# TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

#### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Remember Me

The Lord's Supper/Passover 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Exodus 12

## **TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

Make a habit of being grateful.

#### **MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

"Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever." Psalm 136:1, NIrV

## **MONTHLY VIRTUE**

Gratitude—Letting others know you see how they've helped you

#### **BASIC TRUTH**

I need to make the wise choice.

## **LARGE GROUP**

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (25 MINUTES)

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

# 1. OPENER/CLOSER

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- · Printed script for reference
- Five orange traffic cones to mark each station for the game (see "What You Do")
- Boxes with TWO sets of each item:
  - Box 1: Two oversized pairs of flip-flops (adult size)
  - Box 2: Two backpacks and two lunch boxes that will fit inside the backpacks
  - Box 3: Two toy carrots (or real baby carrots)

## 3. BIBLE STORY

## WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- · Worship Leaders to set out the boxes
- Bible
- Masking or gaffer's tape (see "What You Do")
  - Four prop boxes containing the following items:
  - Box A: Potted plants, stuffed animals, dolls or action figures to represent Adam and Eve
  - Box B: Staff (to represent Moses), toy frog, and fly swatter
  - Box C: Matzo bread
  - Box D: Bread and cup (i.e. a simple chalice)
- Marker
- Exodus 12:21-23 (NIrV)
- Exodus 12:14 (NIrV)
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NIrV)

LARGE GROUP

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

**10 MINUTES** 

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#### **BASIC TRUTH**

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# 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 KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

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

Host enters.

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

## **OPENER**

**HOST:** "Hello, everyone! It's been a great month here at [your environment's name]. I want to THANK you for all you've done to make it awesome! We've learned so much on how to be thankful and share our gratitude.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Gratitude is letting others know you see how they've helped you.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"People help us all the time, but sometimes we might forget to say thank you. Like, who wakes you up for school in the morning? Or buys the food for your breakfast or lunch? Or cleans up your cereal bowl after you put it in the sink? There are lots of things people do for us that we can be grateful forespecially at home!

"God can help us live in a grateful way and actually SAY thank you instead of just FEELING thankful.

"If you think about it, sharing your gratitude is a really a good habit. Like you do the same things each morning when you get up or when you come home, saying thank you should be something you do every day as well. I've got a fun way for us to practice that with a thank you relay!

"I'll need five volunteers from each side of the room. Raise your hand if you want to play!

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

Choose five kids from each side of the room who are raising their hands.

"All right, we have our teams. There will be five steps to this relay, based on what a kid like you might do every morning before you go to school. So we'll put one player from each team at each station.

Distribute the kids so that there's one player from each team at each station.

"If you're at station one, you're up first! You'll put on your shoes.

Show the two pairs of oversized flip-flops from box 1.

"Of course, you'll need to take off the shoes you're wearing first. When you've got the flip-flops on, shout out, 'Thanks for the shoes!' You're thanking whoever in your family bought them for you.

"If you're at station two, then as soon as you hear your teammate say, 'Thanks for the shoes,' you're up.

Show the backpacks and lunch boxes from box 2.

"You'll grab your backpack, unzip it, put your lunch box inside, and zip it up again. Then you'll shout, 'Thanks for lunch!'

"If you're at station three, you're up next. You get to feed your hamster.

Show the toy carrots from box 3, and toss them on the floor near to the box.

"That just means you've got to find a carrot then drop it in the box, which is your hamster's cage. Really, your hamster should be thanking YOU. Of course if they did that, it would just sound like a little squeak. So you can just shout out, 'You're welcome, Fluffy!'

"As soon as they hear that, our friends at station four are up. They're thanking their adult before they head out the door. They'll give their adult a fist bump and say, 'Thanks for being awesome!' Oh, and I'll play the part of your adult.

"Finally, we have our friends at station five. They'll run in place and count to ten, because they're running to the bus stop. After they get to ten, they'll shout out to the driver: 'Thanks for the ride!'

"While all of this is happening, guess what all of YOU will be doing? (Pause for response.) Yep, cheering for your friends! I know they'll be so grateful to hear your support.

"Okay, let the thank you relay begin! On your mark, get set, go!

#### AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Comment on the action as the kids play the game. If needed, remind them of what they're supposed to do and say at each station. (Use the script for reference.) Remember to play the part of the adult at station 4.

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

Let both teams finish, and have the audience cheer for both teams as you dismiss them to their seats. Collect the traffic cones and boxes.

"Wow, you all must be really fast getting out of the house in the morning. AND you remembered to say thank you for everything along the way.

"Let's keep the fun going as we sing and worship God together. Everyone up on your feet!"

10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "God deserves all of our honor, praise, and worship. We can sing to God as a way to say 'thank You.' This song says, 'At the top of my lungs I'll sing. With all of my heart I will praise You. God, You are everything. You're the reason that I lift my voice.' Let's have some fun! Sing with me.

AUDIO: "AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS" / TRACK 1 FROM AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS
OPTIONAL VIDEO: "AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"If you're grateful to God today, say, 'I am!' (Pause for response.) I love it! Before we continue in worship, let's watch this.

#### OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

"Listen to these words from Psalm 100:1-3: 'Shout for joy to the Lord, everyone on earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy. Know that the Lord is God. He made us, and we belong to him.' (NIrV) When things are good in our lives, we can worship God. When things are tough, we can STILL worship God . . . because we can trust that God loves us and is with us. Let's worship and thank God now as we sing."

AUDIO: "I'M SO GRATEFUL" / TRACK 3 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU
OPTIONAL VIDEO: "I'M SO GRATEFUL" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

**25 MINUTES** 

## **BIBLE STORY**

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters.

Worship Leaders should set the prop boxes along the tape line on the floor, then exit.

## **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER**: "Hi, friends. It's been an amazing month here at [your environment's name]. We've learned so much about gratitude—and it's not over yet!

"Today, we'll look at a couple different parts of the Bible and see how they fit together with a really cool story of gratitude. (Hold up Bible.)

Reference the tape line on the floor.

"Let's pretend that this line on the floor is a timeline. We'll start at the beginning, when God first made the world.

Walk to the beginning of the tape line. Pull the creation items out of box A as you reference them (i.e. potted plants, stuffed animals, dolls/action figures, etc.).

"In the very beginning, there was nothing. Then God spoke and created everything—the sun, the earth, the plants and animals—everything! Of course, God also created people. But people turned away from God, and the world was broken.

Put the props back in box A.

"But God had a plan to make things right through the family of Abraham. That family became the Israelite people. God promised to bless the whole world through Abraham's family.

Walk along the timeline to box B.

"God's people were enslaved in the land of Egypt for many, many years. They cried out and begged God for help. Sure enough, God heard them and saved them.

Pick up the staff from box B and hold it up.

"God chose a man named Moses to lead the Israelite people out of Egypt."

#### THE PASSOVER

**STORYTELLER:** "God sent Moses to the pharaoh, the leader of Egypt. Moses demanded that Pharaoh set the Israelites free. But Pharaoh was stubborn. He kept saying yes, then changing his mind and saying no. Each time this happened, God sent a plague as a terrible warning to the Egyptians.

Put the staff back in box B. Take out the toy frog and fly swatter and hold them up.

**25 MINUTES** 

"God sent frogs . . . flies . . . hail storms (cower and look up) . . . and more. Still, Pharaoh refused to let God's people be free. Finally, God sent the last terrible plague. For this plague, every oldest son in Egypt would die. But God made a way to save the sons of the Israelites.

Put the frog and fly swatter back in box B.

"Moses told the people . . .

Open the Bible to Exodus 12:21-23 (NIrV) and read.

Each family must kill a Passover lamb. . . . Put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. . . . The Lord will go through the land to strike down the Egyptians. He'll see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe. He will **pass over** that house. He won't let the destroying angel enter your homes." (emphasis added)

#### LEAVING EGYPT

**STORYTELLER:** "The Israelites listened to God's instructions and did just as God told them. When morning came, the Israelites had been saved. Finally, Pharaoh ordered the Israelites to leave.

Walk along the timeline to box C.

"The Israelite people had to pack up and leave quickly, so they didn't even have time for their bread to rise.

Pick up the matzo bread from box C and hold it up.

"They baked flat bread without yeast. And God led them out of Egypt to freedom!

"God had said this to Moses.

Open the Bible to Exodus 12:14 (NIrV) and read.

Always remember this day. You and your children after you must celebrate this day as a feast to honor the Lord.

"So each year, the Israelites would eat a special meal to celebrate Passover—to remember how God PASSED OVER their homes and protected them that night. They ate lamb and flat bread with no yeast, because this would help them remember how God had rescued them from Egypt."

Put the matzo bread back in box C.

#### THE LAST SUPPER

**STORYTELLER**: "Let's move forward many, many years after the Israelites left Egypt . . . to the time when Jesus was born.

Walk along the timeline to box D.

"Jesus grew up celebrating the Passover every single year. In fact, the night before Jesus died on the cross, He ate a Passover meal with His friends, the disciples. On that night, Jesus gave a NEW meaning to the Passover meal.

**25 MINUTES** 

"This is how the apostle Paul described what happened in one of his letters to the Corinthians.

Open the Bible to 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NIrV) and read.

On the night the Lord Jesus was handed over to his enemies, he took bread. When he had given thanks, he broke it. He said, "This is my body. It is given for you. Every time you eat it, do it in memory of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup. He said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Every time you drink it, do it in memory of me."

"You see, Jesus knew that He was about to die for us on the cross.

Take out the bread and the cup from box D and hold them up.

"He wanted His followers to eat the bread and drink the cup as a way to remember what He did for us."

Set the bread and cup back into box D. Walk back along the tape line to box B.

"Now, let's go back for a minute and remember what happened in Egypt. Do you remember how the blood on the doors protected and saved the Israelites when God PASSED OVER their houses?

Walk along the tape line to box D and pick up the bread and cup again.

"In a similar way, Jesus' blood saves all who believe in Him. Jesus died on the cross so that we could be forgiven and have a relationship with God that will last forever.

Walk forward to the end of the tape line while carrying the bread and cup.

"Jesus took a habit of gratitude—the Passover—and He turned it into a NEW habit of gratitude. Today, when we eat the bread and drink the cup, we remember what Jesus did for us. We call this the Lord's Supper, or Communion."

Walk back along the tape line to box D and put the bread and cup back inside.

Then go up on stage as you wrap up.

## **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

STORYTELLER: "It's pretty amazing to think about how big God's story really is!

"After God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, the Passover meal was a way for the people to remember what God had done for them . . . and be grateful.

"Then Jesus made a new habit that we can practice today: the Lord's Supper, or Communion. When we eat the bread and drink the cup, we celebrate how Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life, so that we can have a relationship with God that will last forever.

"This is something that different churches do all around the world. Not every church does it exactly the same. Some celebrate Communion every week, and some do this a few times a year.

25 MINUTES

This would be a great time to talk about the way your church celebrates Communion.

"The most important thing is that we make a habit of remembering how God rescued us.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"We can make a habit of being grateful.

"Will you pray with me?"

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

# **PRAY**

**STORYTELLER:** "God we are amazed when we think about the love You've shown all throughout Your Big story. You have done so much for Your people, and You are still working in our lives today. Thank You for Your love. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us make habits of gratitude to remember all that You've done. Help us get in the habit of thanking other people as well. Thank You, God, for showing us how we can live with gratitude. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**25 MINUTES** 

## **CLOSER**

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

**HOST:** "I think it's so cool to understand what Communion is all about! It's really a way for us to say thank you . . . and tell God how grateful we are.

"We can look at God's story through the whole Bible and see all that God has done. God promised to bless the world through Abraham's family. From that family, Jesus was born. Then because of Jesus, God made a way for all of us to be saved.

"Communion is a way for us to remember what Jesus did for us. It's a habit that reminds us of just how much He loves us! It's a habit that reminds us to be grateful.

"Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Make a habit of being grateful.

"It's a really wise choice for us to make habits of gratitude. And [Basic Truth] we need to make the wise choice!

"Can you think of some other habits, like Communion, that will remind us to be grateful?

Take a few responses.

"Right! We can say a prayer and thank God when we get up or go to sleep, before we eat a meal, or anytime! We can thank God for the good things in our lives. We can thank God for loving us and for sending Jesus for us.

"We can make habits of thanking others, too. You can get in the habit of saying thank you to your teacher when you leave school each day. After all, she works so hard to make learning fun! I bet you can think of some other people you can thank, too. Let's get in the habit of being grateful—and SAYING how grateful we are!

"You can head to Small Group now and talk about that some more. I'll see you later!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP