



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Liquid

Isaac's Wells
Genesis 26:1-22; 26-31

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How do you react when things don't go your way?

HOST SUPPLIES

- Two Small Groups
- Plastic cups for each person in the two selected Small Groups
- Large container full of foam balls or ping pongs

STORY SUPPLIES

- One volunteer
- Host
- Four small foam balls or ping pong balls
- One plastic cup
- Four large buckets or trashcans
- Carnival barker costume (Optional)
- Week 2 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 ("I Trust in You" from *Every Beat*, "Over and Over" from *Everything to Me*, and "Trust You With My Heart" from *This Love*)
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
TWO
SEPTEMBER 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Liquid
Isaac's Wells
Genesis 26:1-22; 26-31

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How do you react when things don't go your way?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Trust God no matter what.

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 (Puss in Boots: The Last Wish), a viral video on YouTube, holiday (Teddy Bear Day, Make Your Bed Day, Chocolate Milkshake 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: "Hey! Hey! Hey! Of all the places on earth to hang out, each of you found your way into [Name of Environment], and I couldn't be more excited! My name is [Name of Host], and there are three things in life I love most: throwing things, catching things, and winning when throwing and catching things! A couple of our Small Groups will get to step right up and do all three right now! Let's kick this day off by playing a brand-new game we like to call Super Catch!



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SLIDE: "SUPER CATCH"

Any Small Groups want to play? (Pause for response.)

Host selects two Small Groups and instructs them to gather approximately 10' from the stage. Host passes out a plastic cup to everyone in both Small Groups. Small Groups need to be equal in number.

"Awesome! Now, each Small Group needs to send up one volunteer to the stage who can accurately toss a ball. (Pause for response.)

Host welcomes a volunteer from each Small Group to the stage.

"To play Super Catch, our volunteers on the stage will be tossing small foam balls one at a time toward their Small Groups. Our volunteers holding the plastic cups will attempt to catch the foam balls being tossed by their teammate using only their cups! If a foam ball lands in your cup, sit down where you are at and leave the foam ball in your cup. If a ball misses your cups and lands on the ground, leave it! One of our leaders will retrieve it. After 60-seconds, the Small Group with the most kids sitting down wins! Make sense? (Pause for response.) Great! Let's play Super Catch!

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Host facilitates game. Host makes sure no one catching the foam balls uses their hands/arms/etc. Host directs additional Small Group Leaders to retrieve the foam balls that don't land in a cup.

"Incredible! To both our Small Groups, well done! Who knew this room was full of so many folks who can catch foam balls with plastic cups? I know I didn't! Great job to all our participants! Give a loud and rowdy congratulations to both groups! (Pause for response.) However, one team outperformed the other and will be crowned the Super Catch winner. The winner is pretty obvi! Let's give the winner a good, ol' air five on three. One, two, three! (Pause for response.)

Host dismisses volunteers and exits



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everybody! When I was younger, I loved the fall because it always brought the County Fair into town. Sure, the rides were sketchy and the food was greasy, but I didn’t care. It was a place for my friends and me to run free and have fun. My favorite part of the County Fair were the carnival games where you had the chance to win those really big stuffed animals that NOBODY WINS! Does anybody know what I’m talking about? (Pause for response.)

“Today I want us to play a classic carnival ball toss game with a [Name of Environment] twist called TOSS THAT BALL. I’ve asked a semi-professional carry to join me on stage to run the game.”

Host enters stage in full circus attire and speaking the entire time with circus/carnival language.

HOST: “HURRY, HURRY, HURRY! We need one person to STEP RIGHT UP, STEP RIGHT UP to play a SUPER EASY GAME! DON’T BE SHY! Any takers? (Pause for response.)

Host selects one kid and brings them to the stage. Host is holding a ball and the small cup.

“The game is simple, I say. Take this ball . . . this very ordinary ball . . . and toss it into that cup. You have four tries to get the ball into that very normal plastic cup. That’s right, you heard me correctly. You’ve got FOUR tries! It’s SUPER EASY! Don’t over think it. Just toss it in! Easy peezy, lemon squeezy. If you can get at least one ball into the cup, you’ll walk away with one of the most underwhelming prizes IN THE WORLD! Any questions? (Pause for response.) Good. Great! Let’s TOSS THAT BALL!

Host places the small cup across the room making the task difficult. Host continues to encourage the volunteer to complete the SIMPLE task with each miss.

“Tough luck kid! I had higher hopes for you! Keep your chin up. Here’s a trinket for your efforts. Maybe next time!”

Host hands small prize to volunteer. Host directs volunteer back to their seat and exits.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s give a round of applause for our brave volunteer. (Pause for response.) I was under the impression the game was going to be easy, but TOSS THAT BALL turned out to be MUCH more challenging. I mean, the goal WAS easy: toss the ball in the cup. But achieving the goal was actually really difficult.

“Kind of like life, right?! We walk into situations thinking they will be a cinch, but they turn out to be much more difficult! You started this school year thinking it would be a breeze until you learned your best friend is moving to another state. That’s really hard! You walk into the football game confident but leave the game early with a painful injury. This is NOT the outcome you wanted! Difficult situations occur unexpectedly all the time. When they happen, where do you go for support? Who do you trust during hard situations? Friends? Your parents? A teacher? And what about God? When you’re getting thwarted in difficult situations, how do you trust God?



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"Sure, it's easy to trust God when life is smooth! When you score the big shot, pass the hard test, or learn your aunt's cancer is in remission, it isn't difficult to trust God! But it's a much different story when you're facing a serious situation. Some of us may turn inward and retreat from others. Some may distract ourselves by staying busy with sports. Some may go straight to our best friends. But what if we really trusted and talked to God even when life becomes difficult?"

"Wow. That's a big question. Thankfully, we have a big book full of other books that can offer us some help. You probably know that I'm talking about the Bible. The Bible is full of all sorts of different writings that show us how God was faithful to so many people. They trusted God. God inspired them to write down what they learned so we can trust God too. Let's check out this one story right now!"

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Our story is found in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. God created an amazing world, but sin entered. People turned away from God and went their own way. If you were here last week, we heard about a really old guy named Abraham. God promised to bless the world through Abraham's family. Although he had no kids with his wife, Sarah, God promised Abraham would have more kids than stars in the sky. And sure enough, God eventually blessed the couple with a son named Isaac despite being old enough to be great-great grandparents!"

"Today, let's see what happened to Isaac as he grew up and had a family of his own. Would anybody be willing to play Isaac in our story? *(Pause for response.)*

Communicator calls up one volunteer to play Isaac.

"Everybody say hello to Isaac. *(Pause for response.)* Isaac's family lived on the plains between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea. When Isaac planted crops, God blessed him by giving him a hundredfold! This meant lots and lots of crops! The increase in crops allowed Isaac to grow his wealth. In other words, Isaac was loaded.

"At this time, a person's wealth was not kept in banks. Rather, if you were considered wealthy, it was because you had lots of crops, flocks, herds, and servants, and Isaac had plenty. To maintain his wealth, Isaac needed access to good, clean water. Because of his father, Abraham, and God's blessing on their life, Isaac and his family had some really great wells!

Communicator directs the volunteer to the back of the room to stand next to bucket #1.

"Everything was going great! Their crops were abundant. Their livestock were growing. Life was good.

"Isaac's family shared the area with a tribe of Philistines. Because of his wealth, the Philistines grew jealous of Isaac and began to cause some major problems."

Host enters, stands next to bucket #1 and does his best barker impression.

HOST: "STEP RIGHT UP! STEP RIGHT UP! Any willing Philistines want to push out the most powerful man in the land? ISAAC HAS GOT TO GO! HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!"

Host exits.



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COMMUNICATOR: "The Philistines filled up all of Isaac's water wells with dirt causing them to become useless. In case Isaac didn't get the message, the king of the Philistines told Isaac,"

Open the Bible to Genesis 26:16b (NirV) and read.

"Move away from us. You have become too powerful."

"Isaac was wealthy with plenty of men who could stand up to the Philistines and fight! But Isaac decided to trust God with their future and moved to a new home in the Valley of Gerar.

Communicator directs volunteer and host to move and stand by bucket #2.

"One of the first orders of business was finding water. Isaac's father dug wells in the valley, but they were filled in by the Philistines after Abraham died. With a lot of sweat and effort, Isaac was able to reopen the old wells and find fresh water! Once again, life was good until someone challenged Isaac."

Host enters and stands next to bucket #2.

HOST: "STEP RIGHT UP! STEP RIGHT UP! CLAIM THESE WELLS! Anybody other than Isaac? HURRY! HURRY! HURRY! IT IS FRESH WATER!"

Host exits.

COMMUNICATOR: "Other herdsmen in the valley claimed the water was their own and disputed with Isaac's men."

Open the Bible to Genesis 26:20a (NirV) and read.

"But the people of Gerar who took care of their own herds argued with the people who took care of Isaac's herds. 'The water is ours!' the people of Gerar said."

"Instead of fighting, Isaac once again trusted God would provide, packed up the family and moved further down the valley.

Communicator directs volunteer to move and stand by bucket #3.

"Once again, Isaac's family found a place to call home. And after digging another well, God helped them find lots of fresh water. But it wasn't long after that more Philistine herdsmen came over to claim the water."

Host enters and stands next to bucket #3.

HOST: "HURRY! HURRY! HURRY! COME KICK OUT THE INTRUDERS! COME CLAIM THIS FRESHLY DUG WELL! STEP RIGHT UP! STEP RIGHT UP! ISAAC HAS GOT TO GO!"

Host exits.

COMMUNICATOR: "As some of you might have predicted, Isaac again trusted God, packed up his family, and relocated one more time."



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Communicator directs volunteer to move and stand by bucket #4.

"You all know the routine by now. Isaac's crew dug new wells and settled in a new area. However, this move was different. No Philistine challenged Isaac. In fact, the opposite occurred. The Philistine King came for a visit. He told Isaac,"

Open the Bible to Genesis 26:28 (NIV) and read.

"We saw clearly that the Lord was with you. So we said, "There should be an agreement between us and you. We want to make a peace treaty with you. Give us your word that you won't harm us. We didn't harm you. We always treated you well. We sent you away peacefully. And now the Lord has blessed you.""

"In response, Isaac provided a feast."

Host enters and stands next to bucket #4.

HOST: "HURRY! HURRY! HURRY! COME GET SOME FRESH WELL WATER AND GRUB! GET IT WHILE IT'S HOT! STEP RIGHT UP! STEP RIGHT UP!"

Host and volunteer exit.

COMMUNICATOR: "The next morning, the men swore an oath to keep the peace between the two groups."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Wasn't Isaac's story interesting? There was a season when life was going pretty well. The crops were sprouting! The livestock herds were growing! The neighbors were peaceful. However, three different times, Isaac was forced to pack up his family and everything he owned to move."

SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE

SLIDE: WEEK 2 TIMELINE IMAGE

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

"That would have been really hard! Yes, Isaac could have fought back and resisted the Philistines! However, this could have caused an ongoing conflict between the Isaac and the Philistines. Instead, Isaac trusted God no matter what. As a result, the Philistine King showed up to make peace!"

"Isaac's story reminds me to trust God even when I face difficulties. I doubt your neighbors will force you out of your house because they want your water, but you might get sick before the piano recital. Your science test might prove to be more difficult than you prepared. The hardships you face matter, and how you respond in those moments matters, too. It's so important during our toughest times that we can trust God in ALL situations. We can turn to God when we don't know what to do! We can turn to God when we don't know what to say! Your situation might not turn around as quickly as you'd like, but God will be with you and can comfort you with love throughout it."



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"In [Name of Environment], we believe there is no person or thing more important than God! One of the best reasons you can trust God is because God sent Jesus for you and me! When you put your faith in Jesus, it shows that you trust God!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "God never promises life will be easy even if you put your faith in Jesus! However, God does promise to never leave you. As we wrap up large group, we want you to think about this one question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"How do you react when things don't go your way?" What does it mean to trust God in those situations? These might be difficult questions for you to answer. That's ok. How to trust God is something we learn throughout our entire lives! I'm still learning it, too! You'll talk more about all of this in Small Group, too. As we head there, let's pray and ask God for help working together with 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