

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: Float On (Moses Is Born) • *Exodus 2:1-10 (Exodus 1)*

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 (NirV)

Monthly Virtue: Grit—Refusing to give up when life gets hard

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Leader enters, carrying/wearing some climbing accessories.

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

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: "Hello, everyone! I hope you came ready to climb today, because we've got a lot of work to do. Don't worry, though—it's a FUN kind of work. And we can't give up because this month is all about GRIT!"

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Virtue

"Grit is refusing to give up when life gets hard."

Video (Media Package): Virtue Transition to Theme

"There are lots of opportunities to develop grit when you're climbing—AND in your everyday life—because there are so many cliffhangers! There are so many times when you're exhausted and feel like you just can't go on. (*Make an exhausted pose.*) But the story is never over! We can keep going because we know that God is with us. God gives us the strength to keep moving and pushing on."

"We'll need that kind of strength right now as we put our climbing muscles and our brains into gear. You all know how to play 'Simon Says,' right? Raise your hand if you know how to play. (*Pause.*) AHA! Gotcha! I didn't say 'Simon says.'"

"I'll give you directions of things to do, and you have to do those things but ONLY if I say, 'Simon says' before I give you the direction. If I don't say, 'Simon says,' and you follow the command, then you're out for the rest of that round. If you're out, just have a seat and cheer for your friends until we get to the next round of the game. Then you're back in! Make sense? (*Pause.*)"

"All right, everyone down on all fours. Pretend the floor is a giant cliff, and we're all climbing straight up to the top. Let's play 'Simon Says, Climbing Style!'"

AUDIO: Fun instrumental music

Turn around so that you're facing forward (the same direction the kids are). This will help with left/right directions.

Note: You might want to have another adult watch the kids to see who's out so you don't have to turn around and try to watch. (Or you could be the one to watch while someone else models the climbing moves.)

Call out different moves using the "Simon Says, Climbing Style" Instruction Sheet. If everyone gets out quickly, you can play additional rounds as time allows. Celebrate the last climber "standing" each round.

"Nice job, everyone! That was a good physical and mental challenge, but you showed some real grit! Now that your arms and legs are all warmed up, let's keep moving as we sing and worship God together!"

WORSHIP

LEADER: “You all really know how to move! That’s something we can do in our relationship with God, too. We can make a move by showing God’s love to the world. Let’s sing this song and tell God, ‘I will make a move for You.’ Here we go!

Video: “*Make a Move*”

Video (Media Package): *Theme Loop*

“Before we keep worshipping, let’s watch this video together.

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

Video (Media Package): *Theme Loop*

“We can show grit, even when we face tough challenges, because we know we’re never alone. God is with us, and God gives us the power to never give up.

“It’s like we read in memory verse for this month, Galatians 6:9.

SLIDE: *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

“Let’s not get tired of doing good, everyone! Let’s sing and celebrate because God has given us the power to keep going!

Video (Media Package): “*The Power*”

Video (Media Package): *Theme Loop*

“Nice job, everyone! I’m sure you’re tired after all that moving, so you can rest for a minute and have a seat for our story.”

Video (Media Package): Bible Story (Story Lab)

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “Lately, we’ve been talking about God’s Big Story, which we can find in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)* God’s story goes back to the beginning of time, and God is still working in the world today!

If you’re using a Bible timeline on your wall, you can refer to it as you recap.

“In the beginning, God created the world. But people turned away from God. Still, God had a plan to bless the world through Abraham and Sarah’s family.

“Abraham and Sarah’s great-grandson was named Joseph. We saw how Joseph’s brothers sold him and sent him away to Egypt. But after many hard years, Joseph was made second in command of Egypt. And he saved his whole family by giving them food during a famine.

“Joseph’s family was known as the Israelites, or the Hebrews. Over the years, their numbers grew and grew. And this worried the Egyptian ruler, Pharaoh.”

MOSES IS BORN

LEADER: “The pharaoh worried that the Israelites might become too powerful and might join Egypt’s enemies. So the pharaoh ENSLAVED the Israelites. He made them do very hard work for no pay. That’s the way it was for hundreds of years!

“But the Hebrew families continued to grow. So the pharaoh came up with a terrible plan. He declared that all Hebrew baby boys must be thrown into the Nile River! God had promised to bless the whole world through the Israelites. But not only were they enslaved, now they were in danger of being completely wiped out!

“In the middle of all this, a woman named Jochebed and her husband, Amram, were about to have a new baby. They already had an older child, a daughter named Miriam.

“We have a real treat today, because it just so happens that Miriam is here to tell us her side of this fascinating story. Everyone, please give a big round of applause for *(air quotes)* Miriam!

Have a seat in a chair, and pull up the other chair for Miriam. She enters, holding the photo album.

“Miriam! Welcome.”

MIRIAM: “Thank you for having me. It’s not often that I get to talk about my little brother these days.”

LEADER: “Yes, I guess it’s been a minute since all this happened.

MIRIAM: “Give or take a few.”

LEADER: “I see you’ve brought a photo album, too. I didn’t know you HAD photo albums in your day.

Or photos, for that matter.

Leader and Miriam sit in silence for a beat.

"Well, at any rate, we're all excited to hear your part of the story. I was just telling everyone how your parents were going to have a new baby. And this was right after Pharoah had put that horrible new law into place."

MIRIAM: (*shuddering*) "That's right. It was so awful back then. We were really worried! My parents had their baby. And he was a boy!"

Miriam shows the photo album to the Leader, pretending to show him/her a photo.

Note: *The album doesn't need to actually have any photos in it, but it could have a printed script that Miriam can use for reference.*

LEADER: (*looking at the photo album*) "What a great photo. Let's see if we can show everyone."

SLIDE: Photo Album Image #1: Baby Moses

MIRIAM: "We knew we needed to protect my brother because of the pharaoh's awful law. For three months, I helped my parents hide him!"

SLIDE: Theme Background

JOCHEBED'S PLAN

LEADER: "Wow. That must have been a pretty intense time. Why did it only last three months, though? What happened then?"

MIRIAM: "Well, after three months, there was just no way to keep hiding my brother. He was getting so much more active and DEFINITELY so much louder. But my mom had a really creative idea!

Miriam shows the photo album to the Leader, pretending to show him/her the next photo.

SLIDE: Photo Album Image #2: The basket

"She wove a basket out of tall grass and coated it with tar. She put my brother inside the basket. Then she took it down to the water."

LEADER: (*Hold up Bible.*) "Yes, I see that here.

Open the Bible to Exodus 2:3 (NIRV) and read.

"She placed the child in the basket. Then she put it in the tall grass that grew along the bank of the Nile River."

MIRIAM: "Right. My mom placed the basket there at the riverside, among the reeds.

Miriam shows the photo album to the Leader, pretending to show him/her the next photo.

SLIDE: Photo Album Image #3: Moses in the basket

"I decided to stay and keep watch over my brother."

LEADER: "Wow! How did your mom know this would be a safe place for him?"

MIRIAM: "I'm honestly not sure. Maybe she figured this was a place where no one would come. Or it might have been because she knew it was the favorite bathing spot of the princess—Pharaoh's daughter."

SLIDE: Theme Background

MOSES IS SAVED

LEADER: "Pharaoh's daughter? What does she have to do with your brother?"

MIRIAM: *(laughing)* "So much! She came down to the river to bathe—right by where I was hiding and watching over my brother. The princess saw the basket, and she sent one of her attendants to get it."

Miriam shows the photo album to the Leader, pretending to show him/her the next photo.

SLIDE: Photo Album Image #4: The princess's attendant picks up the basket

LEADER: "Oh, wow! You must have been SO scared!"

MIRIAM: *(laughing)* "I'm pretty sure my heart was beating so loudly the attendant could hear it! But I managed to stay hidden. I watched to see what would happen."

LEADER: "And what DID happen?"

MIRIAM: "Well, the princess looked inside the basket and realized there was a baby inside."

Miriam shows the photo album to the Leader, pretending to show him/her the next photo.

SLIDE: Photo Album Image #5: The princess looking puzzled

"I knew I had to act! I gathered every ounce of courage I had and ran up to the princess. I asked her if she'd like me to find a Hebrew woman who could help her take care of the baby."

LEADER: "Amazing!"

MIRIAM: "The princess liked that idea, so I ran home and told my mother what had happened. We hurried back to the princess as fast as we could, before she could change her mind!"

Miriam shows the photo album to the Leader, pretending to show him/her the next photo.

SLIDE: Photo Album Image #6: The princess and Jochebed

"And it gets even better! The princess actually paid my mom to take care of my brother. My mom was able to keep her baby boy safe and get paid to do it!"

SLIDE: Theme Background

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “That’s incredible! How wonderful that your mom was able to care for her son at home.

MIRIAM: “It really was a miracle. My brother grew up with our family at home for many years, until he was old enough to go live at the palace with the pharaoh’s daughter. The princess is the one who gave him his name: Moses. It’s a word that means ‘to draw out,’ because she pulled him out of the water.”

LEADER: “Moses. That’s a cool name for sure! *(to audience)* We’ll see how Moses went on to play a really important part in God’s Big Story. That’s coming up in the next couple of weeks!

(to Miriam) “Miriam, thank you so much for coming and sharing your story with us today. It was truly fascinating.”

MIRIAM: *(getting up)* “Of course! It was an honor to share it with you all.”

LEADER: “Let’s give her a big hand, everyone!

Miriam closes the photo album and exits.

Leader stands up to finish the story.

“Moses’ mom was in a tough situation, wasn’t she? She really didn’t know WHAT to do to keep her baby safe. But she didn’t give up. She got creative and did what she could to protect him. God protected Moses, and later, Moses would play a BIG part in the story of God’s people.

“This story is a good reminder to us today—that we can keep holding on, and never give up.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Hold on even when you don’t know what to do.

“The great thing is that we can always ask God for help when we don’t know what to do next. Let’s pray and talk to God right now.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, it can be hard for us to stay strong sometimes—especially when we’re feeling worried or uncertain about something in our lives. It’s like when Moses’ mom didn’t know what to do to keep her baby safe. There are times when we’re facing something big or scary, and we don’t know what to do. But we know that in those times, we can turn to You and ask for help. Please help us hold on this week, God. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CLOSER

LEADER: “It must have been so scary for Moses’ mom when she was trying to keep Moses safe. It must have been scary for Miriam, too, to see her little brother in the river then picked up by the pharaoh’s daughter!

“I imagine both Miriam and her mom weren’t sure WHAT to do to help Moses. But they didn’t give up! They got creative and did what they had to do to keep him safe.

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.

"There will be times in our lives when we don't know what to do. But with God's help, we can choose to hold on. We can choose to have grit!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Hold on even when you don't know what to do. Say that with me."

LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] "Hold on even when you don't know what to do."

LEADER: "Think about it. What's something that seems tough or challenging in your life right now, and you're not sure what to do about it? Maybe you have a really tough assignment at school, and you're having trouble understanding it. Maybe a friend hurt your feelings, or maybe you said something that hurt them. Maybe someone you love is really sick.

"No matter the situation we're facing, we can pray and ask God to help us. We can talk to the people God has put in our lives—like our family members, our friends, and leaders here at church. We don't have to face those tough things alone!

"We can also think about what Jesus said is MOST important: love God and love others. We can remember how much God loves us and think about how we can show God's love in whatever situation is worrying us. That'll help us hold on when life seems scary or confusing. We can hold on because we know that **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what!**

"In Small Group, we'll talk about how we can hold on even when we don't know what to do. Let's head over there now. Actually, wait. Simon says, let's CLIMB over to Small Group!"

Get down on all fours and lead the kids in some mountain climbing moves as you dismiss them to their small groups.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop