name], I'm so glad you didn't have an argument after all. Let's see you do a jump high-five. (Pause.) Ha—okay! Great job, you two!

(to audience) "Let's give our volunteers a big hand."

Dismiss the two leaders to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

Walk back to the "wall" with a display board missing.

STORYTELLER: "What Solomon said is true. If we lose control, we're like a city with broken walls. We leave ourselves open to danger and trouble. But if we trust God to help us, we can protect ourselves with self-control.

Step inside the "wall" and replace the missing board. Step out of the "wall" again as you wrap-up.

"Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

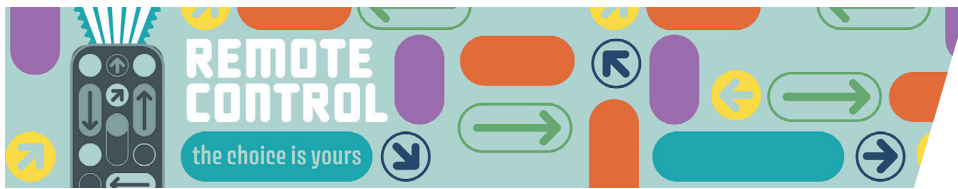
"When you lose control, it can cause trouble.

"Let's pray and ask God to help us stay in control."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for reminding us how important self-control can be. Please show us how we can stay in control so we aren't like a city with broken walls. Give us the wisdom to stop . . . take a breath . . . and ask You for help so we don't lose control when we feel frustrated or upset. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



WEEK
TWO
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP

K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “Wow. I don’t know about you, but I don’t want to be like a city with broken, crumbling walls. I want to be strong and protected . . . with self-control!”

Reference the “wall” made of display boards.

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“When you lose control, it can cause trouble.

“God knows that there are times when it can be difficult for us to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. There might be times when we’re frustrated and we need to remember to stay calm so we don’t say mean words or act unkind to the people we love. There will be times when we maybe feel like doing something that our parents or teachers have told us not to do . . . and we need self-control so we can stay safe and protected.

“In those times, it’s good to remember that God is always with us. We can pray and talk to God whenever we feel like we’re in danger of losing control. God can help us control ourselves, even when it’s really difficult.

“That’s what this month’s memory verse, 2 Peter 1:3, is about.

SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE

“God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. (2 Peter 1:3a, NIRV)

“We have God’s power working in us! In fact, self-control is part of what Apostle Paul called ‘the fruit of the Spirit.’ When you trust in Jesus and follow Him, His Spirit will help you stay in control.

“In Small Group, you’ll get to talk some more about how you can stay in control . . . and stay out of trouble! I’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP