

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Have a Little Faith in Me

David and Jonathan

1 Samuel 18-20, 2 Samuel 9  
(Supporting: 2 Samuel 4:4)

### HOST

- 2 NERF GUNS
- 20-30 CUPS

### STORRY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- 26 containers of various sizes, all with lids (jars, boxes, containers)
- Table
- Snoring (provided)
- Angelic Ahh (provided)
- Thwip, Thunk, Ow!, Thud (provided)
- Children Yay! (provided)
- Harp Gliss (provided)
- Swish Thunk! (provided)
- Evil Laugh (provided)
- Slide Whistle Down (provided)
- Thwip, thwip, thwip (provided)
- Party Sounds (provided)
- Dun Dun Dun (provided)
- Dream Harp (provided)
- Door Knock (provided)
- Tremolo Strings (provided)
- The End (provided)

### 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

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

- 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

- 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.

**We got to celebrate that today. HOW AMAZING!!**

If you think you'd like to talk more about that, let your leader know and we can get info to your families.

#### MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

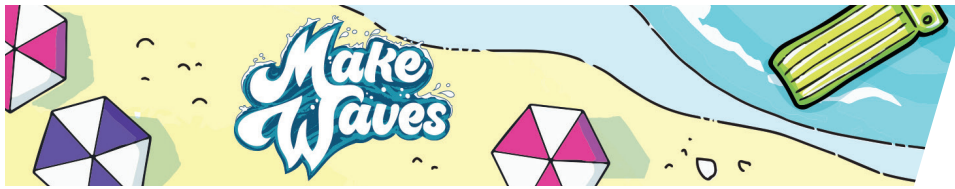
Week 1 - This is Living & Good Grace

Week 2 - Let Go & Graves Into Gardens

Week 3 - Never Gonna Stop Singing & Who You Say I Am

Week 4 - Real Love & Waymaker

Week 5 - The Best Is Yet to Come & Good Grace



WEEK  
**THREE**  
JULY 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

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WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Have a Little Faith in Me**  
David and Jonathan  
1 Samuel 18–20, 2 Samuel 9  
(Supporting: 2 Samuel 4:4)

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you be someone  
people can count on?

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be faithful so others  
can count on you.

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God began a good work in  
you. And I am sure that he  
will carry it on until it is  
completed. That will be on  
the day Christ Jesus returns."  
Philippians 1:6, NIV

## MAKE WAVES

What you do today can  
change the world around you.

## 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: NEVER GONNA STOP SINGING**

**AUDIO: WHO YOU SAY I AM**

Host enters riding a tricycle. Host can start the welcome and scripted parts of the script as they ride around the room and up to the stage.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)**

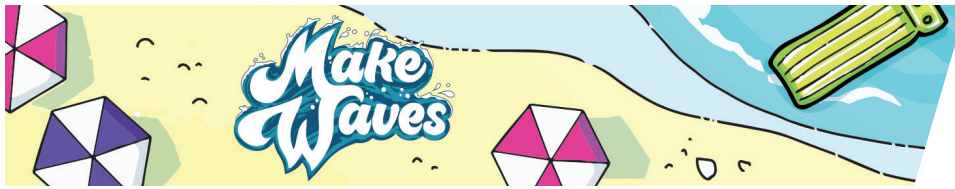
**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## 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 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:** "Good morning! It has been a minute since I rode one of those! I loved riding tricycles when I was a little kid! And as I grew up, summertime was all about the bike. I couldn't wait to hop on mine and ride around the neighborhood with my friends. This got me thinking . . . let's play a game with a trike.



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10 MINUTES

"If you've been here before, you know that one thing you can count on every week is that we'll try something pretty ridiculous that will pit teams of kids against each other in a no-holds-barred competition. Today is no exception.

"So . . . today . . . I give you . . . NERF OR NOTHING!

**SLIDE: "NERF OR NOTHING"**

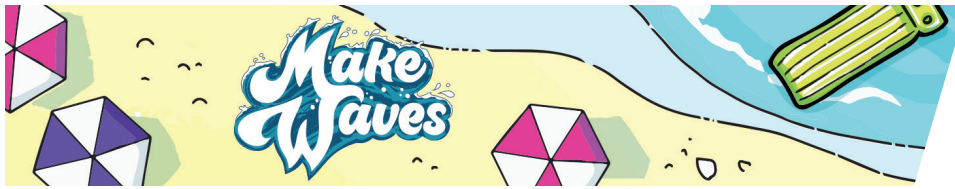
"In this version of the game... We will have two teams. Guys vs. Girls.

One teammate will be responsible for stacking cups as high as they can, while the other person is trying to shoot down the other teams tower of cups.

The team that has the most cups still standing after 60 seconds wins.

If arrows have been shot and you need to pick them up, you must grab them and step back to your "spot" before shooting again.

\*\*\*PLAY MULTIPLE ROUNDS IF THERE IS TIME



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## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*As Communicator comes out, bring out the dry erase board and set it up towards center stage.*

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hello, everyone! Question for you as we get started today: do you ever think about friends and friendship? Think about your own. Maybe you have a huge group of friends you hang out with. Others might only have a few close friends. And some of you might say that you have one best friend and only a few people you like hanging out with from time to time. I’ve found that as I’ve gotten older you end up with only a few friends who you’d tell your biggest secrets to without worrying whether or not they’d blab them to others. Even now, I’m totally ok with having only a few close friends, especially because I know my friends are people I can trust with anything!

“What about you? What kinds of things make for a really good friend?”

*Take responses from the Large Group and write them on the board.*

“Excellent responses. Now for the flip-side. When are friends not so great? What are characteristics of a friend you might want not want to hang out with?”

*Take responses from the Large Group and write them on the board.*

“Yeah, if I knew someone like that I think it’d be hard to be friends with them, too.”

*Use the answers on the board to set up the tension.*

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Let’s look at these lists for a bit. When you compare them to each other, they’re almost opposite, right? (*Use positive traits from the board.*) On one hand people who are kind and generous might listen to your problems, help you when you need it, and keep their promises.

“On the other hand, (*Use negative traits from the board.*) people can let you down. They can ‘forget’ to invite you to their party. They talk behind your back. They ghost you when you need a listening ear, and break their promises.

“In short, ‘good’ friends are people you can count on for things. This probably isn’t new information to you. Even at your age, you know the difference between good friends who have your back and not-so-good friends who don’t. We know which one we should be for others, but my question to you this morning is this: how come we often don’t choose to be that sort of person—a person who can be counted on?”

“Maybe you are an incredible friend: You say what you mean and mean what you say. You are kind and thoughtful to other people. You the type of person that other people can count on. Or maybe you’re the opposite of that. Or maybe you’re not the worst sort of friend, you just don’t always choose to treat others the way you want to be treated.

“Either way, we can all learn how to be people who others can count on. But I guess the next question is HOW do we do that? How can we—more often than not—become someone who other people can rely on? On top of that, WHY is it such a big deal to be true to your word?”



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“These are definitely great questions to think about, and thankfully we can discover some answers when we crack open this. (*Hold up the Bible.*) This book is full of truth, written by people who experienced God firsthand. It’s the coolest form of time travel, when you think about it—we’re learning and experiencing things that happened thousands of years ago! Let’s check it out!”

### TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Today, our questions take us to a story about two guys you might have heard before you’ve been around [Name of Environment]: David and Jonathan. Now, if you haven’t heard of these two or think you might have but don’t quite remember, that’s totally fine. We’ve got you. But get ready, these guys are incredible when it comes to the friend-game!”

*Walk over to the table with the jars, boxes, and containers.*

“And like [Name of Host] said earlier, one thing you can count on when you’re here at [Name of Environment] is that we’ll tell their story in a very, VERY memorable way. I just need everyone in the room to NOT do this while I’m telling the story.

*Open a container, it doesn’t matter which one.*

### AUDIO: SNORING

“That would be great, thanks. Let’s dive in!”

*If you want, you can ask kids to come up and open the containers themselves! Simply choose a volunteer when prompted in the script, and they can choose any container to open.*

“Two boys. One named Jonathan, one named David. Jonathan was the son of King Saul, and David was an ordinary kid from Bethlehem, the youngest of eight brothers. King Saul made some pretty bad choices with how he reigned. God wanted a change and sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem to choose a new king from a whole new family one who would reign after Saul—and wouldn’t you know it, the prophet Samuel chose David to be the next king of Israel!”

*Open another container.*

### AUDIO: ANGELIC AHH

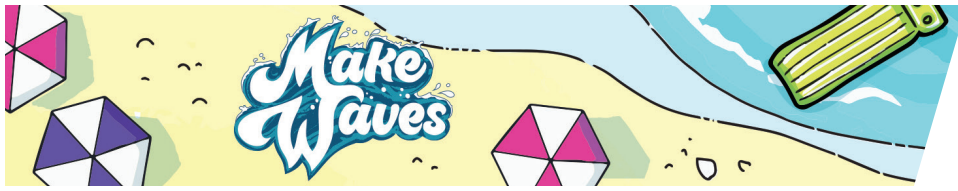
“Soon after, this teenage shepherd from Bethlehem found himself standing in front of a huge giant named Goliath on a battlefield . . . and David trusted God and defeated him with a slingshot!”

*Open another container.*

### AUDIO: THWIP, THUNK, OW, THUD

“David’s victory over Goliath helped the Israelites defeat the Philistines, and King Saul was so impressed that he invited David to live in the palace and lead his large army. And that, my friends, is where David and Jonathan met.

“David showed up to the palace and met with the king. Check this out:”



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*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 18:1a (NirV) and read.*

*“David finished talking with Saul. After that, Jonathan and David became close friends.*

*“Basically, after David finished talking with King Saul, he got to hang out with Jonathan. They were instant friends, the kind of friends that after you meet for the first time you knew you were going to get along. Has anyone ever met someone like that? You just instantly click? Yeah, me too!*

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 18:2-3 (NirV) and read.*

*“From that time on, Saul kept David with him. He didn’t let him return home to his family. Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him just as he loved himself.*

*“Now, a covenant is like a pledge, a bond, or a promise. Jonathan thought David was so cool he even gave him a bunch of gifts!*

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 18:4 (NirV) and read.*

*“Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David. He also gave him his military clothes. He even gave him his sword, his bow and his belt.*

*“He gave him, like, a TON of stuff.*

*“These two boys. Thick as thieves they were. They hung out every chance they got! Meanwhile, David was doing everything the king asked of him. And he did it so well that the king gave him a high rank in the army. This made everyone happy, because David was so well-liked not only by Jonathan, but all of the officers in the army as well.*

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: CHILDREN YAY!**

*“Jonathan loved him, the officers and the army loved him, even the all of the people of Israel loved him! They danced and sang songs about him in the streets!*

*“‘King Saul has killed his thousands, but David has killed his ten thousands!’ they sang.*

*“The only problem with this was that King Saul was . . . well . . . let’s just say that he was the jealous type. He didn’t appreciate the people he ruled over praising David more than him.*

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 18:8-9 (NirV) and read.*

*“That song made Saul very angry. It really upset him. He said to himself, “They are saying David has killed tens of thousands of men. But they are saying I’ve killed only thousands. The only thing left for him to get is the kingdom itself!” From that time on, Saul watched David closely.*

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 18:10-11 (NirV) and read.*



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*"The next day an evil spirit sent by God came powerfully on Saul. Saul began to prophesy in his house. At that same time David began to play the harp, just as he usually did.*

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: HARP GLISS**

*"Saul was holding a spear. He threw it at David.*

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: SWISH THUNK!**

*"As he did, he said to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall."*

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: EVIL LAUGH**

*"But David got away from him, not once but twice. Can you imagine what King Saul's son was feeling? His dad was trying to kill his best friend because he was jealous! Saul was even telling his own son and all of his attendants to kill David. Fortunately for David, Jonathan didn't listen.*

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 19:2-3 (NirV) and read.*

*"Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan liked David very much. So Jonathan warned him, "My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be very careful tomorrow morning. Find a place to hide and stay there. My father and I will come and stand in the field where you are hiding. I'll speak to him about you. Then I'll tell you what I find out."*

*"Jonathan headed off his dad and started telling him great things about David. He begged him not to go through with what he was thinking. He reminded his father about how David helped with Goliath—and that David wasn't guilty of anything. Jonathan asked him.*

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 19:5 (NirV) and read.*

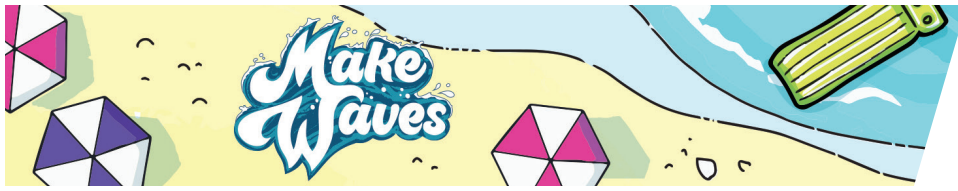
*"Why would you want to kill him without any reason?"*

*"And because of that conversation, Saul made a promise. He said,*

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 19:6 (NirV) and read.*

*"You can be sure that the Lord lives. And you can be just as sure that David will not be put to death."*

*"Jonathan told David everything Saul said, and they both thought the situation was over. Done. Settled. But unfortunately, Saul didn't keep his promise. No, no, no he didn't.*



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“War broke out, again, and again, David went and fought bravely in the battles. He returned to find King Saul, sitting on his throne, and David decided to play his harp again for him.

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: HARP GLISS**

“Saul was holding a spear. Again. He threw it at David! Again!

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: SWISH THUNK!**

“And as before, David escaped that night. Saul sent men after him, watching his house, waiting for David to make a move . . . but David, with the help of his wife Michal, gave them the slip. Michal even did the whole dummy in the bed with a goat-hair wig trick to fool Saul’s men! David escaped through an open window.

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: SLIDE WHISTLE DOWN**

“Time and time again, Saul tried to either capture David or kill him outright . . . and each time David escaped. David ran and ran, and finally met up with Jonathan. The two friends hunkered down and talked about David’s horrible situation.

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 20:1-2 (NirV) and read.*

“David said, “What have I done? What crime have I committed? I haven’t done anything to harm your father. So why is he trying to kill me?”

“Jonathan loved his friend and knew that he had to help him. He told David that it would never happen. His father would never succeed.

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 20:1-2 (NirV) and read.*

““You aren’t going to die! My father doesn’t do anything at all without letting me know. So why would he hide this from me? He isn’t going to kill you!”

“Jonathan vowed to do anything David wanted him to do, to make sure he was safe.

“Then David and Jonathan came up with a plan.

“The plan was simple. Jonathan was to go back and try to find out what his father was planning—if he had good feelings toward David or if he still had homicidal feelings toward David. The way he would find out is to watch King Saul’s reaction to David skipping out on a New Moon feast, a celebration held at the King’s palace. If Saul was okay





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with David missing, everything would be fine. However, if Saul got angry that David was missing, then Jonathan would know Saul still wanted to kill David.

“Jonathan told David to hide in a field behind a large stone and that he’d signal him by shooting three arrows.

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: THWIP, THWIP, THWIP**

“He’d then shout a command to the boy picking up the arrows that only David and he would recognize. If he said, ‘The arrows are on this side of you,’ it was safe. If he said, ‘The arrows are far beyond you,’ it wasn’t and David had to flee.

“David begged Jonathan not to turn him over to his father. Jonathan said he would never do that—and in turn, Jonathan begged David to always remember to be kind to his family . . . even though his dad was acting the fool. They made these promises to one another and set their plan in motion. David hid in the field while Jonathan attended the feast.

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: PARTY SOUNDS**

“The feast was a big celebration, but David’s seat was empty. Saul finally spoke up after David was missing from the feast for two days and asked:

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 20:27 NIV) and read.*

“‘Why hasn’t the son of Jesse come to the meal? He hasn’t been here yesterday or today.’

“Jonathan made up a story to see how Saul would react. And Saul . . . got . . .

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: DUN DUN DUN**

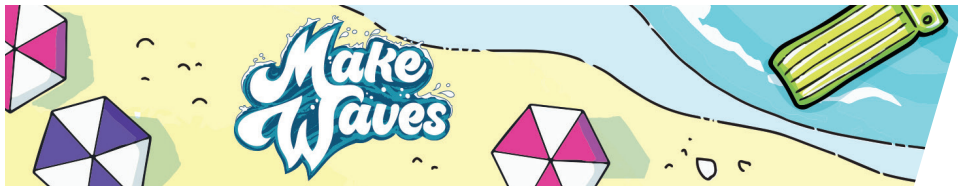
“. . . REALLY MAD So mad that he accused his own son of treason! He said that his mother should be ashamed of even having a son like him! He even picked up a spear and chucked it at Jonathan’s head!

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: SWISH THUNK!**

“I guess Jonathan got his answer, huh? He was furious with his father. He couldn’t even believe it. The next morning, Jonathan went out and shot three arrows by the large rock where David was hiding.

*Open another container.*



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**AUDIO: THWIP, THWIP, THWIP**

“He then gave the secret signal, ‘They’re far beyond you!’ to the boy retrieving the arrows. That was it. David knew he had to run away.

“David came out from behind the stone and bowed low before Jonathan, crying. He knew their friendship wouldn’t be the same. He’d always be hunted. He had to go hide. The last thing Jonathan said to David was this:

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 20:42 (NIRV) and read.*

“‘Go in peace. In the name of the Lord we’ve promised to be friends. We have said, ‘The Lord is a witness between you and me. He’s a witness between your children and my children forever.’ Then David left, and Jonathan went back into town.”

“Now, let’s fast-forward in time . . .

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: DREAM HARP**

“That’s right. Many years passed. During this time, Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle. Jonathan had a son himself named Mephibosheth, who was only five when his father Jonathan died. His nurse picked him up and was fleeing but accidentally dropped him, injuring his feet and making it difficult for him to walk for the rest of his life. Mephibosheth basically lived in hiding, though, knowing the new king might want him dead, too. But one day, an unfamiliar knock came at Saul’s servant’s, Ziba’s, door.

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: DOOR KNOCK**

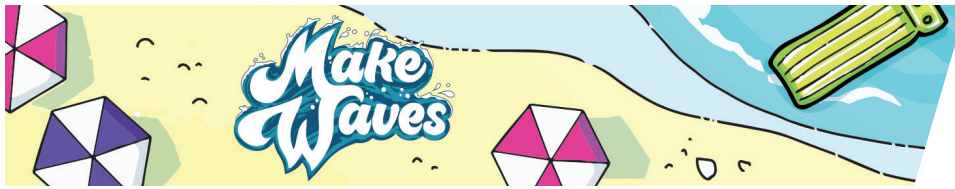
“It was a messenger of David’s. David was king now and had been for several years. He remembered the promise he made to always be kind to Jonathan’s family . . . and he was going to make good on that promise. David called Ziba to him. David wanted to know if there was anyone left from the royal house of Saul—meaning he was looking for any relatives still alive who was related to the former king. Ziba told him that Jonathan’s son still lived . . . but he was permanently injured and couldn’t walk. David had Mephibosheth brought to him.

“When Mephibosheth saw David, he fell to the ground and bowed low to show him respect. David called out his name, ‘Mephibosheth! Don’t be afraid!’ And then David said something that was, in all accounts, truly, truly amazing.

*Open another container.*

**AUDIO: TREMOLO STRINGS**

“David gave Mephibosheth back all of the land that belonged to Saul. He promised to take care of every single need that he had, no matter what it was. David restored all of King Saul’s land to Jonathan’s son.



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“He then commanded Ziba and all of his sons and servants (Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants) to now serve Mephibosheth. Farm his new land. Bring in the crops. Treat him like one of the King’s sons.

“David faithfully cared for Mephibosheth and his family for the rest of their lives . . . and fulfilled the promise he made years ago to his best friend.

“The end!”

**AUDIO: THE END**

### APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “What an amazing story, right? David and Jonathan were faithful friends throughout the worst of circumstances. Can you imagine if you had a friend like David? Or even a friend like Jonathan? Or imagine if you could be a friend to someone else like David or Jonathan were friends to each other! Faithful and loyal to the very end. Like Steve Rogers was with Bucky. ‘I’m with you to the end of the line.’ Or Samwise with Frodo in Lord of the Rings.

“The truth is that with God’s help we can absolutely be that kind of friend to others. An easy way to start is to try talking to them and not about them. Speak well of people when they’re not there. But also, be faithful to them. Keep your promises and don’t flake out. Keep confidences when your friends trust you with things.

“Being a faithful friend simply means that you show others that you can be counted on. And honestly, we don’t have to look much further than Jesus. Jesus was faithful to the job God had for Him. He is faithful in His love for us. Jesus proved we can trust God no matter what. We can always count on God in all things—even to help us be faithful friends to the people in our life.”

### LANDING

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

**SLIDE: KEY QUESTION**

**How can you be someone people can count on?** Think about your friends, your close friends, right now. What can you do to show them that 1) they’re valuable, and 2) you can be trusted and counted on? How can you focus on them, listening to what they need, instead of always fighting for what you want? How can you find the strength to step out of the way and support them in whatever they need?

“You’ll talk more about this with your Small Group, but before you head out, let’s pray and ask God to help us be faithful to the people in our life. 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**