

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Float On

Moses Is Born  
Exodus 2:1-10  
(supporting: Exodus 1)

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you helped  
solve a problem?

### HOST SUPPLIES

- Long length of rope and poles for Rope Course (See "What You Do")
- Two ropes of length (about 8 feet each) with a carabiner tied on each end. (Used to rescued teammates)

### STORY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Volunteer to be Miriam
- Clear plastic tub with water (for boat float challenge)
- Three plastic sandwich bags each filled with the following supplies (or similar):
  - Five popsicle sticks
  - A small amount of tape
  - Five paper clips
  - A binder clip
  - Four playing cards
  - Three rubber bands
- Three eggs
- Week 3 Timeline Image, printed on cardstock from

### 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 ("Live Your Love" from *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, "I Can Do All Things" from *At the Top of My Lungs*, and "Who You Say I Am" from *Who You Say I Am* single)  
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

# CLIFFHANGER

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WEEK  
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OCTOBER 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Float On

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Exodus 2:1-10  
(supporting: Exodus 1)

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you helped  
solve a problem?

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Hold on even when you  
don't know what to do.

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Let us not become tired of  
doing good. At the right time  
we will gather a crop if we  
don't give up."  
Galatians 6:9, NIV

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

Grit—Refusing to give up  
when life gets hard

## 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, 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:** "What's going on, friends? We've had a great month so far, and I have a feeling today will be equally awesome. Life is an adventure that needs a good dose of grit to get through sometimes. Thankfully we don't do it alone. We've been learning how God can give us the strength to keep going, no matter how many cliffhangers we face. Now, I think we need another adventure game to kick us off this morning! Let's play a game called The Great Rope Rescue!

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## **SLIDE: THE GREAT ROPE RESCUE**

"First of all, I need two Small Group Leaders to help hold our giant rope wall.

*Call up two volunteers and have them stand, each holding one side of the rope wall (see What You Do below).*

"Awesome. Now that we have the rope all in place, I need two teams of six!

*Call up volunteers and put them in two groups on opposite sides of the rope wall. The teams can be smaller or larger, based on the size of your group. Introduce players to the rest of the group as necessary.*

"Alright this will be fun. So I need one person from each team to move to the opposite side of the rope wall. (One person moves). When I say go, you are going to clip this rescue harness around your waist and climb through the rope wall. A member of your team will then clip into the other side of the rescue harness. You will now be clipped together to the same rope. You will then go BACK through the rope wall together. The first team member will unclip and stay, while the other team member goes BACK through the rope wall to rescue another team member. Trade off who goes back through the wall each time to rescue all of the remaining member. The group that wins is the group that gets every member through the wall and drops the harness on the ground first. Got it? I can't wait for this! On your mark, get set, go!

## **AUDIO: FUN GAME MUSIC**

*Play until there is a winner.*

"(After the game) That was crazy intense! What a game. You all did amazing. I would count on you for a wilderness rescue any day! Alright, time to stand together and worship our amazing God!"

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## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Communicator enters*

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Hey, friends! So glad to see everyone here today! It's already been a really fun start to the morning. And we're about to level up. I need three teams of two!

*Pick six volunteers and bring up on stage.*

*"(Uncovering clear plastic tub of water) Don't worry! You shouldn't get wet. SHOULDN'T . . . unless something goes terribly wrong, of course, because I have a challenge for each team. In just a moment, I will hand you a bag of minimal supplies. You will then have three minutes to build a boat that can carry an egg without sinking. The goal is to see which team's egg can stay up the longest without sinking. Make sense? Alright, remember—as soon as you are handed the supplies, the time begins. And GO!*

**AUDIO: FUN BACKGROUND MUSIC**

*Hand each team a bag of supplies and start the timer.*

*Intentionally be sure to give each group their supplies in a plastic sandwich bag. Without giving hints, they might figure out that they can use this bag as one of the supplies. Commentate during the three minutes.*

*"(At the end of time) And stop! Okay, let's take these boats for their maiden voyage. When I say go, each of you will place your boat in the water side by side. You have a second to adjust it, but when I say hands off, you need to let go. It is sink or swim from there . . . literally.*

*Commentate on the floating boats. If all the boats are holding the egg, create waves in the water until all but one sinks. After declaring a winner, if no group used the plastic sandwich bag, show them how they could have blown air into the bag to make a raft for the egg to float on.*

*"(After the competition) That was so fun!"*

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "I loved watching as you all really worked hard and came up with some good options to solve that problem! You all seemed to find a solution that could at least kind of work pretty quickly. Unfortunately, not every problem has an easy solution. Sometimes we face situations where we seem to try every solution imaginable but nothing seems to work. How do we respond in those moments? Or maybe the problem seem so massive that any solution feels too small and insignificant to fix the problem. We want to give up, but how can we show up? How can find the grit we need to trust God, keep going, and discover the best way forward? Wow. Those are some big questions, some that maybe you've asked yourself recently.

"Thankfully, when we have big questions, we have a place where we can turn for some big answers: the Bible. Since the beginning of this school year, we've seen how the Bible is God's Big Story that shares how much God loves us

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and made a way for us to find life through Jesus. And in the Bible, we get to hear from people who experienced God first hand and were inspired to write down those moments for people to experience God for themselves—including you and me! And lots of people mentioned in the Bible faced some problems of epic proportions. They weren't sure what to do, but God showed up! Let's check out one of those moments right now."

## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Today's story gets us right into the middle of this question! We get to see firsthand someone who certainly looked like they were out of options. Now you might remember that over the last two weeks we've been following the story of Joseph. Long before Joseph, God had made a promise to a man named Abraham that He would make his family into a great nation. Well, that in itself was quite a challenge, and it took several generations and overcoming a LOT of problems, but eventually Joseph and his whole family, seventy in all, were safe down in Egypt where they could grow and thrive, even in the midst of the worldwide famine.

"Well, the years went by, and that family of seventy grew and grew . . . to the point where we read that there were so many of them they filled the land! There were LOTS of Israelites! This is great, right? Well, it depends on your perspective. You see, for the Israelites, this was obviously a good thing. God had kept the promise to Abraham. God was actively preserving and helping Abraham's descendants to grow and be successful. But how might the king of Egypt feel about this? For Pharaoh, the king, it made him very nervous. He thought, 'They could all turn against me if they wanted to and then I'd be in real trouble.'

"So Pharaoh chose to enslave God's people and made life horrible for them. He even came up with a plan, the most horrific plan, to start reducing the numbers of Israelites living in his land. He was going to eliminate all of the young boys that were born. Terrible, right? It was in the midst of this awful decree that the person God chose to rescue the Israelites was born. Let's check it out.

*Open the Bible to Exodus 2:1-3 (NIV) and read.*

*"A man and a woman from the tribe of Levi got married. She became pregnant and had a son by her husband. She saw that her baby was a fine child. And she hid him for three months."*

"Now, we don't see any names here, but later on in Exodus we learn the names. The man's name is Amram, and his wife's name is Jochebed. And their baby's name was? Anybody?"

**MIRIAM:** *(offstage)* "Moshe! Or Moses as most of you all would say . . ."

*Miriam enters in biblical dress. She is feisty with a little bit of a New York city attitude (good-spirited).*

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Umm . . . hi?"

**MIRIAM:** "Hey-lo. Pleased for you to meet me. I'm Miriam. Charmed."

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Oh yes, Miriam, Moses' sister!"

**MIRIAM:** "I think you mean that Moses was MY brother."

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**COMMUNICATOR:** “(Confused) “Well, okay then. Did not know you’d be here.”

**MIRIAM:** “Most everything in my life has been pretty surprising.”

**COMMUNICATOR:** Well, since you’re here, I’d love to hear your account of how all of this went down. We were just talking about Pharaoh’s decree.”

**MIRIAM:** “Shh, shh, shh, we don’t talk about that. Never talk about that. It was awful. What that man did . . . did his mother not teach him any manners? It was a terrible time for our people. I was young, but I still remember it. My mom and dad told me they were having a baby, but then when the baby was born, it was a boy. (Serious) We knew what it meant to be born a boy in Egypt in those days.”

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Wow. Well, we just read about how your family tried to hide him for three months. What was that like?”

**MIRIAM:** “Like trying to hide an elephant during a game of hide and seek, amiright? It was very hard. Moshe was not the quietest of babies . . . still isn’t.”

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Okay, let me keep reading here and then maybe you can fill us in on what it was like.

*Open the Bible to Exodus 2:3-4 (NIV) and read.*

*“After that, she couldn’t hide him any longer. So she got a basket made out of the stems of tall grass. She coated the basket with tar. She placed the child in the basket. Then she put it in the tall grass that grew along the bank of the Nile River. The child’s sister wasn’t very far away. She wanted to see what would happen to him.”*

**MIRIAM:** “I mean, exactly. Wouldn’t you want to see what would happen?! Your baby brother is surfing down the river in a homemade picnic basket? No, but in all seriousness, my mom was scared. But I will never forget how much she trusted that God would take care of Moshe even if she couldn’t anymore.”

**COMMUNICATOR:** “That’s a lot of faith. So tell us what you saw.”

**MIRIAM:** “Well, just then, Pharaoh’s daughter herself—can you believe it—was down bathing at the river. And I’m watching and thinking, ‘Oh no, she’s going to see the basket!’ And surely enough, she did. I was scared, I’ll tell you. I mean, this is Pharaoh’s daughter! Her dad is the very guy who started this whole thing! What if she is just like him? What if the apple didn’t fall from tree? What if the nose didn’t fall far from the sphinx, so to speak?”

**COMMUNICATOR:** “That’s an image to behold. Anyway, what happened next?”

**MIRIAM:** “She had compassion. She felt sorry for Moshe. She knew that it was one of the Hebrew babies. And that was when I knew I needed to say something.”

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Weren’t you scared? I mean, this is STILL Pharaoh’s daughter.”

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**MIRIAM:** "Yeah, I was, but at the same time, I believed God was giving us a solution to our problem, and I needed to keep going even if I wasn't exactly sure how. So I asked Pharaoh's daughter if she wanted me to go get one of the Hebrew women to care for the baby she had just found."

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Wait, like, you mean your mom?"

**MIRIAM:** "Yep. Pretty brilliant, right? I went and got my mom and told her the greatest news ever. You know how you just sent your infant son down the river in a basket to try and spare his life? Well, he is coming back to you at the request of Pharaoh's daughter, and she is actually going to pay you now to care for him!"

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Only God, right?"

**MIRIAM:** "Only God."

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Hey, all, would you give Miriam a hand and thank her for sharing her story?"

*Miriam exits as kids clap.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** "What an incredible story. And do you know what Moses' name means? It means 'drawn out' because Moses was drawn out of the water. It is amazing how God used Miriam to help take a situation that seemed pretty hopeless and actually turn it around for good."

**SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE**

**SLIDE: WEEK 3 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.*

## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "There was certainly no way for Jochebed, Moses' mom, to know exactly how this would all turn out. She trusted God and kept going in the midst of her situation and found a creative solution to her problem. In the end, Moses was saved . . . and, in fact, God later used Moses who was drawn out of the water to draw his people out of their oppression in Egypt. But I'm getting ahead of myself. You'll have to come back the next two weeks to find out what happens!"

"Here's the thing, in life we'll find ourselves looking at a situation and just not be able to see a solution. We might be tempted to think there isn't one—like looking at a mountain you have to climb, but you just can't spot the trail. But hold on, even when you don't know what to do. Trust God in those moments and ask God to help you. Maybe you need help with a friendship that seems like it is stuck and you don't know how it is going to get fixed. You have tried again and again. Hold on! Trust God can show you a solution. Or maybe you are really struggling on your team or at dance or in the play and you just don't know what the solution is right now. You want to give up and call it quits. But who knows—maybe there is a solution around the corner that you haven't even thought about. Trust God can show you a solution. God is good, remember that!"

"Or maybe you get to be like Miriam. What I mean is maybe somebody else is going through a problem right now and you get to be the one to step in and help them solve it. You can use your creativity to help them see a solution that they may not be able to see right now!"

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## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** ““Today as you go to your groups, think about this really practical question:

### **SLIDE: KEY QUESTION**

**“When have you helped solve a problem?** Big or small, think about a situation that happened when God helped you be part of the solution. Maybe this even happened to you this past week. If you’re not quite sure you have an answer, don’t worry! You’ll get a chance in Small Group to listen to each other. By sharing some stories and examples, hopefully it will inspire all of us to look for solutions that we wouldn’t normally think to look for. And maybe even today we can help each other solve a problem! Before we head to Small Group, let’s pray and thank God for being with us and helping us find what we need to keep going. Let’s pray.”

*Dismiss students to their small groups.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

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