



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Unforgetful You

Abraham and Isaac
Genesis 15:1-6; 18:1-15; 21:1-7

HOST SUPPLIES

- Two volunteers
- Solo cups
- Air cannon
 - Large trashcan
 - Plastic sheet like a shower curtain
 - Tape or bungee cords
- Blade to cut a hole in the trashcan
- Up to three tables or buckets

STORY SUPPLIES

- Two caramel-covered apples
- Two aged, shriveled apples
- Two aged, apples with carved faces
- Three wads of cotton candy
- One small slice of apple
- Table
- Carving knife
- Lemon juice
- Salt
- Water
- Bowl
- Prop box
- Week 1 Timeline Image, printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room

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

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Jesus I Will Trust You" from *This Love*, "Over and Over" from *Everything to Me*, and "What I Choose" from *Make a Move*)
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotional for Kids
Parent Cue App



WEEK
ONE
SEPTEMBER 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Unforgetful You

Abraham and Isaac
Genesis 15:1-6; 18:1-15; 21:1-7

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you had to wait for something big?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Trust God even when you have to wait.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding."
Proverbs 3:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Trust—Putting your confidence in someone you can depend on

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:

AUDIO:

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 (Random Acts of Kindness Day, National Wildlife Day, Read a Book Day, Salami Day, Eat an Extra Dessert Day, Labor 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: "Welcome, one and all to the greatest place to be north (or south) of the Equator. Distinguished guests, you are about to witness a sight never seen before in the four walls of [Name of Environment]! Our team has found a way to harness one of nature's most powerful elements. Its natural movement has powered massive ships, destroyed millions of "good hair days," and has kept generations entertained by lifting kites up to the highest heights. That's right! We have found a way to tame the wind!



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"Anyone want to STEP RIGHT UP to the stage to test this brand new, air-muzzling technology? (Pause for response.) Glad to see so much interest!

Host selects two volunteers and brings them to the stage.

"These two volunteers will use this massive air cannon to knock over solo cups in a game we like to call Impossible Air!

SLIDE: "IMPOSSIBLE AIR"

"In the audience, we have solo cups placed on upside down buckets at various distances. To make this work, you'll aim the air cannon at the closest solo cup, hit the back of the trashcan, and attempt to knock over the closest solo cup with a burst of concentrated air. Once you knock over the closest, you'll attempt to knock over the solo cup just beyond the first one. When the second cup falls, you will get a chance to knock over the furthest or the impossible cup! The person to knock over the most cups in 30 seconds wins. Make sense? (Pause for response.) Great! Let's play Impossible Air!

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Host allows the first volunteer to attempt the game. Each person should have approximately 30 seconds to knock over the cups. If both volunteers knock over all the cups, the person to knock over all the cups the fastest wins.

"Wow! This was an incredible display of accuracy and concentration! Both of you would strike fear in the hearts of any carnival employee looking for contestants! However, there can only be one Impossible Air winner! Let's give both of our volunteers a round of applause for their efforts. (Pause for response.)

Host dismisses both volunteers.



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “What’s up? I’m really excited for THIS DAY to finally arrive. All the other days of the week are good, but I really look forward to days like this when we can have some fun and learn more about God.

“Maybe it’s just me, but I’m not good at waiting. When we bake cookies, the minute we add the chocolate chips to the dough, my mouth starts to water. I still struggle to sleep the night before my birthday! Knowing I’ll see my out-of-town bestie soon, the clock seems to s-l-o-w d-o-w-n! Does anybody else know what I’m talking about? (Pause for response.)

Communicator tells a personal story about a time they had to wait a long time for something special. The following is an example of how to edit the script with your own story in mind. If you choose to use this as a hypothetical situation, choose a theme park or entertainment venue that’s close to you and relevant to the kids in your community.

COMMUNICATOR: “When I was about seven years old, my parents gave us a really special present at Christmas. We unwrapped a small box with several admission tickets to one of the most exciting places on earth—Universal Studios! You’ve got to understand that I was raised on classic cartoons like *Transformers*, *Despicable Me*, *The Incredible Hulk*, and *Amazing Spider-man*. The idea of going to the home of these characters blew my mind. I would get to ride on ALL the best rides!

“However, there was a catch. We weren’t hopping in the car to head to Orlando that day . . . or even that week. In fact, my parents gave us admission tickets to Universal Studios THREE ENTIRE MONTHS before the actual trip. THREE MONTHS! That felt like a LITERAL eternity away. It was 2,190 hours of waiting. It was 131,400 minutes of pacing! It was 7,884,000 seconds of absolute torture! For three months, all I could think about was Universal Studios. It felt like the trip would never come. No doubt I was the most annoying child on this planet because I would ask them ‘Can we go yet?’ at least four times a day! That’s approximately 364 times for those counting.

“But you know what? The vacation finally came, and we got to see it all. It was worth the wait, but the wait was SO hard!”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Every single one of us has had to wait for something exciting! It could have been waiting for the upcoming soccer league to start or waiting for your best friend’s birthday party over the weekend. Alright, here’s a question for you to think about quietly to yourself. How many of you would say you enjoy waiting? (Allow moment for reflection.) If I were to guess, I’d say that not many of you like to wait.

“Exciting events are awesome, but waiting for them can leave us frustrated and annoyed. If we aren’t careful, it’s easy to completely lose our patience by screaming, hollering, and having a general freak out moment! Others of us may try to distract ourselves by playing lots of videos games or hiding our little sister’s toys behind the couch. Each of us have stories where we acted impatient while waiting for something awesome to happen.

“But have you ever wondered what it would look like to patiently wait even if you’re really, really excited? In [Name of Environment], we talk about trusting God. It can be easy to trust God when everything is going well. When times



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are rough or require patience, it can be more difficult to lean on God because we want it now! What would it look like to trust God when we have to wait? Is God even trustworthy if we have to wait? How can we make sure we're trusting God and waiting well?

"Those are some good questions we get to explore today. Remember, when you have a question, one of the first places we should look is the Bible. The people who wrote the different books in the Bible were each inspired to write down their experience with God so we could learn from them and get to know God for ourselves. Let's find out what we can learn from the Bible about trusting God when we have to wait."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "In the very first book of the Old Testament, Genesis, we learn God created a universe that was good—the stars, moon, and galaxies, all of it! Earth was formed with green plants, animals of all sizes, oceans, vast plains, high mountains, and deep valleys. God made humans and breathed life into them. However, that goodness ended when sin entered the world. People disobeyed and turned away from God; everything wasn't as good and perfect as it was before. But God still loved people and had a plan to make everything good again. Eventually, God's plan included these people.

Communicator pulls out two caramel-covered apples to represent Abraham and Sarah.

"There was a man named Abram who married a woman named Sarai—God later changed their names to Abraham and Sarah. They settled with their entire family in a town called Haran. This is Sarah and this is Abraham!

"It's unclear how long they lived in this town, but it's safe to say they aged a bit together.

Communicator puts away the two caramel-covered apples and pulls out two old, shriveled apples.

"As they grew old together, it was without growing their family, because they were unable to have kids. Last week, we talked about how God called Abraham, at the age of seventy-five, to leave their home, family, and country to go to an unknown destination in a foreign land.

Communicator puts away the two shriveled apples and pulls out two aged apples with faces carved into them.

"Eventually, Abraham and Sarah traveled to the land of Canaan where they grew even older. Still, they had no children together, but God made him a promise.

Open the Bible to Genesis 15:5 (NIV) and read

"The Lord took Abram outside and said, 'Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can.' Then he said to him, 'That's how many children will be born into your family.'"

"Even though Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were old enough to be great grandparents, God promised that one day they would have a child—a son.

"For years after this, Abraham and Sarah waited and wondered. Would God really send them a brand-new baby boy at their age? Finally, at the ripe, old age of ninety-nine, Abraham met with God at the entrance of his tent.



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Communicator places the two apples on table facing the audience. Communicator pulls out three wads of cotton candy to represent the three strangers. Communicator references the different foods when describing the following.

"In that moment, Abraham noticed three strangers standing nearby and eagerly showed them hospitality. Abraham encouraged them to rest under a shade tree and got them water so they could refresh and wash their feet. After offering the men food, Abraham asked Sarah to make some bread from scratch. A servant was instructed to prepare a young cow for a feast. The three strangers were given the food with milk and butter under the big shade tree.

"As the men ate, Sarah listened at the entrance to the tent. This is when she heard one of the strangers say something that got her laughing. He said,

Open the Bible to Genesis 18:10 (NirV) and read.

"I will surely return to you about this time next year. Your wife Sarah will have a son."

"Sarah laughed at the thought. She recognized both she and Abraham were old—too old to have a baby.

"However, God knew Sarah's thoughts and said to Abraham,"

Open the Bible to Genesis 18:13-14 (NirV) and read.

"Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'Will I really have a baby, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for me? I will return to you at the appointed time next year. Sarah will have a son."

Communicator puts away the three visitors and pulls out a small apple slice.

"As promised, Sarah did get pregnant and eventually delivered a son at the exact time God had promised. The two were beyond excited. Because Sarah had laughed at the thought of having a child in her old age, the two named their baby Isaac, which means one who laughs! Through this small child, Abraham and Sarah's family would grow really, really big.

Communicator puts away all the apples.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Both Abraham and Sarah knew the feeling of waiting for something really exciting. Despite their old age, God promised the couple a son. They had to wait a long time for God's promise to come true. In fact, when God told them they would have a son, they thought it was impossible. This is the reason Sarah laughed at the thought of her having a baby!

"Crazy enough, we read in Genesis that Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born! Trusting God in this situation would have been super difficult. However, nothing is impossible for our God. Just as God promised, Isaac was born.

SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE

SLIDE: WEEK 1 TIMELINE IMAGE



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If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"And the whole world was and is blessed through Abraham's family. Much later, God's plan would continue when another baby, named Jesus, would be born through Abraham's family line, and Jesus changed everything.

"Every person knows what it feels like to wait. We live in a fast-paced, ever-changing world where the food is served fast, phones operate off high-speed 5G networks, and online orders offer same day delivery. Nobody likes to wait! The truth is, though, we're going to have to wait for things. Your family may have to wait for the doctor's test results to see why your grandparent isn't feeling well. After your tryouts, you'll have to wait to see if you made the dance squad. After asking God for help, we may have to wait for a response.

"But even while you're waiting, you can trust God is still there and God still cares about you! The story of Abraham and Sarah reminds us that God is still trustworthy even when we are feeling impatient. God loves each one of us and doesn't abandon us while we wait!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "There are many people and things we might try to place our trust in while we wait. However, there will be nothing more trustworthy and more reliable than God! As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"When have you had to wait for something big? What did you learn about God during that time? What did God teach you about yourself? If you're not sure how you'd answer those questions, don't worry! You'll have a chance to chat about all of this and more with your Small Group. Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us wait well. After all, we can trust God no matter what. 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