



WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All For You

Joshua Wins the Battle
Over the Amalekites
Exodus 17:8-13

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

Who do you work well with?

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

HOST SUPPLIES

- Two kazoos
- Four boy volunteers
- Four girl volunteers
- Two containers of toothpicks
- Two containers of Sour Patch Kids
- Hand-sanitizer
- Table
- Timer
- Measuring tape

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **HAPPY MARCH**
- **COOPERATION Challenge**
 - All month long, it would be amazing to see our groups or kids and leaders work together
 - **COOPERATION: Working together to do more than you can do alone**
 - Challenge kids to look for ways to do this at home, in school, in their neighborhood, etc.
- **Preteen Camp - 4th and 5th graders - June 24-26**
- **Jr High Camp - 6th graders - June 27-July 1**
 - **Sign up SOON... you'll get a flier when you leave today**

STORY SUPPLIES

- Communicator
- Bible
- Large bucket
- Three volunteers
- Prop-box containing:
 - Basketball jersey
 - School book
 - Art canvas
 - Football
 - Posterboard
 - Microphone
 - Toy sword
 - Bag of rocks
- Chair or stool

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - This Is Living & Way Maker
Week 2 - Real Love & There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do
 Week 3 - The Best Is Yet To Come & Graves Into Gardens
 Week 4 - Might Get Loud & Who You Say I Am

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



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SOCIAL

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WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Exodus 17:8-13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Who do you work well with?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work together to help
someone succeed.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Two people are better than one.
They can help each other in
everything they do.
Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Cooperation—Working together
to do more than you can do alone

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

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: Real Love

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

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 (Turning Red), a viral video on YouTube, holiday (National Meatball Day, National Barbie Day, Mario Day, National Girl Scout Day, National Napping Day, National Potato Chip 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: "Everybody is here! I am really excited about the fact that we are all together at [Name of Environment] to ROCK OUT and have a good time! I want all of you to know how much I appreciate your presence here so . . . Welcome to you, [referencing a specific kid]! Welcome to you, [referencing a specific kid]! Welcome to you, [referencing a specific kid]! Welcome to you, [referencing a specific kid]! This may take longer than I thought. Welcome to you, [referencing a specific kid]! Welcome to you [referencing a specific kid]!"



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Host continues as long as the crowd will allow.

“Phew! There’s a bunch of you here today. Sorry about that. I can be a little long-winded sometimes, which can be incredibly helpful when playing woodwinds, brass, drums, or the kazoo. Speaking of kazoo, I am wanting to play a brand-new game I like to call LONG-WINDED!”

SLIDE: “LONG-WINDED”

“Let’s have a show of hands. Does anybody else have some good windpipes and interested in helping me with a game? *(Pause for response.)*”

Host brings one boy and one girl to the stage to play the game. Host hands each kid their own kazoo. Introduce them to the rest of the group.

“Welcome to the stage! Like I said, this game is called LONG-WINDED. Here’s how you play. You will need my favorite instrument, the kazoo, and three teammates who have quick, steady hands. Quickly pick out three others to join you on stage right now.

Host directs the boy volunteer to bring up three guys and the girl volunteer to bring up three girls.

“Great! Thanks for joining the game. Each team will have 90 seconds to build the tallest tower using toothpicks and Sour Patch Kid gummies. Easy enough, right? However, your long-winded leader needs to blow the kazoo the entire 90 seconds. Anytime your leader stops blowing for a quick breath, the rest of the team must freeze and stop building. Every time your team fails to freeze when the music stops, I will pull off one Sour Patch Kid off your tower at the end. If you move during three different breaks, I get to pull off three Sour Patch Kids!

“Make sense? Any questions? *(Pause for response.)* Excellent! The team with the tallest tower will be the LONG-WINDED CHAMPION! We’ll start with the girls! On your mark, get set, go!

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

OPTIONAL VIDEO: 90-SECOND TIMER

Each group gets 90 seconds to build a tower. Host watches closely every time the kazoo player takes a breath. Host dramatically tells teams after their 90 seconds how many times they moved during breaths. Host will remove the candies from the tallest part of the tower. After candies have been removed, host measures the height of the tower with a yardstick or ruler.

“Who would have thought teams could build such massive towers in only 90 seconds? Even though both teams impressed, only one team can be named the LONG-WINDED CHAMPION! Let’s give a huge round of applause to the team that played their kazoo the hardest and built their tower the tallest! *(Pause for response)* Great job to all the volunteers.

Host exits



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everybody! Question for you as we get started today. What are some of the hobbies or sports or activities you do in your free time? Take a moment to share with your small group something you're good at or love to do!"

Communicator directs small groups to share for a minute or two. As you have time, Communicator can call on a couple of kids to hear some thoughts.

"That's awesome! Let's take a quick look at some of the activities discussed. You know what, I think I need someone to help me out. Someone who's strong and thinks they can help me hold some objects. Anyone want to help? (Pause for response.)"

Communicator selects one volunteer to come to the stage and hold a large bucket. Direct the volunteer to hold the bucket in front of their body. Communicator moves to table and talks about each object. Objects should be placed in the bucket the volunteer is holding.

"Thanks for your help. All you need to do is hold this bucket straight out the entire time you're on the stage with me. Don't let the handle of the bucket go below your waist, and don't let the bucket touch any part of your body other than your hands. It might get difficult, but just let me know if you need some help. All set? Great!"

"Now, if any of you are like me, there are tons of things I love to do. However, sometimes when we play or participate, it's not just about the activity. Sometimes, we want people to see us do those activities and have them respond with lots of positive attention . . . for us!"

Communicator picks up basketball jersey and places it in the bucket.

"We want others to see our ball skills and fight to play on our team at recess because they know we'll help them win!"

Communicator picks up big schoolbook and places it in the bucket.

"Others of us are good at school and get great grades. Maybe, we want to others to tell us how brilliant we are because of our endless knowledge on all school subjects!"

Communicator picks up an art canvas and places it in the bucket.

"Then you have art! Anyone who loves creating artistic masterpieces wants to see their work on the cover of the school yearbook, hanging where lots of people will see it, or at least acknowledged by our art teacher in front of the whole class."



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TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “When we receive praise for what we are doing, it is a good day. It doesn’t matter if it is coming from a friend, parent, teacher, or coach. But let me ask you something. What happens when we’re not the best? What do we do when we don’t receive the praise we think we should? For example . . .

Communicator picks up a football and places it in the bucket.

“When you block the defender so your team’s running back can run clean into the endzone. He gets the glory, but nobody acknowledges your role. What do you do then?”

Communicator picks up a poster board and places it in the bucket.

“Or what happens when you work the majority of the research and writing for the group project, but watch all your classmates praise the one who presented all your hard work without recognizing your contribution?”

Communicator picks up a microphone and places it in the bucket.

“What about school choir? When you are not singing the solo and simply harmonizing with them, what do you say when nobody notices your great vocal skills?”

“That can get tricky. Playing a supporting role when we want to be the star can be hard. But what if that supporting role is what’s needed most in the moment—the best way for you to help?”

“These are great sorts of questions for us to consider. And as we look for answers to them, one of the first places we should look is the Bible. Sometimes, our questions are answered exactly how we’re asking the question. Other times, we can’t find our exact question anywhere, but that doesn’t mean the Bible can’t help us discover something about how we should respond to those questions. In fact, the moments we discover in the Bible can help us process all of our questions and learn who God is and how God wants us to live. Let’s check out one of those sorts of stories today.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: *(to volunteer holding bucket)* “Oh, but before we jump into the story, how are you holding up? Do you need any help? *(Pause for response.)*

If volunteer needs help, call up two volunteers to support the one holding the bucket.

COMMUNICATOR: “Great. Now, you might remember from last week, but God freed the Israelites from slavery and led them out of the land of Egypt. Their journey into the desert was fraught with difficulties. Food and water were in short supply at times, but God came through and provided for their needs.

“During this time in history, many cities were fortified with thick walls and large gates protecting the people from raids or invasions. But the Israelites were traveling through the area. They didn’t even have a permanent home of their own, much less a fortified city. This left them exposed to attacks from their enemies. Before long, that’s exactly what happened.



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"In the Book of Exodus, we read that Moses led the Israelites to Rephidim. In this area was a fierce nomadic tribe known as the Amalekites. They were some bad dudes! Part of their livelihood was raiding other settlements or large groups of people. The Amalekites were seasoned warriors accustomed to battle and known for their cruelty in war. To contrast, the Israelites may have been a very strong people, but they had very little experience in war. Plus, the Israelites were tired and travel-worn from the journey. When word traveled to the Amalekites that a large caravan of Israelites was passing through, the warriors felt like it was a perfect opportunity to invade.

"And the Amalekites did just that! They attacked. When this occurred, you might be wondering how Moses reacted. Did he take up arms and lead the charge?

Communicator pulls a toy sword and drops it in the large bucket.

"Did he grab a sling shot from his shepherding days and a bag full of rocks?

Communicator drops a small bag of rocks into the bucket.

"Moses did none of that. The Israelites' leader, Moses, did something odd. Check out what he said.

Open the Bible to Exodus 17:9 (NIRV) and read.

"Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men. Then go out and fight against the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill. I'll stand there holding the walking stick God gave me.""

"Yes, you heard that correctly. While Joshua and his best fighting men went to face the enemy, Moses would stand above them holding up a walking stick.

"Now let's pretend for a moment [Name of volunteer holding bucket] is no longer helping me by holding this bucket. Rather, he is the leader of God's people during their march across the desert and goes by the name of Moses. Imagine this bucket is no longer a bucket full of random objects. Instead, suppose this is Moses' walking stick. It's the same staff he raised to split the Red Sea and used to strike the rock so water would pour out of it. This stick has no special powers. Rather, it is a tool God used to perform miracles. Everyone say, 'What's up, Moses?' (Pause for response.)

"While Joshua led the army onto the battlefield, Moses traveled to the top of the hill with a couple of helpers named Aaron and Hur. Anybody out there want to join us on stage to serve as Aaron and Hur? (Pause for response.)

Communicator chooses a couple volunteers to stand on either side of the volunteer holding the bucket. If the volunteer gets tired of holding the bucket before this moment, bring up the volunteers sooner.

"Everybody say, 'Hey, Hey, Aaron and Hur!' (Pause for response.) So, picture these three individuals arriving at the top of the hill. Moses was holding onto his staff as he looked across the battlefield. Something interesting happened as Moses held up his staff.

Open the Bible to Exodus 17:11 (NIRV) and read.



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“As long as Moses held up his hand, the Israelites were winning. But every time he lowered his hands, the Amalekites began to win.

Communicator directs volunteer holding bucket to demonstrate the following.

“If his arms were up, they were winning! (Demonstrating) But eventually Moses ran out of strength. And when his arms got tired, the Amalekites started to dominate on the field. (Demonstrating) But Moses was not alone on the top of that hill. When Moses got tired, Aaron and Hur found a stone and placed it under Moses to sit on.

Communicator grabs a chair for the volunteer holding the bucket. Communicator directs volunteer to sit on the chair.

“As Moses sat, Aaron and Hur held up Moses’ arms to prevent the walking stick from dropping down.

Communicator directs the two additional volunteers to hold up the hands of the one with the bucket.

“The scene remained like this until sunset! When this happened, Joshua and the Israelites were able to overpower the Amalekites and win the battle! Let’s give a round of applause for all of our volunteers!”

Communicator dismisses all three volunteers.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: *“This is an incredible story. God chose to use Moses, Aaron, and Hur to help Joshua and the rest of the men on the battlefield. I often wonder if Joshua or the Israelites knew what was happening above them and how important Moses, Aaron, and Hur were to what was happening on the battlefield. I doubt those who were fighting would have glanced up in the heat of the battle to notice when Moses’ arms were up or down! Imagine the outcome if Aaron and Hur left Moses to go fight when the Israelites started losing. Or picture what would have occurred if Aaron and Hur just stood back and watched Moses struggle. None of this happened because they decided to work together. And God worked with all of them to do something miraculous.*

“I love how NONE of the people did what they did to make themselves famous. They were simply trying to help someone else succeed. Which goes back to our question about playing the supporting role. In life, we should also look for ways to help others succeed. Doing so could mean we don’t get any praise or any credit for our contribution.

“Maybe for you this looks like helping your little brother understand addition and subtraction on his math homework, even when it’s not your grade. It could mean tossing a baseball with your friend to help them warm up for their game when you don’t even like baseball. It could mean you and your sister help your dad mow the lawn when he’s away on a work trip.

“One time Jesus said,

Open the Bible to Matthew 7:12a (NIRV) and read.

“In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you.”



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25 MINUTES

“Working together for unselfish reasons is a great way to show someone you love them. In other words, you should **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated.**”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Working together for someone else is not always convenient or easy. But it is a great way to show someone you love them! As we get ready to meet with our Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

“**Who do you work well with?** Who are the people who you know will rise to the occasion and give their best? It could be a friend at school or maybe even a member of your family. You’ll chat more about this in small group and discover more about how you can work with others to help others. Before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for the people in our lives who can help us make a big difference for others! Let’s pray.”

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