

Intro slide

Video

Game On Slide

Theme Verse

Day 1 – 5 slides

Game on Slide again

Gear Up for Life's Big Game

G = Goal

Philippians 3:10-14...¹⁰ My goal is to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,¹¹ assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.¹² Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus.¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead,¹⁴ I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly Call in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1b,2... Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us,² keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith.

Isaiah 40:30,31...³⁰ Youths may become faint and weary, and young men stumble and fall,³¹ but those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint.

In 1952, Florence Chadwick stepped into the waters of the Pacific Ocean off Catalina Island, determined to swim to the shore of mainland California 26 miles away. (She was the fastest woman to swim the English channel in 1950). The weather was foggy and chilly; she could hardly see the boats watching her heroic effort. Still, she swam fifteen hours. That's right – fifteen hours. As she begged to be taken out of the water, her mother in a boat nearby, encouraged her to keep at it. Finally, physically and emotionally exhausted, Chadwick stopped swimming and was pulled out of the water. It wasn't until she was on the boat that she discovered the shore was less than half a mile away. At a news conference the next day she said, *"All I could see was fog ... I think if I could have seen the shore I would have made it."*Two months later. In September, she stepped off the Catalina shore once again, and set her sights on California. Mother Nature was just as menacing this time around, sending yet another dense fog the swimmer's way. But this time, Chadwick kept a mental picture of the shoreline in mind, and when she touched the sand on the California beach, she became the first woman to swim the Catalina Channel, and even bested the men's record by two hours! <http://www.itslikethis.org/florences-fog/>

E = Equipment

2 Peter 1:3... *His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.*

Hebrews 12:1a... *Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us.*

Armor of God

A = Attitude

➤ LOVE & KINDNESS

John 13:34,35...³⁴ *“I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.”*³⁵ *By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”*

Ephesians 4:31-32... *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

➤ UNITY & HARMONY

Philippians 2:1-5... *If then there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,² make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.⁴ Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.⁵ Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus.*

➤ HOPE & JOY

The Resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:1-44) John 11:25... *“Jesus said to her, “I AM the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live”.*

➤ ENDURANCE & COMMITMENT

Hebrews 12:1b,2... *Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us,² keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith.*

Colossians 3:23,24...²³ *Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people,²⁴ knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.*

Matthew 4:18-20...¹⁸ As Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter), and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Follow Me,” He told them, “and I will make you fishers of men.”²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Acts 1:8... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Jesus Wants Me to Join His Team

Bible Story: Paul and Silas in Prison (Acts 16:23-34)... ¹⁶ Once, as we were on our way to prayer, a slave girl met us who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She made a large profit for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ As she followed Paul and us she cried out, “These men, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation, are the servants of the Most High God.” ¹⁸ She did this for many days. Paul was greatly annoyed. Turning to the spirit, he said, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out right away. ¹⁹ When her owners realized that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. ²⁰ Bringing them before the chief magistrates, they said, “These men are seriously disturbing our city. They are Jews ²¹ and are promoting customs that are not legal for us as Romans to adopt or practice.” ²² The crowd joined in the attack against them, and the chief magistrates stripped off their clothes and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had severely flogged them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to guard them carefully. ²⁴ Receiving such an order, he put them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s chains came loose. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul called out in a loud voice, “Don’t harm yourself, because we’re all here!” ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He escorted them out and said, **“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”** ³¹ **They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”** ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him along with everyone in his house. ³³ He took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds. Right away he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴ He brought them into his house, set a meal before them with great JOY because he had come to believe in God with his entire household.

Romans 5:8... *“But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”.*

Bible Story: The Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7)... *All the tax collectors and sinners were approaching to listen to Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ So He told them this parable: ⁴ “What man among you, who has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, ⁶ and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!’ ⁷ I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don’t need repentance.*

This passage will serve to establish who Jesus is. As a parable, it begins with the basic starting point of acknowledging Jesus as Teacher, but quickly moving along to reveal that Jesus is so much more! Through this Bible story, kids will discover that they are valuable and important to God. He loves them more than anything. He wants sinners to repent and be brought to Him.

DAY 2: Jesus Gives Me Hope

Bible Story: The Resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:1-44) **John 11:25...** *“Jesus said to her, “I AM the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live”.*

This Bible story sets up who Jesus is, what He can do because He is God’s Son (raise the dead), and what He will do for us (die, then live again). This passage also emphasizes the hope we have that we will one day be resurrected to live forever with Him.

DAY 3: Jesus Helps Me Believe

Bible Story: Thomas Believed (John 20:19-31)... ¹⁹ *When it was evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.” ²² After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴ But Thomas (called “Twin”^[d]), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples were telling him, “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.” ²⁶ A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don’t be faithless, but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas responded to him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said, **“Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”***

This passage is somewhat of a “Part 2” of the Day 2 Bible story. On Day 2 we saw Jesus foreshadow His coming resurrection and now on Day 3, He’s done it and we’re privy to the aftermath. Thomas believes immediately upon seeing the risen Christ. This is an eyewitness account/first person testimony ... a strong apologetic. We can believe because of this.

DAY 4: Jesus Loves Me

Bible Story: John Wrote About Jesus (John 13:1-35; 19:25-27; 20:1-10; 21:1-14)

Last supper (John 13:1,34-35)...³¹ When He had left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.³² If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself and will glorify Him at once.³³ Children, I am with you a little while longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so now I tell you: ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.³⁴ “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”

John refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” Because he experienced Jesus’ love in such strong and personal ways, John was sensitive to those words and actions of Jesus that illustrated how the One who is love loved others. This Bible story will encapsulate the personal story of John’s relationship with Jesus through four key events. John was loved by Jesus, was witness to Jesus’ acts of love (great and small), and wrote about God’s great love for us in his books. Kids can come to recognize the immense love Jesus has for them through the eyes of someone who experienced it firsthand.

DAY 5: Jesus Gives Me Joy

Psalm 95:1...Come, let us shout joyfully to the Lord, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation!

FINAL THOUGHTS – Jesus Wants Me to Join His Team

Bible Story: Paul and Silas in Prison (Acts 16:23-34)...¹⁶ Once, as we were on our way to prayer, a slave girl met us who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She made a large profit for her owners by fortune-telling.¹⁷ As she followed Paul and us she cried out, “These men, who are proclaiming to you^[a] the way of salvation, are the servants of the Most High God.”¹⁸ She did this for many days. Paul was greatly annoyed. Turning to the spirit, he said, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out right away.¹⁹ When her owners realized that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.²⁰ Bringing them before the chief magistrates, they said, “These men are seriously disturbing our city. They are Jews²¹ and are promoting customs that are not legal for us as Romans to adopt or practice.”²² The crowd joined in the attack against them, and the chief magistrates stripped off their clothes and ordered them to be beaten with rods.²³ After they had severely flogged them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to guard them carefully.²⁴ Receiving such an order, he put them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks.²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s chains came loose.²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped.²⁸ But Paul called out in a loud voice, “Don’t harm yourself, because we’re all here!”²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.³⁰ He escorted them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”³¹ They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him along with everyone in his house.³³ He took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds. Right away he and all his family were baptized.³⁴ He brought them into his house, set a meal before them with great JOY because he had come to believe in God with his entire household.