

WEEK
FOUR
JUNE 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Backpack, water bottle, snack, running shoes, and plush toy

Host enters, carrying the backpack and wearing running shoes with one shoe untied.

HOST: "Hello, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! It's me, [your name]! And today is a BIG day because I'm going to CAMP! This will be my very first time going to camp, and I'm a little nervous. So I did everything I could to get ready. I've got my backpack!

Unzip backpack and pull out water bottle.

"I've got my water bottle!

Put water bottle away and pull out snack.

"And I've got my favorite snack!

Put snack away.

"Oh, and we will be playing lots of games and doing all kinds of activities so I'm wearing my fastest running shoes. See?

Point to running shoes and notice untied laces.

"Oops! I need to tie my shoe.

Bend down and talk out loud as you tie your shoe.

"Criss-cross . . . bunny ear . . . wrap around . . . bunny ear . . . whiskers! There!

Stand up.

"Oh, and I'm also bringing my very favorite plush friend who I like to have me with when I'm nervous. But even with all of my things, I'm still kind of nervous. Maybe today's Bible story will help me. I'll be back later. Bye!"

Host exits with the backpack.

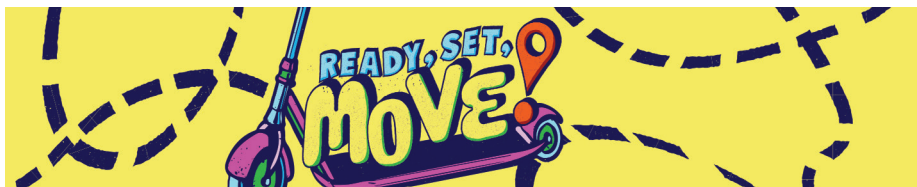
BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, child-size robe, and costume crown; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

NOTE: The Storyteller will invite two children to help during the Bible story. Ask small group leaders for recommendations on which children will be comfortable and enjoy helping.

Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible, robe, and crown.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible.



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Hold up the Bible and lay it open in the center of the storytelling area.

"And I need two of my friends to help me tell the story.

Invite the two pre-selected children to stand on each side of the storytelling area.

"Thank you for helping me! Just stand right where I put you, and I'll tell you what to do next. This is going to be great!

"Now, to get our story started, I need you all to say, 'Ready, set, move!' when I count to three. One. Two. Three!"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Ready, set, move!"

STORYTELLER: "You did it! Thank you!"

"Today's story begins with some of Jesus' friends. First, we have Peter.

Gesture to the child who will be Peter. Help "Peter" put on the robe.

"Everyone, wave and say, 'Hi, Peter!'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: (waving) "Hi, Peter!"

(Option: Display Story Image W4 01)

STORYTELLER: "Peter and some of Jesus' other friends were going around the city telling people the good news about Jesus. They were telling EVERYONE that Jesus wants to be their friend forever! Way to go, Peter!"

Give "Peter" a high five then walk to the child who will be King Herod.

"But this guy didn't like it one bit!

Put the crown on the child's head and stays standing next to them.

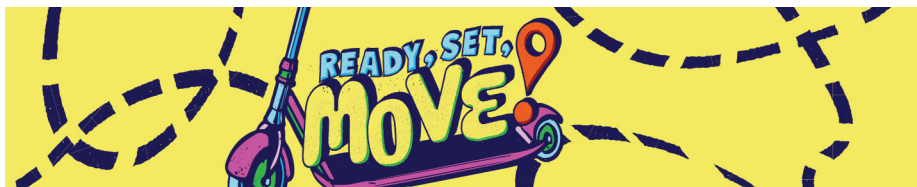
"This is King Herod! King Herod did not like what Peter and Jesus' friends were saying. So King Herod sent soldiers to take Peter to jail! Everyone, say, 'Oh, no!'"

(Option: Display Story Image W4 02)

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Oh, no!"

Walk to the middle of the storytelling area, leaving Peter and King Herod standing on each side of the storytelling area.

STORYTELLER: "When Peter's friends saw the soldiers take Peter away, they could have been worried, scared,



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mad, sad, or frustrated. Tell me, what do you think Peter's friends did? I'll give you a hint. What does it look like I'm doing?

Put hands together like you're praying.

"Yes! Peter's friends prayed!

(Option: Display Story Image W4 03)

"And later that night, the most amazing thing happened!

Walk over and stand by Peter.

"While Peter was sleeping, an angel woke him up!

(Option: Display Story Image W4 04)

"The angel told Peter to follow him. Peter did what the angel said and followed him safely outside.

"Friends, thank you for helping me!

Guide Peter and King Herod to sit with the rest of the children and take the robe and crown. Then, return to the center of the storytelling area.

"Now, after the angel left, Peter went right to his friend's house and knocked on the door.

"Hold your hand up, like this.

Make a knocking motion in the air.

"Let's pretend to knock on the door like Peter. Here we go!"

Make a knocking motion in the air.

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Knock, knock, knock!"

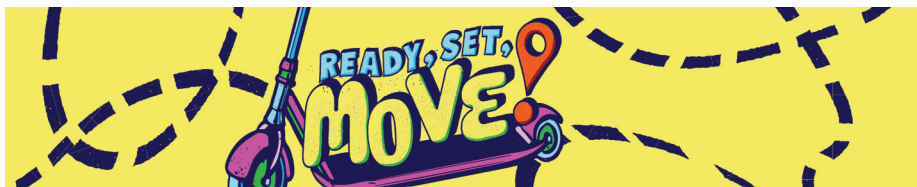
STORYTELLER: "No one answered the door. Let's keep knocking!"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Knock, knock, knock!"

STORYTELLER: "Finally, one of Peter's friends opened the door. Peter's friends were amazed to see him standing there!

(Option: Display Story Image W4 05)

"Peter told his friends everything that happened—how an angel helped him and led him safely outside. Jesus was with Peter the whole time!



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"Wow! Jesus was always with Peter! And Jesus is always with you, too, because Jesus wants to be your friend forever!"

"That's why, every time we hear someone ask, '**Who wants to be your friend forever?**', we say, '**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**' **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

STORYTELLER: "Now say it in a whisper. **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

STORYTELLER: "Yay! **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

"Okay friends, it's time to pray. Let's close our eyes and talk to God together."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus to be our friend forever and that He is always with us. In Jesus' name, amen."

"I love that story! And I'll have another true story from the Bible the next time I see you. Bye!"

Storyteller exits with the Bible, robe, and crown.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Backpack from Intro Sketch

Host enters wearing the backpack.

HOST: "Wow! King Herod put Peter in jail, but God sent an angel to lead Peter out so he could tell more people about Jesus. Jesus was always with Peter, and Jesus is always with me, too!"

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good!"

"I'm still a little nervous about camp, but I know that Jesus will be right there with me! See you next time. Bye!"

Host exits, waving and smiling at the children.