

## **LARGE GROUP: Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**Today's Bible Story:** In My Life (Israelites Long for Egypt) • *Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Don't miss out on what you have now.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."* Luke 12:15 (NIRV)

**Monthly Life App:** Contentment—Learning to be okay with what you have

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

**Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)**

*Leader enters wearing a bike helmet and pushing the bicycle from previous weeks—this time "blinged-out."*

**Video (Media Package): Theme**

## **Introduction/Opener:**

**KARA:** Hi everybody! I am so happy to see you all again here at kid zone! This week is an exciting one. Does anyone know why?..... This week we get to celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a holiday that allows us to step back and look at all the blessings we have in our lives. Being thankful is actually something talked about in the Bible. Another word we can use for thankful is the word content. Does anyone know what that means?...

**Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App**

**"Contentment is learning to be okay with what you have."**

**Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme**

Today we are going to learn about the Israelites who are God's chosen people and how they were not always content or happy with what they had. But before we do that let's talk about some things we are thankful for. I have a board right here and we are going to take turns coming up and adding some things we are thankful for.

**AUDIO: Fun music**

Guide children to come up and say what they are thankful for as the post it to the board.

## WORSHIP

**LEADER:** “Before we sing, let’s check this out.

**Video (Media Package):** Live Loud Video from Get Reel

We have so much to be thankful for and it is important not to worry about what we used to have or what we are lacking/don’t have. Let’s praise God for all he has given us and how he continues to provide for us and love us!

**Video (Media Package):** “What I Choose” Dance Moves Music Video

“God has given us everything we need. Most importantly, He’s given us His love! As we read in Psalm 106:1 (NirV), ‘Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever.’ Let’s sing and thank God for the way He loves us!

**Video:** “(I Want to Say) Thank You”

“It’s so great to worship God together and thank Him for His love! You can have a seat.”

**SLIDE:** Theme Background

## BIBLE STORY

**Video:** BIBLE Story

**SLIDE:** Theme Background

### 1. SETTING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** “I’ve got a story for you today that comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) There are a lot of emotions in this story.

*Pull out a kazoo.*

“There’s a lot of joy (*play “up” on the kazoo*) . . . and a lot of complaining (*play “down” on the kazoo*).

“I’ll give each of you your own kazoo so we can all keep track of those emotions together, but here’s the deal. You can ONLY play your kazoo when you either a thumbs-up . . .

**SLIDE:** Thumbs-up

*Play the kazoo up.*

“Or a thumbs-down.

**SLIDE: Thumbs-down**

*Play the kazoo down.*

“What happens when neither of those signs are on the screen? *(Pause for response.)* That’s right—we don’t play the kazoo at all. We **ONLY** play when we see a thumbs-up or thumbs-down on the screen. I think you’ve got it!

“We’ll do a practice run, but only after everyone has their kazoo. So don’t play yet.

*Hand out the kazoos. Then flash both of the signs up and let the kids practice playing up and down.*

**SLIDE: Thumbs-up (as the kids practice)**

**SLIDE: Thumbs-down (as the kids practice)**

*Note for the person running slides: Each time you show either the thumbs-up or thumbs-down slide, go to black (or the Theme Background Slide) after two or three seconds. That way the kids won’t keep playing their kazoos.*

“Nice job! It sounds like you’re ready. Remember, we only play when there’s either a thumbs-up or thumbs-down on the screen. Let’s get to our story!

“In the book of Exodus *(hold up Bible)*, which is found in the Old Testament, we can read about the Israelites. They were a group of people chosen by God; but they had been living as slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years.

**SLIDE: Thumbs-down**

*Play the kazoo down.*

“But then, God led the Israelites out of Egypt. God even parted the waters of the Red Sea so they could walk through on dry land. The Israelites were free!”

**SLIDE: Thumbs-up**

*Play the kazoo up.*

## 2. COMPLAINING

**LEADER:** “However . . . it didn’t take long for their singing and celebration to turn into whining. The people complained to their leaders, Moses and his brother, Aaron. They said that they wished they were back in Egypt.

**SLIDE: Thumbs-down**

*Play the kazoo down.*

“The people grumbled:

*Open the Bible to Exodus 16:3 (NirV) and read.*

*"We wish the LORD had put us to death in Egypt. There we sat around pots of meat. We ate all the food we wanted. But you have brought us out into this desert. You must want this entire community to die of hunger.*

**SLIDE: Thumbs-down**

*Play the kazoo down.*

"Talk about some whining and complaining, right? But God was patient with the Israelites. God spoke to Moses and said . . .

*Open the Bible to Exodus 16:4 (NirV) and read.*

*"I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people must go out each day. Have them gather enough bread for that day.*

**SLIDE: Thumbs-up**

*Play the kazoo up.*

"Yay—good news, right? Moses and Aaron called the people together to share God's words. As Aaron shared with the people what God had said, the glory of the Lord appeared in a cloud in the desert. Wow!

**SLIDE: Thumbs-up**

*Play the kazoo up.*

"And there's more. Listen to what else God said to Moses.

*Open the Bible to Exodus 16:12 (NirV) and read.*

*"I have heard the people of Israel talking about how unhappy they are. Tell them, 'When the sun goes down, you will eat meat. In the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'"*

**SLIDE: Thumbs-up**

*Play the kazoo up.*

### **3. QUAIL AND MANNA**

**LEADER:** "Sure enough, that evening, lots and lots of birds called quail came and covered the camp! Every person in the camp ate their fill.

**SLIDE: Thumbs-up**

*Play the kazoo up.*

“And in the morning, heavy dew settled on the ground. As the dew dried, thin flakes like frost appeared. Moses told the people it was the bread God had given them to eat. The bread tasted sweet, like honey, and the people called it ‘manna.’ There was enough of it for everyone to eat!

**SLIDE: Thumbs-up**

*Play the kazoo up.*

“Moses told the people to gather only as much manna as they needed for the day. But some people weren’t content with that. They disobeyed God and tried to keep leftovers until the next day. If they tried to keep any of the manna overnight, it was filled with maggots—like little worms.

**SLIDE: Thumbs-down**

*Play the kazoo down.*

“Gross! I bet that’s a lesson you only have to learn one time! As long as the Israelites stayed in the desert, God continued to give them fresh manna to eat—every single morning.

**SLIDE: Thumbs-up**

*Play the kazoo up.*

“God allowed them to gather a double portion the morning of the sixth day so they could rest on the seventh day. That way, they’d have enough food for each day.”

#### **4. WATER**

**LEADER:** “The Israelites soon moved on to their next camp, in Rephidim. But though manna was plentiful, fresh water was not. Even though God had worked miracle upon miracle and provided food from nowhere, the Israelites still panicked. They turned on Moses again. They demanded that he give them water. They said . . .

*Open the Bible to Exodus 17:3 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? Did you want us, our children and our livestock to die of thirst?”*

**SLIDE: Thumbs-down**

*Play the kazoo down.*

“In fact, the people were so angry that they actually picked up stones to throw at Moses!

**SLIDE: Thumbs-down**

*Play the kazoo down.*

“Moses cried out to God for help. Listen to what God said back to him.

*Open the Bible to Exodus 17:5-6 (NirV) and read.*

*“Go out in front of the people. Take some of the elders of Israel along with you. Take in your hand the walking stick you used when you struck the Nile River. Go. I will stand there in front of you by the rock at Mount Horeb. Hit the rock. Then water will come out of it for the people to drink.*

“Moses hit the rock while the elders watched . . . and water came out!”

**SLIDE: Thumbs-up**

*Play the kazoo up.*

## 5. WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** “Over and over, God had shown that He would take care of the Israelites.

**SLIDE: Thumbs-up**

*Play the kazoo up.*

“God had led them to freedom and provided what they needed along the way.

**SLIDE: Thumbs-up**

*Play the kazoo up.*

“But still, the Israelites were tempted to long for what they had before.

**SLIDE: Thumbs-down**

*Play the kazoo down.*

“We can learn something important from the Israelites and their grumbling.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “Don’t miss out on what you have now.

“Everybody, take your kazoo and close it up in your hands like this. (*Demonstrate closing your hands around the kazoo.*) Keep it there, just like that. Let’s talk to God for a minute.”

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

## PRAY

**LEADER:** “Dear God, thank You ALL that You’ve given us. We have so much to be thankful for! But if we’re not careful, we can be like the Israelites. We can start to focus on what we DON’T have and miss out on what we have right now. Please show us how to be content. Help us be grateful for what we have, so we don’t miss out on all the good things You’re doing in our lives. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

*Before you move on to the Closer, have another adult leader begin gathering the kazoos and putting them into individual zipper bags labeled with each child's initials. Plan to give them back after Small Group, at dismissal.*

## CLOSER

**LEADER:** “You would think the Israelites would have been happy that God led them out of slavery and provided what they needed in the desert. But instead, they whined and complained about what they didn’t have. Somehow, they forgot something that we know is always true: **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what.**”

“It’s easy for us to look back at the Israelites and think, ‘How could they act that way? Didn’t they realize what God had done for them?’ But the truth is, we can sometimes whine and complain when we don’t immediately get what we want. We can start looking backward at the way things were before . . . or looking forward to the way we hope things will be. Let’s not get so focused on those things that we forget to see what God is doing in our lives right now.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “Don’t miss out on what you have now. Say that with me.”

**LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line]** “Don’t miss out on what you have now.”

**LEADER:** “Think about all that God has given you. You have friends and family who love you. You probably have some favorite things that you really love to do—like art, music, or sports. No matter what, you know that you ALWAYS have your relationship with God to give you strength, hope, and joy. God loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be your Savior!

“Let’s not miss what God is doing in our lives—right here and now. Let’s choose to be thankful and content. I know something great that’s happening right now: Small Group! So let’s get going!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**SLIDE: Theme with Music**