

## Turn It Up

Week 1

### **BIG IDEA**

God, you're with me when I feel weak.

### **BIBLE**

Samuel Anoints David: 1 Samuel 15:1–23, 16:1–13; 2 Corinthians 12:9–10

## LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome to the *Turn It Up* World Tour! I am the Stage Manager, and I am so pumped that you are part of our crew. As we prepare for an epic show, we will stage dive into the world of music and discover some truths from the Bible. I'll also fill you in on some behind-the-scenes news, too. Speaking of which, have any of you seen Sly Steele, our lead guitarist? He missed sound check again!

## WHAT? What are we talking about today?

### ACTIVITY | Tick Tock Tune

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this audition scene](#) from the movie, *Sing*. Then, form two teams. Have each team send one representative up front at a time. Play the first several seconds of a song and have the kids see who can name the song first. If they are both stumped after 10 seconds, they can ask the audience and receive help from their team. You can use a [pop playlist](#), a [Disney playlist](#), or shuffle through worship music your kids would know. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#)
- Before we start auditions for who to bring on stage at our big show, I wanted to make sure that you are all familiar with our pop music setlist.
- Some of those were a little challenging, right? But great job asking for help when you weren't sure of the answer. You know a lot of melodies when you put your musical minds together.
- Today's Bible story is about someone who might have felt like he wasn't cut out for a super important gig, but God would be with him every step of the way!

### POLL | Help Wanted

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids gather in the middle of the room. On one side of the room, post a sign that says "Sign me up!" In the middle, post "I'd give it a try!" and on the other far side of the room post a sign that says "No way!"*
- Have any of you ever wanted to be a pop star or any kind of star? Or have ever been to a concert? Well, today is your lucky day. Today we are going to hold auditions for our *Turn It Up World Tour* and we're looking for all types of artists and backstage talent, too!
- It takes a lot of different types of talented people to pull off a concert! I'm going to shout out a job we have available here on the tour, and I want to know if you'd absolutely love it, if you'd be interested in giving it a try, or if you want to avoid it at all costs. When I call out a role, move to the part of the room with the sign that displays your feelings about that role.
  - Popcorn Popper
  - Lead Singer
  - Background Dancer
  - Acrobat
  - Light Technician
  - Comedian
  - Sound Tech
  - Costume Designer
  - Keyboardist
  - Bus Driver
  - Guitarist
  - Jump Roper
  - Merchandise Rep
- (*After poll.*) Some of those things probably felt out of your comfort zone, right? I get it! I don't know that I'd ever want to be a lighting tech. I'd get so wrapped up in the music that I'd forget to turn on the spotlight.
- Well, whatever job you get on this world tour concert, don't worry — you'll get all the help and training you'll need, even if you think you might not be the perfect person for the job . . . because God looks at things a little differently. You'll see what I mean when we look at today's Bible story!

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | 1 Samuel 15:1–23, 16:1–13 (Samuel Anoints David)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the passage or select a few key verses you'd like to zoom in on. The stage manager should have on an all-black outfit, a headset, and a clipboard. Play upbeat music as kids enter the environment and add a [record scratch sound effect](#) before speaking.*
- Hey, rock stars! I'm [*fill in your name*] and I am the Stage Manager for the *Turn It Up World Tour*! So you might have heard that we're holding auditions for our concert today.
  - The reason why we're holding auditions this close to the show is that our lead guitarist, Sly Steele has left the tour. This is a huge deal because he was the backbone of our band. He seemed to hold everything together for all of the musicians on stage. Unfortunately, he and our Producer, who is in charge of everything around here, didn't see eye to eye.

- Sly Steele started throwing out set lists and blowing off rehearsals and did not do anything our Producer said. The Producer was the one who made him famous in the first place! So it was time for Sly to go.
- Once word got out that we were holding auditions, so many epic musicians came to try out. I was blown away as I listened to their incredible riffs and complex melodies, but the Producer didn't pick any of these experienced musicians. He picked the youngest, most inexperienced guitarist there. His name is Duke. The Producer said Duke was humble, teachable, and had loads of potential. It was a total shock, but I guess we are going to rock and roll with it!
- This whole situation reminds me of a story from the Bible about the first King of Israel, named Saul, who was just about to be fired, too.
  - Through the prophet, Samuel, God gave King Saul specific instructions on how to deal with another group of people called the Amalekites. God told Saul to destroy the Amalekites completely, because years earlier, they had ambushed the people of Israel.
  - Saul decided to only partially follow God's instructions. He destroyed some of the Amalekite property but kept some things that he thought would make him stronger.
- God was not pleased with Saul's disobedience. **Let's see what God said in 1 Samuel 15:10-11a.**
  - Saul let his own personal comfort and desire for power overshadow God's instructions. Instead of relying on God to help him, he defaulted to relying on himself. This was disappointing to God because God couldn't trust that Saul would be a reliable, humble leader.
  - When Saul insisted that he did the right thing, Samuel let him know that he was mistaken. **Hear what Samuel said in 1 Samuel 15:22-23.**
- Even though Saul tried to resist God's plan, Samuel obeyed God and began the search for a new king.
  - God sent Samuel to the home of Jesse, who had several sons. Samuel met with each son, one at a time, starting with the oldest and strongest brothers. Each time that Samuel thought, "This guy must be the new king," God said no. **Instead, God said this in 1 Samuel 16:7.**
  - Finally, the youngest son, named David, came in from working in the field. He was the youngest and his only experience was from tending sheep. The whole family thought there was no way that he could be the next king, but God said, "That's the one. Anoint him as king!"
- I learned something really valuable from what my Producer did by selecting our newest band member and how God instructed Samuel to pick the least likely guy to become the next king. Even when I might see someone else or even myself as incapable, there's always more to each of us than people can see on the outside.
- Aren't you glad God knows our hearts?

BIG IDEA | God, you're with me when I feel weak.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Find a techno-style or simple drum track to play. For added fun, give kids sunglasses and play microphones. and have the leader dress as a DJ.*

- **Yo, people! Are ready to turn up the Big Idea!?** I said, y'all ready to turn it up?!
- That's more like it! Repeat after me.
  - Say hey oh! (*Say hey oh!*)
  - Say hey oh! (*Say hey oh!*)
  - God, you're with me (*God, you're with me!*)
  - When I feel weak (*When I feel weak!*)
  - **God, you're with me when I'm weak!** (*God, you're with me when I'm weak!*)
- *Turn It Up* World Tour! DJ out.

#### ACTIVITY | Auditions For New Acts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This activity is a themed version of Charades. Select three kids to be judges and give them funny emoji signs to hold up as their scorecards. Use neutral images like a strawberry, sunshine, flower, guitar, music notes, dancing person, etc. Ask for volunteers to audition. Have them draw a card and act out the talent act on the card: ballerina, weightlifter, magician, rock and roll guitarist, juggler, rap artist, mime, opera singer. Have the kids in the audience guess what act the volunteer is performing. After the kids guess the action, have the judges "score" their act.*
- **When you hear the word, audition, how does that make you feel? Nervous? Excited?**
- **Performers, how did you feel after you auditioned? Even if you felt like the audition was out of your comfort zone, did you feel supported?**
- As we think about the Scripture passage today, I would assume that David may have felt uncomfortable and under-prepared, but God believed in him and promised to help him. That's why we can boldly say, **God, you're with me when I feel weak.**

#### SCRIPTURE | 2 Corinthians 12:9–10

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the passage together.*
- The apostle Paul was one of the first missionaries who helped start many churches a few years after Jesus rose from the dead. Paul wasn't always a Jesus follower. He was actually someone who mistreated and hurt followers of Jesus before Jesus transformed him and called him to share Jesus' story with the world!
- In this particular part of the Bible, Paul was writing to the church in Corinth. Corinth was a large city, known for its rich and lavish culture. It would be the equivalent of a big city today with neon signs, huge malls, and tons of concert venues. It was probably pretty easy for people to find comfort in money, wearing the latest fashion trends, and being popular. Paul wrote to remind the people in Corinth that it is actually when we embrace our weakness that the strength of Jesus can be displayed in us.
- Paul was no stranger to tough stuff. He was thrown into jail and mistreated because he wouldn't stop talking about Jesus. Paul just kept going because he had been radically changed by Jesus! Jesus died on the cross so that everyone — including Paul — could be freed from the power of sin and draw close to God. When Jesus was on the cross, it seemed like his weakest point, but because he

was willing to step into weakness, his mighty strength was revealed. Three days later, Jesus was alive again!

- Paul was reminding the people of Corinth that it isn't in trying to be powerful in the eyes of the world that we experience God's strength and help. Instead, we experience the power of Jesus when we follow him.
- **God, you're with me when I feel weak.**

VIDEO | Turn It Up, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Press Play](#).

## NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Cheering You On

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play a short clip (0:00–2:40) from America's Got Talent, like [this one](#). For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- **How did you think the contestant felt walking out on the stage to audition?**
- If at any time a performer feels weak, often it's the people in the audience who help them feel encouraged and believed in. When they start cheering, clapping, or sometimes even crying, they know that they're not alone and they've got support.
- God is with us when we feel weak. God cheers us on and reminds us that we aren't alone.
- **When have you felt weak?**
- **When you feel weak or you don't think you have what it takes, how does God help you not to be weak? Or how does God help you be okay with being weak and asking for help?**

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 147:7 (NIV)

- **"Sing to the Lord with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** On two pieces of paper: write a lowercase "p" to represent the piano sign and a lowercase "f" for a forte sign. Piano means quiet and forte means loud. Display the memory verse on a screen (use the graphic provided in your resource folder) and read it together out loud (or repeat after you) at a normal volume the first time. For the next few recitations, hold up the different signs and have them vary their volume as they read it again. You can invite kids

to take turns holding up the signs, too.

#### PRAYER

- God, thank you that even when things seem hard, we can trust you to be with us. You give us courage to follow you, even when we feel like we don't have what it takes. Thank you for being with us when we feel weak. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

#### DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**

- **Why did King Saul's actions disappoint God?** *Because he didn't fully obey God.*
- **What was God looking for in the new king instead of outward appearance?** *God looked at the heart.*
- **Why was it such a surprise when David was chosen to be the king?** *He was the youngest and he was tending sheep.*
- **In 2 Corinthians 12:9, God told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you." What do you think that means?**

- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- **When are some times you might feel weak — sad, discouraged, or not good enough?**
- **Why do you think we don't like feeling weak?**
- **Was there a time you or someone you know felt weak but God helped them?**

#### ACTIVITY | Microphone Magic

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You might want to demonstrate a crescendo by gradually increasing the volume on a song. Have kids crumple aluminum foil into tight spheres. Use glue dots or double-sided tape to attach the foil ball to the end of a cardboard tube. Provide markers, crayons, washi tape, stickers, and glitter pens for kids to color their microphones. Make sure they write the Big Idea somewhere. (See a worked example [here](#).)*
  - **PRETEEN HACK:** *On a dry-erase board or poster paper, draw a [crescendo sign](#). On the small end, write the words: "I feel weak when . . ." and have the kids write their response on sticky notes to place on that end. Then, on the large,*

open end, write the words: "I feel strong because . . ." and have the kids write out the Big Idea on another sticky note to put up.

- **Have any of you heard of the musical term, "crescendo?"** A crescendo happens when the volume of the music gets louder and louder. A piece of technology that helps us with that is a microphone . . . the closer you are to it, the louder you can get!
- God's presence with us is like a microphone. On our own, we feel unheard, unnoticed, even weak and afraid. Like a microphone, God makes us strong! Let's make today's Big Idea a real crescendo in our lives — that is, let's *turn it up!* **God, you're with me when I feel weak!**