WHAT YOU DO

1. Go to myfreedom.org/kidsleaders to do the following:
   1. Read through K-5th large group leader guide several times throughout the week to familiarize yourself with what to say, how long it should take, and the order of activities.
   2. Watch the Bible story video.
   3. Preview the worship songs and get familiar with the motions for this weekend.
2. Follow up with your campus lead with any questions about the weekend!
3. Arrive on time to tag in briefly with the team, gather your materials, and connect with early arrivers.
4. Teach kids about God’s Word with energy!

WHAT YOU NEED (provided for you)

- bring your own Bible
- bring your own bath robe
- beard
- boogie board (2)
- lemonade juice box
- step ladder
- small table
- cow figurine
CUE: Play high energy music as kids enter.
CUE: Freedom Kids Logo (#1) / Start Freedom Kids Countdown (#2) 2 minutes prior to gathering start time.

OPENER

Tape outline of USA on the floor, taking up your whole large group space. As the kids enter, Host is commenting on where they choose to sit. (“Looks like you’re sitting in North Dakota! The Mississippi River is right under you.”)

LEADER: CUE: Freedom Kids Logo (#1). What’s up, everybody? It’s so good to see all of you here, from sea to shining sea. (Reference the kids sitting outside the outline.) And hello to those of you floating in the Atlantic! Are you guys ready for some Freedom Kids today?! (Pause for response.) That’s awesome. All month long we’ve been taking a road trip to learn about patience. I mean after all, when you’re on a road trip and have to wait in the car for HOURS, you have to show a little patience, right?

CUE: Patience Graphic (#3). This month we are saying that patience is waiting until later for what you want now. That’s really not the easiest thing to do, because let’s face it, when you want something, you want it NOW! Am I right? When your grandma ordered a pizza and your stomach is growling and all you want is that cheesy goodness to show up at your door. Or when you’re stuck in the waiting room at the dentist, you just want to get in there and get it over with. Or when you really need to go the bathroom but it’s occupied. You don’t want to wait. You want what you want, and you want it now! (Pause) That’s when you’ve got to take a breath (take a breath) and remember to be patient. You’ve got to be patient at home, at school, at practice, and most definitely in the car. Let’s get on with our road trip, shall we?

GAME

Four Corners - USA Edition

LEADER: CUE: Road Trip (#4). In case you haven’t noticed, you’re sitting on the United States. I mean, sure, you’re IN the United States, but you’re also sitting ON the United States. (Point to the tape outline.) Let’s have some fun today with a little bit of Four Corners . . . USA Edition.

I’ve got four U.S. landmarks for you: the Space Needle, . . . Show the picture of the Space Needle and tape it on the ground in Washington . . . the Grand Canyon, . . . . Show the picture of the Grand Canyon and tape it on the ground in Arizona. . . . the Statue of Liberty, . . . . Show the picture of the Statue of Liberty and tape it on the ground in New York. . . . and last but not least, Disney World...Show the picture of Cinderella’s Castle and tape it on the ground in Florida.

We’ll play this like Four Corners. When the music starts, I’ll close my eyes while you travel to one of these four landmarks. When the music stops, I’ll call out one of them, and if that’s where you’re standing, you’re out! You have to go over here to Hawaii or Alaska—either of which actually sounds like a pretty awesome place to wait, depending on how much you like beaches or snow. Show them where Hawaii is on the floor, out in the Pacific, and put a picture of a palm tree. All right, let’s do this. Ready, set, go! CUE: High energy music during the game.
LEADER: Way to go, everybody! You all can head back to your regular seats. I hope you enjoyed your trip around the country. Actually, you can go ahead and stay standing because we’re about to sing to our God who loves us!

CUE: Higher Than The Sky (#5)
CUE: Remind Me (#6)

LEADER: Let’s all cheer for our big strong God and show Him some love! Let me hear you! (Initiate applause and shout!) Wow - you guys sounded amazing! Thanks for worshipping today! CUE: Road Trip (#7).

STORY

Bible Story

LEADER: On the count of three, I want you to shout out a place that you’ve gone on a road trip. 1, 2, 3! (Pause for response.) When you’re waiting and waiting in the back seat, the ride can seem like it takes forever. You just want to BE there already! That’s true pretty much anytime you want to get somewhere or when you just want something to happen, but you have to wait for it. That was certainly true for God’s people, the Israelites. (Hold up Bible.) God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt. Now, that event was so incredibly epic that you’d think they would never complain about anything again! But as God led them on a road trip of their own, they unfortunately forgot to pack their patience. And I need your help today to tell the story! Select a small group leader to be Moses, one kid to be Aaron, and a group of 4-5 kids to be he Israelites. Set up a table in the middle your stage/area and a step ladder off to the side. Now my Isrealites, I need you guys to do everything I say in the story! Let’s practice. Hop on one foot. Okay, dance like a chicken. Pick your nose. I’m just kidding! Let’s get started.

MOSES GOES UP THE MOUNTAIN

The leader of the Israelites was a guy named Moses. Choose a small group leader and place fake beard on him and have him put the bath robe on. He poses and flexes dramatically to the music. CUE: “Theme from ‘The Ten Commandments.’” (#8) God led Moses and the rest of His people into the desert, and He provided food and water for them along the way. They got to a ‘rest stop’ at the base of Mount Sinai, and Moses went up the mountain to hear from God. Ask Moses to climb up the step ladder and look mighty.
STORY

God gave Moses lots of laws for the people—laws that were designed to keep them safe and teach them how to live. And that took a while. For 40 days and 40 nights, God talked to Moses on the mountain. That's longer than a month! Do you think the people waited patiently? *(Pause for response.)* Not so much. They hadn't planned on this little detour on their road trip. They got restless. They knew God was leading them somewhere; they just wanted to GET there already!

THE PEOPLE WANT A NEW GOD

The people gathered around Aaron, who was Moses’ brother. They told him, ‘We don’t know what’s going on up there with Moses. Make us a statue of a god and we’ll follow it instead.’ Apparently, they wanted to have something they could worship and actually see, because it was just taking too long to wait for Moses. Keep in mind, it wasn’t THAT long ago that they said . . . *hold up poster that says: We will do everything the Lord has told us to do (Exodus 24:3 NIV).*

But they forgot. And Aaron went along with it! He asked them to bring their gold earrings, and he formed the gold into a statue that looked like a calf. *(Place cow figurine on table.)* The people said, ‘Cool! Here’s our god that rescued us from Egypt,’ which doesn’t even make any sense. Like WHAT?! I guess you can do some strange things when you lose your patience.

MOSES COMES DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN

Yeah. This was NOT good. **CUE: Thunder Sound Effect (#9).** God told Moses: *They have quickly turned away from what I commanded them.* *(Exodus 32:8 NIV).* God had seen the awful things the people had done, and He had no choice but to destroy them. But that’s when Moses stepped in. He reminded God of the promise God had made to Abraham long ago. Open the Bible to Exodus 32:13 and read. I will make your children after you as many as the stars in the sky. I will give them all this land I promised them. It will belong to them forever *(Exodus 32:13 NIV).*

God remembered His promise, and He had mercy on the people like Moses had requested. And then Moses went back down the mountain toward camp. He was carrying two stone tablets with God’s laws written on them. *(Give Moses the two boogie boards to hold like tablets.)* Moses and Joshua could see that the people were dancing and worshiping the golden calf. Moses was so angry that he threw down the tablets and broke them. *(Leader throws down the boogie boards.)* He burned the calf in the fire, ground it up into powder, scattered it over the water, and made the people DRINK it. Ask Moses to give one of the Israelites a lemonade juice box to drink. Can you imagine what that tasted like? Eww! Gold juice is gross!
CLOSER

LEADER: When Moses asked Aaron how he let this happen, Aaron tried to make up excuses but the truth is that Aaron and all the other Israelites had sinned...all because they couldn’t wait. So Moses went back up to the mountain...have small group leader climb step ladder...and ask God to forgive the people for what they had done. Let’s give it up for all of our actors! (Initiate applause.)

Wow. This road trip had turned into a train wreck, and all because the people couldn’t wait. They chose to follow something obviously false because they forgot what was true. All they had to do was remember what God had done for them so far. I mean God had brought all of these people out of a life of slavery! But they got impatient. We need to learn from their mistake. We need to [Basic Truth] trust God no matter what—even when we have to wait for something that we want right now. Here’s our bottom line today. CUE: Bottom Line (#10). When you think you can’t wait, think about what’s true. Say that with me! When you think you can’t wait, think about what’s true. We know that God is with us. We know He’ll provide for us. And we need to remember how good he always is to us.

Now, maybe you are building giant golden calves to worship! Crazy, right? But maybe for you, you are feeling impatient about that cheesy pizza so you go eat a bunch of cookies when your grandma told you no. Remember, that cheesy pizza is coming! Or maybe your Dad lost his job and you guys are waiting for him to get a new one. Think about what’s true - that God has always made sure you have food to eat and a place to live. Our God is kind, keeps his promises, and he loves us so much! When you think you can’t wait, think about what’s true! Let’s all head to small group to learn more about this! See you guys next week!