

# Rock You in a Hurricane

**Bible Story:** Rock You in a Hurricane (sand and rock) • *Matthew 7:24-27*

**Bottom Line:** Practice hearing what God says.

**Memory Verse:** “Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way.”  
*1 Timothy 4:8a, NIV*

**Life App:** Commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice.

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

## Power Up: Engage the Heart (Large Group, 20-25 minutes)

Engage children’s hearts in a Large Group setting through interactive worship, prayer, and an innovative re-telling of today’s Bible story.

### **CREATE THIS MONTH’S ENVIRONMENT: REHEARSAL ROOM**

As we talk about commitment and what it means to put a plan into practice, we thought it would be fun to take kids to a rehearsal room.

There are several options for you to consider:

Go black and white with sheet music and musical notes.

- Find old sheet music that you can cut up (donated or from a thrift shop). Trace and cut out the letters to spell “Commitment” or “rehearsal room” and mount them on black construction paper or foam board. Post them up on your focal wall.
- Create giant musical notes from poster board or foam board and hang them on your focal wall (or make them a bit smaller and hang them from the ceiling)
- Have old or fake band instruments on stage for kids to try out or “lip sync” with to music played as they enter the room

Find YouTube videos of rehearsals (funny or cute) of “Hot Cross Buns” and have them loop on a TV, computer, or screens as kids are coming into your environment. Or if you have time, feel free to make your own videos of your kids or Small Group Leaders trying to “rehearse” “Hot Cross Buns” on a recorder.

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPf\\_DyR7ooU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPf_DyR7ooU)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kMGKKtrKCI>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgivKvMKtQk>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOKzuEWPLpE>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDTvS0uLloA>

Another idea would be to create a fairly generic stage area that you can transform into a different rehearsal room each week:

- Music: music stands, sheet music, various band or orchestra instruments, music theory posters
- Dance: ballet bar, dance shoes, ballet position posters, full length mirrors along your focal wall

- Theater: comedy and tragedy masks, theater posters, trunks filled with costumes and props
- Sports: exercise posters, free weights, warm-up mats, exercise balls

### **Widget\*:** Skill Bands

\* **widg-et** [wij-it] –noun

1. Something unspecific whose name is either forgotten or not known
2. A device that is very useful for a particular job  
*Origin:* 1925–30; perhaps an alternative form of gadget

There's nothing more awesome than knowing God. But it doesn't just happen by accident between video games and walking the dog! The kids and families in your ministry need a plan, and it can look like this: Hear. Pray. Talk. Live. This month's widget, SKILL BANDS, provides a cool reminder of each unique way to know God. Parents can give kids one of the four bands each week as their child tries a new way to connect with the incredible God who created them.

## **GETTING READY**

### **1. Opener/Closer**

#### **What You Need:**

- Host
- Trumpet (or other instrument) with case

#### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Instrument sound effects (See Opener. Feel free to change the instruments used.)

#### *Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):*

- Commitment Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

#### **What You Do:**

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the music and instrument sound effects from a resource such as iTunes® and have them ready to play.

### **2. Bible Story**

#### **What You Need:**

- Storyteller
- Host
- Clear bucket with fine sand (white, if possible)
- Clear bucket with rocks (round aquarium rocks, if possible)
- Napkin or handkerchief
- Bible

#### *Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):*

- Bottom Line Slide

**What You Do:**

- Download the slide and have it ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.

*Note: (See script for context.) One way to avoid having the Host actually put sand in his mouth is to have a smaller container hidden on top of the bucket of sand. (The container would need to be positioned so that the kids can't see the top peeking out from within the pile of sand. You can bury the container itself so that the top of the sand pile is level with the top of the container.) Then the Host would grab a handful of sugar instead of a handful of sand, but it would still appear as though he's grabbing the sand.*

**3. Worship****What You Need:**

- Worship Leader(s)

*Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- "God Is for Us" from *Living Inside Out*\*
- "Your Love Never Fails" from *Movin' Me*\* (On the *Get Reel 2.0* DVD there is a "Live Loud" video you can show to help teach and encourage worship in our everyday lives. Use this segment before doing "Your Love Never Fails.")
- "This Is Amazing Grace" from *Movin' Me*\*  
\*Live lyrics video available from <https://amberskyrecords.com/>

**What You Do:**

- Download all songs (available on AmberSkyRecords.com) and have them ready to use.
- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.

**4. Additional Resources**

**GET REEL:** This month with *Get Reel 2.0*, create a "Rehearsal Room" to encourage kids to commit: to make a plan and stick with it!

This week, we recommend playing the *Discovery* video to inspire the key faith skill of Navigate the Bible. Our Host literally jumps into the Bible to help us discover how God wants us to learn what He says and apply it to our lives. Also on *Get Reel 2.0*, you can enhance your environment with an M.C. Haggis video. M.C. Haggis and his sidekick Shamus McFamus tell us all about this month's widget.

**FEATURE PRESENTATION:** We know that sometimes you want to "mix things up" to keep kids engaged with the most important thing you do every week in your Large Group: **tell the Bible story.**

You also like having a back-up plan in case your Host or Storyteller cancels at the last minute. This is why our Large Group script is interchangeable with the *Feature Presentation* DVDs so you can plug and play the way you need to each week. Similar to the flow we create with our Large Group script, *Feature Presentation* also has weekly Intro and Outro videos with a Host. The Intros set up the Bible story and Life App, while the Outros smoothly transition from Large Group to Small Group.

For the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade age group, we recommend playing *252 Movie*, which takes you through a fully-dramatized presentation of the story in a contemporary and comedic sketch of the Bible story.

## Rock You in a Hurricane

**Bible Story:** Rock You in a Hurricane (sand and rock) • *Matthew 7:24-27*

**Bottom Line:** Practice hearing what God says.

**Memory Verse:** “Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way.”  
*1 Timothy 4:8a, NIV*

**Life App:** Commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice.

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

### Optional Activity Cheryl pulled from the small group lesson plan:

#### ★ 5-6 Challenge: Instrument Listening

**What You Need:** Musical instrument that the SGL is able to play OR recorded music on a smart phone or other device (*Optional: Use a musical instrument app on a smart phone.*)

#### **What You Do:**

Practice some music appreciation. Play music on your instrument or device. Play different types of music or different sounds on the instrument. Ask kids to describe what they're hearing. Is it fast or slow? How does it make them feel? Let them close their eyes and imagine what they see as the music plays.

*(Optional: Kids might have their own electronic devices with musical instrument apps. Invite them to join in and make music with you.)*

#### **What You Say:**

“Listening to different types of music can be fun if we learn to listen. We can listen for all kinds of things, and the more we listen, the better we get at recognizing what instrument is playing, what notes, and what kind of feeling the composer wanted us to have when we listened to it. This is called ‘music appreciation.’ Everybody appreciates some kind of music, but the more you practice listening, the better you get at appreciating all kinds of music! **[Transition] We’re getting a feel for what it’s like when we listen to music.**”

### Power Up: Engage the Heart (Large Group, 20-25 minutes)

Engage children’s hearts in a Large Group setting through interactive worship, prayer and an innovative telling of today’s Bible story.

**SFX:** *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

*Host enters carrying a case with a trumpet inside.*

#### **Opener if you choose to do this instead of the activity that Cheryl pulled.**

**HOST:** “Hello, everybody! Welcome to a new month and a new year in [name of your environment]. I am so excited that you are here as we kick off 2015. You know, a lot of people make New Year’s

resolutions. Some resolve to exercise more or to lose weight. Some people resolve to learn a new skill. And THAT is what I'm doing this year. You may have noticed the case I carried in. Any guesses as to what might be in here? (*Pause for responses.*) Good guesses.

*Open the case and pull out the trumpet.*

"A trumpet! Now some of you could tell this was a trumpet just by seeing the case. But how many of you think you could identify an instrument by the sound it makes? That sounds like a good game. Let's play! You will hear the sound of an instrument. Some of them will be obvious while others may be a bit challenging. If you think you know the answer, raise your hand as fast as you can!

"All right, here is the first instrument.

**SFX: Instrument: Trombone**

*Call on kids to respond until someone says the correct answer. Give hints if nobody gets it right.*

"Correct. It's a trombone! Here is the next one.

**SFX: Instrument: Guitar**

*Call on kids to respond until someone says the correct answer. Give hints if nobody gets it right.*

"Yes! It's a guitar! Here is the next one.

**SFX: Instrument: Flute**

*Call on kids to respond until someone says the correct answer. Give hints if nobody gets it right.*

"A flute! Now we get a little tougher. Here we go.

**SFX: Instrument: Sitar**

*Call on kids to respond until someone says the correct answer. Give hints if nobody gets it right.*

"Told you that was a tough one! That was a sitar. Here is the next instrument.

**SFX: Instrument: Kazoo**

*Call on kids to respond until someone says the correct answer. Give hints if nobody gets it right.*

"Kazoo! Is that a real instrument? Anyway, here is the second to last one.

**SFX: Instrument: Timpani drums**

*Call on kids to respond until someone says the correct answer. Give hints if nobody gets it right.*

“That’s not just any drum. It’s a timpani drum! All right, last one!”

**SFX: Instrument: Jaw harp**

*Call on kids to respond until someone says the correct answer. Give hints if nobody gets it right.*

“That is called the jaw harp. Well played, everyone!”

“You know, that took a lot of focus to hear those instruments, especially when some of them sound very similar to other instruments.

*Hold up trumpet.*

“Oh yeah, so back to this trumpet here. You know, I have had this trumpet lying around for a couple of years, but I never took the time to learn to play it. I thought the new year was as good a time as any to start. I figure if I commit to practicing, I will be playing like a pro in no time! It’s just like our Life App for this month.

**CG: Commitment Slide**

“Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.

“Want to hear me play? Okay, well, I haven’t actually started practicing yet ... but how hard could it be?!”

*Place lips on the trumpet and attempt to play. The result sounds like a sick animal.*

“Whoa. That is harder than I thought. Maybe I just need to push more air through.

*Try again with the same results ... just louder.*

*(A little dejected)* “Bummer. I really thought I was going to be the next Dizzy Gillespie. But this is going to take more practice than I thought.”

*Worship Leader rushes in.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Is everyone okay out here!? I heard this terrible sound, like somebody was in extreme agony or something!”

**HOST:** “Nope. That was just me. *(Point to trumpet.)* Looks like I need a little more practice.”

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Phew. Well, I’m just glad everyone is okay. Hey, it’s time to sing together!”

*Host exits.*

## **Worship**

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Wow, that was a lot of instruments! Let’s rock out God’s praises together. Our God is amazing! And even better is the fact that He is for us—you and me. God is on our side. That’s what this song is about, so c’mon, let me hear you sing loud!”

**SFX:** “*God Is for Us*” / track 4 from *Living Inside Out*

“Awesome. Oh, that’s so fun. This month we are talking about commitment. God is so committed to us. And the love of Jesus NEVER fails us. Before we sing this next song, everybody check this out.”

**CG:** “*Live Loud*” video from *Get Reel 2.0 DVD*

“I can think of so many reasons I can sing about the faithfulness of Jesus. He is steadfast. He never changes. His love keeps on going day after day. Think about the reasons you have to sing of His love, and let’s sing about it.”

**SFX:** “*Your Love Never Fails*” / track 7 from *Movin’ Me*

“I’m so that God loves us with a faithful love that never gives up. Romans 1:5 says: ‘I received God’s grace because of what Jesus did so that I could bring glory to him.’ (NIRV) Our worship is all about giving glory to our amazing Savior whose grace and love has been given to us. Let’s honor Him and remember all that we’ve been given.”

**SFX:** “*This Is Amazing Grace*” / track 6 from *Movin’ Me*

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

## **★ SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hey, everybody! It’s great to see you here as we start a brand new month AND a brand new year! All month long we are going to be talking about commitment. Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice! And we have a great story today, but I’m going to need a little help from [Host’s name].”

*Storyteller calls for Host, who comes running out.*

“All right, thanks for helping out. I have a couple buckets here that are going to help set up our Bible story for today.”

*Storyteller picks up the first bucket, which has sand in it.*

“Now this first bucket is full of ...”

**HOST:** (*Interrupting*) “Sugaaaar! I love sugar so much!”

*Host takes a handful of sand and puts it in his mouth. His face turns from excitement to shock and then to disgust.*

**HOST:** *(Speaking with a mouth full of sand)* “I hate to tell you this, but your sugar has gone terribly bad. It doesn’t taste anything like sugar anymore.”

**STORYTELLER:** “That’s because it is sand.”

**HOST:** “Gross!”

*Host runs offstage and spits the sand out. He quickly comes back onstage, wiping his tongue with a napkin or handkerchief.*

**STORYTELLER:** “As I was saying ... this first bucket is full of SAND. Sand is great for a lot of things, like beaches, sandboxes, and baseball fields. But as we’ll see in the story today, sand is not the best choice for everything.”

**HOST:** “Like eating.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Right. Okay, now on to our second bucket.”

*Storyteller picks up the second bucket, which is full of rocks.*

**STORYTELLER:** “Now THIS bucket is unlike the first, because ...”

**HOST:** *(Excited)* “Because it is full of jawbreakers! My favorite candy!”

*Host grabs a handful of rocks and puts them in his/her mouth. Instant disappointment.*

**STORYTELLER:** “Those aren’t jawbreakers. Well technically they are, but not the candy kind. They’re rocks.”

**HOST:** *(Mouth full)* “Well, I know that now! How could you give me rocks and tell me they’re candy?!”

**STORYTELLER:** “I didn’t actually tell you ... okay, never mind. No, this is a bucket of ROCKS, and these rocks have a lot to do with our story today as well. *(To Host)* Now, let me ask you a question. If you were building a brand new house, which do you think would be better to build on top of—sand or rock?”

**HOST:** *(Still with rocks in mouth)* “Probably rock.”

*Storyteller holds bucket in front of Host, who spits the rocks back in.*

**HOST:** “You know, after a while, those really start to taste like jawbreakers ...”



**STORYTELLER:** “That’s disgusting. Anyway, so if you were building a house, you would rather build on rock than on sand? Good choice. It’s hard to believe that anyone would think it would be a good idea to build a house on top of sand. As we’ll see in a minute, Jesus told a story that explains how silly it is to build a house on sand. *(To Host)* Hey, thanks for your help!

*Host exits. Storyteller picks up the Bible and opens to Matthew 7.*

“Jesus told many stories to help bring His teachings to life. One particular day, Jesus was teaching the crowds what it means to love God and to obey Him. The crowds listened intently to every word. But Jesus knew that listening to Him was not the same as doing what He said, so at the end of His teachings, He told them a story.

### ★ THE WISE MAN

**STORYTELLER:** *(Read Matthew 7:24 directly from the Bible.)* “Jesus said ... ‘Everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock.’ *(NirV)*

“In His story, Jesus talks about two men. The first man He calls a *(pause for a response)* wise man. Why is the man wise? Because he not only heard what God said, but he actually DID what God said—he put God’s words into practice. And Jesus compares this wise man to a man building a house.

“Building a house is a LOT of work. It can take a really long time to get everything right, but before you do ANYTHING, there is a pretty important detail that will determine if the house is going to last or not. Anybody have a guess? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes! Where you are going to build the house may be one of the most important decisions you make. And where did Jesus say this guy built his house? On the rock. So do you think this man’s house will last? Well, let’s keep reading. *(Read directly from Matthew 7:25.)* “The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock.” *(NirV)*

“Not even the storms can bring this house down. And it is all because the wise man built his house on the rock. THIS is the picture of any person who listens to God’s words and puts them into practice. You are a wise man ... or woman.

### ★ THE FOOLISH MAN

**STORYTELLER:** “But Jesus isn’t finished yet. He continues the story. *(Read directly from Matthew 7:26.)* ‘But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand.’ *(NirV)*

“The second man Jesus talks about chooses to build a house too, but instead of starting on solid ground like rock, he builds his house on *(pause for response)* sand. Any of you ever build something on the beach? Is it still there? No, probably not, because sand is always shifting and changing. It’s not solid. But the second man chooses sand as the foundation of his house, and Jesus calls him what? *(Pause for response.)* Foolish.

“So the first man’s house lasted. Not so much with this guy. *(Read directly from Matthew 7:27.)* ‘The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash.’” *(NirV)*

“The house is destroyed! Now, we know this story is not really about two men who built houses. It’s about two kinds of people. The first, we said, is a person who hears God’s Word and (*pause for response*) puts it into practice. He is called (*pause for response*) ‘WISE.’ But the second guy is like a person who hears God’s Word and (*pause for response*) does NOT put it into practice. Ever hear the old expression ‘in one ear and out the other’? Yeah, that is this guy. And Jesus calls him (*wait for response*) ‘FOOLISH.’

### ★ WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “As Jesus finished teaching that day, I’m sure there were two types of people in the crowd. Some would be like the first man. They would hear Jesus speak and go and do what He had asked them to do. They would be wise and obey Him. But in the crowd that day there would also be people who would listen to Jesus’ words, and maybe even nod their heads in agreement, but they would walk away and ignore what they had heard. They would be foolish and disobey Him.

“You know, each of us has the same decision to make whenever we hear God speak to us. But some of you might be wondering, ‘How do I know when I’m hearing God speak?’ That is why we have to practice hearing what God says.

#### CG: Bottom Line Slide

“That is our Bottom Line today: **[Impress] Practice hearing what God says.** If we want to be like the wise builder, we need to practice hearing what God says, and then we need to go do it! Let me ask God to help us as we try to obey Him.”

#### Pray

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You that not only did You speak to people thousands of years ago, but You also still speak to us today. Sometimes it can be easy for us to listen, but it can be much harder to actually do what You are asking us to do. Please help us to hear what You say, and then to be like the wise man who put it into practice. We ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters as Storyteller exits. Host is carrying the trumpet.*

#### Closer

**HOST:** “What a great story! I certainly know what kind of person I want to be. I want to be like the wise man who, after hearing God’s Word, puts it into practice. Like [Storyteller’s name] said, some of you might be asking, ‘How do I know if I’m hearing God speak?’ That is a great question. One way you can hear what God says is by reading the Bible. The Bible is God’s revelation to us—meaning it is how He REVEALS Himself to us and lets us know who He is and what He wants for our lives. In other words, when you read the Bible, you are reading what God HIMSELF wants you to know. I think that is pretty cool.

“Now some of you might have tried to read the Bible before and found it to be really confusing. Maybe you started in the middle of a book and didn’t know what was happening. Each month, we give out these GodTime cards that help show you where to start. This month is a great time for you to give them a try.

“Another way you can hear God speak is by memorizing the Bible. Sometimes when we are reading, it can be easy to miss something, but when you memorize verses, you really have to focus on what the Bible says. When we memorize Scripture, God can speak through His Word even if we don’t have our Bible with us!

**CG: Memory Verse Slide**

“Speaking of memorizing Scripture, why don’t we give this month’s verse a try? ‘Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way,’ 1 Timothy 4:8a (NIRV)

“Now for some of you, this might sound easy. You can read the Bible and memorize verses like a champ. But for others, it’s going to take some practice. It’s just like my trumpet here. (*Hold up trumpet.*) I thought it would pretty easy to play, but as I demonstrated earlier, not so much. But I really do want to get better, so I’m committed to practicing every day for 30 minutes. That’s what our Bottom Line today is all about.

**CG: Bottom Line**

**[Impress]** “Practice hearing what God says. It won’t be easy at first, but the more I practice, the easier it will be. And the more you read your Bible and memorize verses, the easier it will be for you as well. And when you learn how to hear what God says, you’ll know how to DO what God says. And that is the wise choice!”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*

**SFX:** Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

## FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **COMMITMENT** and God’s character,  
as shown through God’s One Big Story

Have you never had to endure a child learning how to play the clarinet? It’s pretty awful. Sounds more like a person strangling a duck than anything close to actual music. But that goes with any musical instrument, doesn’t it? To become great at playing an instrument, you need to practice ... to rehearse. You need to commit to sticking with it even when you don’t feel like it.

This is true for faith. To grow—to mature—takes practice. It takes commitment. Which is why we’re taking a whole month to discover how commitment can show up in our lives as we practice our faith. Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.

If we want to know God better, we need to practice our faith. But this isn't something that comes naturally to any of us. That's why we need a plan to put into practice. And the best place to start is with faith skills.

Every so often we like to come back around and focus on four faith skills that kids can practice to help them grow in their faith and know God better. We use four words to help us remember these skills:

HEAR. PRAY. TALK. LIVE.

Each week this month, we'll focus on one of the faith skills as we talk about making a plan and putting it into practice.

*This month, let's think about how:*

- (1) God created commitment and exemplifies it in being committed to us.*
- (2) Commitment is both a reflection of and a response to God's character. We can demonstrate His commitment to us as we commit to knowing Him more.*
- (3) Commitment is how we follow through on the tasks set before us.*

**This week, we're discovering:**

*Hear.* We want kids to learn how to hear from God as they learn what Jesus said, read God's Word, and listen to the Holy Spirit. For the first week of commitment, kids will focus on navigating and personalizing Scripture as they look at the familiar parable of the wise and foolish builders in **Matthew 7:24-27**.

Our Bottom Line is: **Practice hearing what God says.** We can't do what God says until we know what God says, and that begins with listening to God.

Our Memory Verse is **1 Timothy 4:8a**, "**Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way.**" (*NIRV*) When we commit to practicing our faith and follow through on our plan, we'll grow in such a big way that it will impact our entire lives.