



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### HOST

- **DIGITAL GAME**

### 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.

### STORRY SUPPLIES TBD by COMMUNICATOR

- Microphone
- Table
- Sheet or tablecloth
- Signs with the following printed or written on them:
  - Cheer!
  - Say Aww!
  - Say Nooo!
  - Cry uncontrollably
  - Play the chimes
  - Ooh
  - Ahh
  - Fake sneeze
  - Everyone, applaud!
  - Open the SOUNDS Box
  - Shoes on Hands, Make Footsteps!
  - Whip the Dowel Rod – Whoosh!
  - Punch the Flour Bag – Thump!
  - Break the Celery – Crack!
  - Use the Comb Kazoos
  - Drip the Water
  - Hit the Gavel
- Wind chimes or toy xylophone
- Four rubber chickens that squawk when you squeeze them
- Small empty box with removeable lid
- Four pairs of boots or hard-soled shoes
- Dowel rod
- Bag of flour
- Several stalks of celery
- Combs
- Wax paper
- Bowl of water
- Cup
- Gavel

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **SUMMER IS HERE!!!!**
- **MAKE WAVES Ñ** What you do today can change the world around you
  - All month long, we will be talking about what it would look like if we could **CHANGE** the world around us
  - To **MAKE WAVES** means that we are being intentional about what we do each day because it can have bigger effects than we could ever imagine
- **BACKPACK DRIVE ANNOUNCEMENT VID**
- **Baptisms**  
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.
- 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 WEEKEND** June 19th **DURING THE 9A SERVICE** and learn more, let your **SGL** know.

### MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - Never Gonna Stop Singing & Let Go

**Week 2 - This is Living & Graves Into Gardens**

Week 3 - The Best Is Yet to Come & Who You Say I Am

Week 4 - Real Love & Waymaker



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy**  
The Apostles Are Treated Badly  
Acts 5:17-42

**TODAY'S KEY QUESTION**

What are things that  
bring you joy?

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

Choose joy no matter  
what's going on.

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

"The fruit the Holy Spirit  
produces is love, joy and peace.  
It is being patient, kind and good.  
It is being faithful and gentle and  
having control of oneself."  
Galatians 5:22-23a, Nlrv

**MAKE WAVES**

What you do today can  
change the world around you.

**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:**

**AUDIO: THIS IS LIVING**

**AUDIO: GRAVES INTO GARDENS**

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 is happening culturally or currently, the latest video game or movie launches, and so on. Host tells them how excited they are 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 enters wearing sunglasses and sunscreen on his or her nose and holding a beach ball.

**HOST:** "Hey, friends! welcome back to [name of environment]! It's summer, it's sunny, and if you can't get to the beach, we'll bring a bit of the beach to you!"

Hit the beach ball out to the large group, have them hit it around for a bit, then ask that they hit it back to you.



WEEK  
**TWO**  
JUNE 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“No matter what’s going on outside these doors—rain or shine, good days or bad—today, right now, we’re choosing joy. Joy! We’ve got all kinds of fun planned for you this morning! Who’s ready to jump in? It’s time to play “Beach Ball All-Play!”

**SLIDE: “BEACH BALL ALL-PLAY!”**

*Have the other adult leaders enter with a crazy number of beach balls. Divide the large group up into groups of 10-12 kids. NOTE: The following includes three games. Feel free to play however many you can as time allows.*

“The first Beach Ball All-Play is what we like to call Beach Ball Bounce House! Once you’re in your teams of ten or twelve kids, form a circle. We’ll toss a beach ball in the middle of that circle, and it’s your job to try to keep it up off the floor by hitting it. After 10-seconds, we’ll add a second beach ball. Ten seconds later, a third one. We’ll keep adding beach balls for a full 60-seconds, meaning you’ll have seven beach balls at the end!

“Your job is simple. Keep them off the floor. Ready? Set? Go!

**OPTIONAL VIDEO: 60-SECOND COUNTDOWN**

**AUDIO: UP TEMPO BACKGROUND MUSIC**

*Play the game. Call out every 10-second increment and have a Small Group Leader add the subsequent beach balls to the groups. Once each team has seven beach balls total, let the game go for an additional 15-seconds. Once time is finished, gather the beach balls.*

“That’s what I’m talking about! Let try another one! This one is called the Up and Over, Down and Under! This is for everyone, so stay in your teams.

“Line up, relay style, front to back. We’ll put all seven beach balls at one end of your line, and it’s your job to get them to the other end. However, you have to pass them in a specific way: first person passes the beach ball up and over their head and the second person grabs it. The second person then has to pass it down and under, between their legs, and the third person grabs it. Third person is up and over, fourth person is down and under, all the way until the ball reaches the end of the line!

“You can’t start the second beach ball until the first has made its way to the last person. When it does, the last person shouts ‘Beach Ball GO!’ to start the second one. It’s a race, but we’re not caring who wins . . . just go as fast as you can! Ready? Set? Go!

**AUDIO: UP TEMPO BACKGROUND MUSIC**

*Play the game. Once all teams are done, collect the beach balls at the front.*

“Last one, and it’s just because I want to see if we can do it. Let’s have everyone get in a huge circle, break up your teams, and make it wide! We’re throwing ALL of the beach balls in the middle. Let’s see how long we can keep all of them up for 60 seconds! Let’s go!



WEEK  
**TWO**  
JUNE 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

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

10 MINUTES

**OPTIONAL VIDEO: 60-SECOND COUNTDOWN**

**AUDIO: UP TEMPO BACKGROUND MUSIC**

*Enjoy the madness for a full 60-seconds. Once the timer goes off, get a hold of the group, gather the beach balls, and continue.*

“Whew! Sometimes you have to have a little bit of fun, right? Guarantee when you choose fun and joy, you forget about everything else—which is what I’m hoping you did for the last ten minutes!



WEEK  
**TWO**  
JUNE 2022

LARGE GROUP  
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**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

25 MINUTES

## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey all, hope you’re having a great start to June—I know I am! But even if things aren’t going the best, I hope we can all figure out how choose joy, no matter what. Not the easiest thing in the world, for sure, but I want to try. Even on the worst days . . . and I’ve had a few ‘worst’ days.

“What about you? I’m guessing you’ve had a few horrible days now and then. Instead of hearing all of you tell your stories of horrible days, we’re going to try a quick creative improv game. It’s called One Sentence Story Time.

*Choose seven volunteers and have them line up in front.*

“We’ve got our storytellers ready to go, and here’s how it works: we’ll start at one end of this line, and the first person will start a story about a horrible day . . . but only one sentence of it. Then the next person will pick up the story, adding a sentence of their own. Then the third, and fourth, and then we’ll loop around until the whole story is told! The only thing you have to remember is that the story has to be about a really bad, horrible, no-good, very bad day . . . and appropriate to talk about at church! OK, let’s try it!”

*Play the improv game. Kids will undoubtedly jump right to people in their story dying, getting hurt, zombies, fires, the most off-the-wall stuff! Just encourage them to try to stick to a story, rather than a bunch of random events. And have fun with it!*

*Once getting to a good spot, you can jump in with “The End!” to finish off the game, or have one last volunteer end with a conclusion sentence.*

*Continue by repeating the most outlandish and ridiculous things that were said during the game.*

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Ok, so yeah, that was a pretty bad day, especially when [add part of the story] happened. Can’t say that’s ever happened to me, but if it ever did . . . yikes.

“So, to put this in perspective, let’s say that you did actually have a day like that. I mean, maybe not totally literally, but a really bad day nonetheless. Nothing going right. Everything is difficult. Everything’s a crisis. You’re not happy.

“In those situations, on those kinds of days, how in the world do you find joy? When you look around, there’s no joy. None. It’s all bad! Nothing good! When life is difficult and you don’t feel happy, how do you find joy?”

“This is a tricky question but definitely one worth figuring out! This is a great question to consider and look for guidance in the Bible. All sorts of people experienced moments that were difficult but found a way to have joy. Let’s check out one of those stories to help us out this morning.”

### TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Today we head to the book of Acts. Acts is the fifth book of the New Testament that talks all



WEEK  
**TWO**  
JUNE 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

about how the message of Jesus spread throughout the world at the time. We've got a great story to help us out. And since I love making a mess, let's get crunchy, sticky, sloppy, slappy, crashy, smashy, sing-y, and squishy with it. Might be fun! Let's dive in!

*Remove the sheet and reveal the table of items to make sound effects.*

"We'll also need a group of three or four people to help out. You're also going to be our 'crowd' noises. Who'd like to volunteer?"

*Choose three or four outgoing volunteers and have them stand around a microphone. Each sign you hold up will either be an instruction for the small group to use items on the table to make a sound or for them to audibly make the noises.*

"Fantastic! Anytime I hold up a cue card with something on it, either do it or say it in the mic. It's all you! Can we test it out?"

*In quick succession, hold up the "Cheer" sign, the "Say Aww" sign, and the "Say Nooo!" sign.*

"Great job! Take turns, be creative, and let's have some fun!"

"The story begins on a really horrible day.

*Hold up the "Say Nooo!" sign again.*

"It was the day that Jesus was crucified. His friends, His family, His followers, they all felt like this was it. It's over. Everything Jesus taught, everything He preached, it was done. Kaput. Fin. Everything's over but the crying.

*Hold up the "Cry uncontrollably" sign.*

"Plus, who would follow a dead guy? He's, like, dead.

"However, God had other plans. It wasn't but a few days later that the lives of Jesus' friends were flipped completely upside-down. By the power of God, Jesus rose from the dead. He appeared to more than 500 people over the next 40 days before returning to heaven.

*Hold up the "Play the chimes" sign.*

"Ah, heaven. So beautiful."

*Hold up the "Play the chimes" sign again.*

"Jesus, though, didn't leave the people all alone to fend for themselves. He sent them a helper. An advocate. The Holy Spirit—His very own Spirit. God Himself.

*Hold up the "Ooh," sign, followed by the "Ahh" sign.*



WEEK  
**TWO**  
JUNE 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

"You see, the Holy Spirit would fill God's followers with power. Jesus even said as much.

*Hand one volunteer the Bible, open the Bible to Acts 1:8 (NIV) and have them read it aloud.*

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other.*

"Jesus sent His very own Spirit to help His followers tell the world about Him. Pretty cool stuff. On the day of Pentecost, God's Spirit filled these brand-new believers with boldness and joy. They told everyone about Jesus and were so excited about it that their joy was contagious!

*Hold up the "Fake sneeze" sign.*

"Okay, not THAT kind of contagious. The kind where everyone wanted to know more about this Jesus guy and more about what kind of salvation they were preaching about. It was so incredible that 3,000 people chose to follow Jesus that day. This one's for the whole group!

*Hold up the "Everyone, applaud!" sign.*

"Well, as is often the case in these kinds of Bible stories, there was a group of religious leaders who didn't like this. At all. They didn't agree that Jesus is God, and they didn't want anyone to follow Him. The problem was that the 3,000 new followers of Jesus now started talking about Jesus to others. And not only that, they started living their lives differently, too! They shared their lives, their food, their homes, even their animals!

*Hold up the "Squeeze a rubber chicken" sign.*

"They had lots of chickens, apparently.

*Hold up the "Everyone squeeze a rubber chicken" sign.*

"The Spirit of God was so strong with Peter and the other apostles that even people who were sick were made well! Completely healed! One man who couldn't walk . . .

*Hold up the "Open the SOUNDS box" sign.*

**AUDIO: "I'VE FALLEN" SFX CLIP**

". . . was totally healed right at the temple gate. A huge crowd came running when they heard about it.

*Hold up the "Shoes on Hands, Make Footsteps" sign.*

"Well, the religious leaders really didn't like that. At all. They called the guards to arrest them! The guards came in, grabbed Peter and John, and they might have roughed them up a bit.

*This next sound effect is a bit involved, and has multiple parts to it. It is fine to take time to explain to the volunteers what to do, then have them practice and execute it.*



WEEK  
**TWO**  
JUNE 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

*Hold up the "Whip the Dowel Rod – Whoosh!" sign.*

*Then hold up the "Punch the Flour Bag – Thump!" sign.*

*Then hold up the "Break the celery – Crack!" sign.*

*Have the volunteers practice a few times to get the timing down – a whip/whoosh followed immediately by a thud and a "crack" of bones breaking.*

*Then have the volunteers do about three or four of these.*

*"(after each sound effect) Ah! Oh! Oof! Ugh! The guards threw Peter and John in jail, and they were kept there overnight.*

*"So, overnight, they sat in prison. There were probably bugs . . .*

*Hold up the "Use the Comb Kazoos" sign.*

*The volunteers need only press the combs wrapped in wax paper to their lips and make a high-pitched "do do do" into it, the result will be like a kazoo.*

*"Other people in the prison might have been getting beaten . . .*

*Hold up the "Whip the Dowel Rod – Whoosh!" sign.*

*Then hold up the "Punch the Flour Bag – Thump!" sign.*

*Then hold up the "Break the celery – Crack!" sign.*

*"Oww! And even in the silence there was the slow drip, drip, drip, of water.*

*Hold up the "Drip the Water" sign.*

*"Even in the jail, Peter and John weren't discouraged. They still held on to the joy that Jesus had given them.*

*"The next day, Peter and John were brought in front of the religious leaders. They honestly didn't know what to do with Peter and John. The religious leaders commanded them not to speak in this dead guy Jesus' name.*

*"Peter simply responded, 'Ok, well, who are we going to listen to? You, or God? That's not even a contest. We have to talk about the things we've seen and heard!'*

*"The religious leaders were equally confused and impressed by these two men, and they eventually decided to let them go. The other believers were overjoyed and praised God for their release from prison. Plus, Peter and John and the other believers didn't listen to the religious leaders and kept on talking about Jesus anyway. And they met hundreds of people. And healed even more.*





WEEK  
**TWO**  
JUNE 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

"During all of these events, the number of people who followed Jesus had grown from 3,000 to 5,000! Everyone, make some noise!

*Hold up the "Everyone Applaud!" sign.*

"The religious leaders were really put off by these followers of Jesus. So, some time later, they arrested Peter and John and ALL of the disciples. And threw them in jail. Again. And again, there were probably bugs . . .

*Hold up the "Use the Comb Kazoos" sign.*

"Other people in the prison might have been getting beaten . . .

*Hold up the "Whip the Dowel Rod – Whoosh!" sign.*

*Then hold up the "Punch the Flour Bag – Thump!" sign.*

*Then hold up the "Break the celery – Crack!" sign.*

"Good grief, that hurts! And again, in the silence, there was the slow drip, drip, drip, of water.

*Hold up the "Drip the Water" sign.*

"But Peter, John, and the rest didn't get discouraged, Instead, they prayed. Then, all of a sudden, an angel of the Lord appeared right in the middle of the jail!

*Hold up the "Play the Chimes" sign.*

"Then something miraculous happened. Even though the jail gates were locked, even though everything was shut up tight, the angel opened the doors and led everyone out into the open, outside the jail.

*Hand one volunteer the Bible, open the Bible to Acts 5:19-20 (NIV) and have them read it aloud.*

*"But during the night an angel of the Lord came. He opened the doors of the jail and brought the apostles out. "Go! Stand in the temple courtyard," the angel said. "Tell the people all about this new life."*

"The next morning, the apostles did just that. They went right back to the temple courtyard and kept on telling people about Jesus. Meanwhile, the religious leaders sent the guards to the jail to pick up the apostles they threw in there the night before . . . but they weren't there! The high priest demanded to know what was going on!

*Hold up the "Hit the gavel" sign.*

*Hold up the "Open the SOUNDS box" sign.*

**AUDIO: "COME HERE!" SFX CLIP**

"They were brought in front of the high priest who asked them just what they thought they were doing after he had



**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

25 MINUTES

told them not to preach or teach about Jesus. He thought they were trying to make the religious leaders look bad!

“Peter and the other apostles answered very simply.

*Hand one volunteer the Bible, open the Bible to Acts 5:29-32 (NIRV) and have them read it aloud*

*“Peter and the other apostles replied, “We must obey God instead of people! You had Jesus killed by nailing him to a cross. But the God of our people raised Jesus from the dead. Now Jesus is Prince and Savior. God has proved this by giving Jesus a place of honor with him. He did it to turn Israel away from their sins and forgive them. We are telling people about these things. And so is the Holy Spirit. God has given the Spirit to those who obey him.”*

“Then a leader named Gamaliel stood up and asked the apostles to be taken out of the room.

*Hold up the “Shoes on Hands, Make Footsteps” sign.*

“He addressed his fellow leaders.

*Hand one volunteer the Bible, open the Bible to Acts 5:35-39 (NIRV) and have them read it aloud.*

*““Men of Israel,” he said, “think carefully about what you plan to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared. He claimed he was really somebody. About 400 people followed him. But he was killed. All his followers were scattered. So they accomplished nothing. After this, Judas from Galilee came along. This was in the days when the Romans made a list of all the people. Judas led a gang of men against the Romans. He too was killed. All his followers were scattered. So, let me give you some advice. Leave these men alone! Let them go! If their plans and actions only come from people, they will fail. But if their plans come from God, you won’t be able to stop these men. You will only find yourselves fighting against God.”*

“The speech convinced the leaders to let all of the apostles go . . . but not before they called them in one more time.

*Hold up the “Hit the gavel” sign.*

*Hold up the “Open the SOUNDS box” sign.*

**AUDIO: “COME HERE!” SFX CLIP**

“They told them not to speak in Jesus’ name again. And after that . . . they were released.

*Hold up the “Everyone Applaud!” sign.*

“But even that didn’t stop them. In spite of their punishment, the apostles were STILL filled with joy. They continued to share the story of Jesus everywhere . . . and more and more people believed!

“Let’s give a big round of applause to our volunteers!”



WEEK  
**TWO**  
JUNE 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

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

25 MINUTES

### APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Jail. Twice, in fact. Getting dragged in front of the high priest and whipped? That doesn’t sound like a dream vacation, but the apostles kept their joy throughout the whole thing! How is that even possible?”

“If you think about it, they had a lot to be joyful about. God had raised Jesus from the dead. He sent His very Spirit to live inside each of His followers. The Holy Spirit helped them to teach, spread the good news, and heal people. He led and guided them! Amazing!”

“Do you remember the question I asked at the beginning? How in the world do you find joy when you’re having just the worst day? My answer was that you can’t—at least not by yourself. But you can find joy with Jesus, thinking about all He has done, that will start you on the path to finding that joy. Just like these apostles, you can CHOOSE to have joy, even in the direst of circumstances. And just like these apostles, the Holy Spirit lives inside of you. And He can help you choose joy.”

“Whatever’s going on with you, you can choose to have joy. I’m not saying you have to smile all of the time, especially when life is difficult. Being sad is totally okay. But choosing joy means you don’t let the situation you’re in ruin everything. Maybe your friends aren’t being as kind as they usually are. Maybe you get embarrassed at recess. Maybe you fail a subject at school or you don’t get picked for the team. It’s difficult, but you can choose joy in any of those tough situations! And you can also ask the Holy Spirit to help you choose joy. He will!”

### LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

#### SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

**“What are things that bring you joy?”** True joy, not, ‘Wow, this bite of pizza is really good,’ joy. Deep happiness, satisfaction, contentment, or that bubbly kind of smile that you can’t help but plaster all over your face. What things do that? If you’re not sure, that’s ok, too. You’ll have a chance to talk about the ways you can find joy, even life is hard. Before you head out, let’s talk to God. Let’s pray and ask God to help us choose joy, no matter what is happening around us. 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**