

## Worship/Announcements

### Welcome/Intro

*Kyle enters.*

KYLE

Welcome to KidStuf. This is the place where kids bring their parents to church. If you hadn't noticed yet, we use this place and this time to talk about God, laugh a lot, and make sure we do things that we can talk about all month long. My name is Kyle, and I am so glad to see every one of you here. Thanks for coming. If you hadn't noticed, it's a new year, and now it's time to kick off the new year with a new virtue. So let's ...

*Big Joe enters, but he is still talking to someone backstage. He is laughing. He's carrying a cup of coffee and a donut.*

BIG JOE

Yeah, I hear ya. You won't get me on that one again! Stop! Stop! No, you stop!

KYLE

Are we interrupting your conversation?

BIG JOE

No. Me and the stage manager were just trading jokes backstage. She's hilarious.

KYLE

You know, we've already started, and I see you have your coffee and ... is that a donut?

BIG JOE

Yeah. That's why I trade jokes with the stage manager. She always knows where the snacks are. Oh, here's one. What color is a burp?

KYLE

I don't know. What color is a burp?

BIG JOE

Burple! Get it? Burple! Pretty funny, huh? (*Takes a bite of donut.*) Hey, these are good.

KYLE

Was that your joke?

BIG JOE

How did you know? Want a bite?

KYLE

No thanks. I want to reveal the virtue and tell everybody what we are going to be doing this month that's really special.

BIG JOE

Oh. First, hold on, you gotta hear the joke she told me. It almost made me spit coffee.

KYLE

I'm glad it was almost.

BIG JOE

She said that we were going to be completing some kind of challenge this month. You and me! Competing! Get it? She always tries to get me on something.

*Kyle is stone faced and holds eye contact with Big Joe for a beat.*

KYLE

I think we'd better reveal the virtue.

BIG JOE

I got it. I got it.

KYLE

Okay, while Big Joe gets ready with his coffee and donut, everybody make a drum roll on your legs. Everybody is going to say the virtue out loud when we count down from three. Ready? Three ... two ... one ...

*Still munching on the donut, Big Joe reveals the virtue with a full mouth.*

BIG JOE

Determination—deciding it's worth it to finish what you've started. Good job. Now, parents, say it on your own because I've got to finish this donut.

*Kyle may finish leading the parents in the definition while Big Joe finds a place to get comfortable.*

KYLE

This month we had a great idea to show people how important determination is in our lives. Just to get a picture of how much we think finishing what you start is important to every single family here, we are challenging all of you to memorize the Books of the Bible in order. We will have a little competition at KidStuf next month to see how you do.

*Big Joe does a spit take.*

BIG JOE

We are what?

KYLE

We are going to be memorizing all the books of the Bible. In Order. From Genesis to Revelation.

BIG JOE

So by “we” you mean anyone here can participate, right?

KYLE

Absolutely. We are going to be starting at today and the challenge is at KidStiuf on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

BIG JOE

So all you guys can show up for that.

*Big Joe gets comfortable again.*

KYLE

And Big Joe and I will be the ones competing against you in the challenge.

*Big Joe does another spit take.*

BIG JOE

What?! Are you joking? Do you know how many books are in the Bible?

KYLE

66

BIG JOE

I can't memorize that many. Plus, those words are not normal words. My mouth gets all jumbled. No way I can say them all perfectly in order from start to finish!

KYLE

That's all the more reason we are the perfect ones to show an example of determination. We are going to memorize the books even though it is hard.

BIG JOE

Can't we read all the books in order instead? Why didn't you sign us up for a reading challenge? I'm good at that!

KYLE

Look, it's the beginning of the year and we are going to be looking at what God says about determination all month long. It's a perfect time to start off on the right foot and show the virtue of determination.

BIG JOE

I was thinking the right foot would be a foot-long hot dog with extra cheese and chili.

KYLE

No, we are going to have to start working hard if we are going to be able to beat all these people. No more of this.

*KYLE takes away Big Joe's donut.*

BIG JOE

My breakfast!

KYLE

We're memorizing now. You will need your hands to hold this. Every day. All day long.

*Kyle places Bible in Joe's hand.*

BIG JOE

I don't know about this ...

KYLE

Come on! How many of you think Big Joe can memorize all the Books of the Bible in order?

*Audience responds.*

BIG JOE

You're pressuring me. Okay, but how many of you think I can beat you in the challenge next Kidstuf?

*Big Joe ad libs with the audience a little.*

KYLE

Will you do it?

BIG JOE

I'll do it if some of these people will do it too.

KYLE

It's a deal! Meet here. Same time. Next month. Now, we need to get a jump start on memorizing which is perfect because it's time for the Scoop Newsman show on KABC!

*Kyle and Joe exit.*

**SKIT**

*Scoop enters wearing running shorts, tennis shoes, a sweat band, and his suit jacket.*

*As Scoop delivers the intro, other runners enter and begin to stretch like they are preparing for a race. Their stretching can be awkward and funny throughout the skit.*

*Runners continue to stretch through each interview.*

## SCOOP

Hello everyone. Scoop Newsman here. Today I am bringing you live coverage of the run of a kagillion steps. That's a lot of steps folks. Unfortunatly for me, in order to cover the run of a kagillion steps, I actually have to run a kagillion steps.

As part of our pre-race coverage, I will be bringing you pre-race coverage straight from the starting line. Let's head on over and meet our runners. Hi there. I'm Scoop Newsman reporting live on KABC. Can you tell me what this run is all about?

## RUNNER 1

Hey there Scoop! Today, we are running to practice Determination- Deciding it's worth it to finish what you start. We are running this race today, but did you also know that the Bible talks about our lives being a race? Hebrews 12:1 says "Let us keep running the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus". Living for God can be challenging sometimes, just like this race will be challenging, but we can show determination and finish strong.

## SCOOP

That is a great point! Life is a race and we need determination to finish strong! Do you have any tips for the other runners out there?

## RUNNER 1

Here's what I always remember: In the run of a kagillion steps, you need to pace yourself. Don't try to sprint right off the block. Keep an even pace. In the race of life, keep on doing what God says, because He is God and He knows what's best for us.

SCOOP

That is some great advice! It is coming up on the screen now. Let's say it all together.

**Keep on doing what God says because He's God.**

SCOOP

Let's see what the other runners are up to...

Hi! I'm Scoop Newsman covering this race live on KABC. Do you have any race advice for us?

RUNNER 2

Hi Scoop! I do have some important advice to share. You know, in this race and in the race of life, it is important to stay on the right path. Going off the path can be dangerous, or you could miss something good. In the race of a kagillion steps, we know we are on the right path when we follow the map and the signs. In the race of life, we know we are on the right path when we are following God's word and doing what He says. Make sure you stay on the right path so you don't miss anything good.

SCOOP

That is a great point! Let's say it!

**Keep doing what you should do so you don't miss something really good.**

SCOOP

Perfect! Let's see if anyone else here has some advice for us.

Hi there! Scoop Newsman reporting live for KABC. Do you have any running advice you would like to share with us?

RUNNER 3

Sure! You know Scoop, running the race isn't always easy. When things get tough and you get tired it can be tempting to just give up and call it quits. The race of life can be like that too sometimes. We might get tired of trying to do the right thing, or the right thing might seem too hard. When that happens to me, I try to remember Philippians 4:13 which says "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength". You see Scoop, we can keep running and keep trying to do the right thing, because God says that we can win with His strength!

SCOOP

That is amazing! Let's repeat that one so we are sure to remember it.

**Keep doing what you should do because God says you can.**

Wow! That was some great advice. I'm really glad we talked to those runners . I have a feeling I will need their advice during the race. Oh, look! The race is about to start. I'd better get to my place.

ANNOUNCER

On your mark, get set, GO!

*Everyone begins a slow, exaggerated run off the stage to the first "stop". Scoop is in first place. When Scoop gets to the "stop" Runner 1 does an exaggerated fall and is obviously in pain.*

SCOOP

Oh no! Someone fell! That's terrible! She looks like she's hurt pretty bad. I should probably go help her. That would be what God would want me to do. But I can't go back! I'm in first place! Someone else will help her. It doesn't have to be me.

*Scoop starts to run away.*

*Bottom line 1 appears on the screen*

SCOOP

Ok. I guess you're right. I need to do what God says because He is in charge and knows what's best. I'll go back and help her.

*Scoop runs in slow motion back to Runner 1, helps her up, and dusts her off. He then runs back to stop 1.*

Great. I did the right thing and I didn't waste too much time. I am in last place now but I know a shortcut that will be a lot faster than the way the other runners are going. I think I can catch up to them if I take it.

*Bottom line 2 appears on the screen.*

Oh. Right. I'd better stay on the right path. I don't want to miss anything. Thanks for the reminder. I guess I will just have to run faster to catch up to the others.

*Scoop runs to stop 2*

*When he gets to stop 2 he is clearly out of breath*

SCOOP

Wow! I need to take a break! I was running way too fast! I don't think I can keep this up! It is too hard! I'm tired and thirsty and the others are catching up. I'm never going to make it!

*Bottom line 3 appears on the screen.*

You're right! We learned that we can do anything through God who gives us strength. I'll try to finish, but I need your help. I need some encouragement. Let me hear it!

*As everyone cheers, Scoop runs back to the stage.*

*The other runners stretch out a finish line for him to run through. They are also cheering him on.*

*Scoop dramatically runs through the finish line.*

## SCOOP

I did it! I made it! I finished the race! All I needed was some determination... and some help from all of you. I'm going to go celebrate! Thanks so much for your help! Remember to fix your eyes on Jesus this month, and, as always, stay classy Atascadero.

### WORD

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### FAMILY PRAYER

### WRAP-UP

### CLOSING SONG