

Send Me on My Way

Bible Story: Send Me on My Way (Jesus' Final Orders to His Disciples / Ascension) • *Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11*

Bottom Line: Keep going even when it seems impossible.

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 (NIRV)

Life App: Determination—Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray especially for kids who might be in hard situations where it seems like resolution and peace are impossible. Ask God to give them strength to keep moving forward, and to help them figure out what that means for them. Pray that God would use you to encourage those kids today. Pray for all kids to begin to understand the importance of determination and why God wants us to finish what we start.

1. Early Arriver

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Ball

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to take turns rolling the ball to you or the other friends who continue to join the circle as they arrive.
- Explain that you're going to try to keep the ball rolling between everyone as long as you can or until every kid from your group arrives.
- As you are rolling the ball with your group, ask the following questions to start a conversation:
 - Have you ever been so tired you couldn't even keep your eyes open? What helped you stay awake?
 - What is the longest time you think anyone has ever kept a ball rolling like this?
 - If you had to eat only one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?

2. Impossibly Awesome

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Painter's tape

What You Do:

- Tape a 10-foot tape line down the middle of your space.
- You will read off some impossibly awesome questions and the kids will decide their answer by choosing option A or option B. One side of the masking tape represents option A and the other side represents option B.
- Ask the five questions below, pausing for a moment to let kids choose their answer and move to the corresponding side of the tape.
- Then let kids take turns asking their own "impossibly awesome" questions to the group.
- Remind them that their questions must have two possible choices.
- Continue as time and interest allow.

Impossibly Awesome questions:

1. Would you rather have: A) a free weeklong vacation wherever you want to go; or B) unlimited meals at your favorite restaurant for one month?
2. Would you rather have: A) super strength; or B) super speed?
3. Would you rather: A) have free movie passes for an entire year; or B) be given whatever movies you want for free after they are out of theatres for an entire year?
4. Would you rather: A) never have to do chores ever again; or B) never have to do homework ever again?
5. Would you rather have: A) a million dollars; or B) a penny that doubles every day for 30 days? *(After they've made their choice, tell them that if they choose option B, they will end up with \$5,368,709.12!)*

What You Say:

"WOW! I almost couldn't make a decision with some of those impossibly awesome questions. You all are really creative. **[Transition]** Today, we are going to learn about some people who felt like they were in an impossible situation. However, I don't think their situations had to do with vacations or free movies. Let's go find out!"

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

*** 1. Story Unstuck**

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Prepared plastic freezer bags with slime and review cards; wet wipes; tarp or plastic sheeting

- Slime; one batch for every three or four kids
 - Print and use the “Slime Instructions” Activity Page if preparing your own slime.
 - You could also purchase an edible slime kit: <https://amzn.to/36z8EvK>
 - If using the edible slime, please note that this creates two batches. Take the edible slime out of the container and divide into two batches.
- *NOTE: If you do not want to use slime, you can also use shaving cream with green tempera paint mixed in to create a “slime” appearance.*
- Plastic freezer bags; one for every three or four kids
 - Place one batch of slime in a plastic freezer bag; one for every three or four kids
- Print the “Story Unstuck” Activity Page and cut apart; one set for every three or four kids
 - Laminates the cards or cover them with clear Con-Tact™ paper.
 - Place one set of cards in each freezer bag full of slime.

What You Do:

- Lay down the tarp or plastic sheeting.
- Divide your group into teams of three, and let each team choose a spot together around or on the tarp.
- Give each group a prepared bag.
- Instruct kids to take turns and allow each person in their group to reach into the bag to pull out a Bible story review card.
- Remind them to handle the slime carefully, making sure not to get any on their clothes or their friends’ clothes.
- After they have pulled out all eight cards, they must line them up on the tarp, in order of the Bible story.
- As teams finish, go around and ensure they have the story in the correct order.
- Give each kid a wet wipe to clean their hands.
- *NOTE: If you are using the edible slime option, make sure your kids wash their hands just before starting the activity. Instruct them not to lick their hands/fingers until all the cards are in order and everyone has finished touching the slime.*

Bible story review order:

1. Jesus died on the cross.
2. Jesus came back to life!
3. The disciples went to the mountain in Galilee.
4. Jesus told them to go and make disciples, telling everyone about Him and why He came.

5. Jesus led the disciples to a hill near Bethany.
6. Jesus and the disciples ate a meal together in Bethany. Jesus told them to wait for the gift God was going to give them.
7. Jesus left the disciples and ascended to heaven.
8. Two men in white appeared, telling them that Jesus will come back one day.

What You Say:

“Well, it looks like you all got yourselves into some sticky situations here today! You know, that’s probably how the disciples felt when Jesus left and went to heaven. They knew that Jesus could help them do anything, but without Him, the BIG job of telling everyone ABOUT Jesus probably seemed a bit more challenging than usual. Thankfully, God always has a plan to get us unstuck so we can **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.**”

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when you were faced with something that seemed impossible and how God helped you to keep going even when it seemed impossible. Maybe you had an enormous project at work and didn’t even know where to start. Or you had a lot of trouble obeying your teachers as a kid, and it was really hard to stay on task.)

2. Tower of Determination

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Decks of playing cards, “Tower of Determination” cards (Activity Pages)

What You Do:

- Divide kids into teams of three.
- Provide each team with a deck of playing cards and a set of “Tower of Determination” cards.
- Remind kids that determination is deciding it’s worth it to finish what you started.
- Each kid on each team will take turns drawing a “Tower of Determination” card.
- They must read the situation on their card and respond by saying how they would show determination in that situation.
- Once they have explained how to show determination, they will draw a playing card from the deck of cards to hold onto until their group has finished going through all of the “Tower of Determination” cards.
- Once all cards have been drawn and answered, and each kid has several playing cards from the deck, encourage them to attempt to build a tower using all the playing cards.
- They can either try to build the tower based on their own imaginations and creativity, or you can guide them using a tablet or smartphone and the website <http://bit.ly/39b1P5l>
- Give the teams a few minutes to build their towers. This will be a challenge for them, so encourage them to tap into their determination and finish what they start!

What You Say:

“Now, THAT is an activity that requires some determination! I don’t know what seems more challenging: a super messy bedroom or building a tower using a deck of cards. Either way, you guys did an awesome job staying determined today. There are challenging things we face each and every day that don’t seem as fun as building a tower with our friends. Maybe it’s the same kind of thing you read on your cards today or maybe it’s something else. Whatever challenges you run into, I want you to

remember that God always has a plan and because of that, you can **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.**”

3. Sticky Scripture

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Index cards, markers, double-sided tape, marbles, timer

What You Do:

- Look up this month’s memory verse, Galatians 6:9, and read it together as a group. (Use the tips below to help kids look up the verse themselves.)

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Galatians in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Galatians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Galatians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Galatians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 6.

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give each group half of the index cards, markers, and double-sided tape.
- Instruct kids to work together to write the verse on the cards—one word or phrase per card.
- After all the words have been written, line up the cards in order next to each other, in a spot about five feet away from the group. (Help the teams space themselves out so they each have enough room for their own line of cards.)
- Instruct kids to place double-sided tape down on the line of cards, sticking them together.
- Once the teams are finished preparing their memory verse tape lines, give each team half of the marbles and instruct them to distribute the marbles evenly between all of the kids on their team.
- Explain that you will set a timer for one minute, and each group must roll their marbles down toward the memory verse line and attempt to get their marble to stick to one of the memory verse word cards.
- If the marbles roll past the line, kids can go retrieve them and try again, as long as the timer is still going.
- The team with the most marbles stuck on the memory verse wins!
- Play a couple more rounds as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“I don’t know what you guys were more determined to do: get your marbles in the correct spot or just beat the other team! Either way, that was pretty funny to watch. Hopefully this week doesn’t bring any high-pressure tasks like this fun game, but I do hope you all show everyone around you what determination can look like! No matter what rolls your way, or what sticky situations arise, remember that you can **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.**”

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to find a partner.
- Encourage them to pray that God would help their friend have determination this week.
- When partners are finished, pray over your entire group.

What You Say:

“God, we love You so much and are so thankful that You always give us what we need! Although we sometimes run into sticky situations and challenges, You are never without a plan. Help us to remember that regardless of what we are facing each and every day, we can **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible** because You are such a good, good God!”

As adults arrive to pick up, prompt kids to share what sticky substance they got to play with today. Remind them that whenever they see a sticky situation arise, they can **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible**.