EPIC MOMENTS: DISCOVERY

KIDS WILL ...

*Kids will discover that being a part of a team also includes getting to be a part of God's family.*

SESSION FOCUS

Life is filled with epic moments — those defining times in our lives that are often unforgettable. Today's epic moment is discovery. For athletes, that is the first time they join a team or find a sport that they really enjoy. The athlete discovers a place to belong, and the team gains another partner to help them succeed.

But epic moments of discovery happen in everyday life too. Every child's first epic moment of discovery is the day they were born, the day they joined their family and began the journey to become the person they are now.

Today you will also introduce (or remind) kids of the ultimate epic moment of discovery — the opportunity to join God's family as His child. For some kids, it may be the first time they have ever heard of the perfect Heavenly Father, their Creator, who is waiting with open arms to welcome them into His family.

MEGA Verse: Each day, kids will sing "Romans 8:28" during the Halftime Rally. As kids sing the song, they will memorize the MEGA Verse.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."
OPENING RALLY

This session welcomes the kids and introduces the daily theme and MEGA Point.

RALLY OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>RALLY SEGMENT</th>
<th>KEY PERSONNEL &amp; MEDIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARRIVAL TIME &amp; MUSIC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Music Coach; Music &amp; Media DVD or Music CD or downloaded files*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WELCOME</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rally Coach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEGA SPORTS SPOTLIGHT</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rally Coach; Music &amp; Media DVD or downloaded video*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEGA VISITS/AWARDS/CONCLUSION</td>
<td></td>
<td>MEGA; Rally Coach; Director CD-ROM; Head Coaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRAYER</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rally Coach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARRIVAL TIME & MUSIC

- Have the Music Coach onstage and “Romans 8:28” playing as the kids arrive. Encourage the kids to begin singing as soon as they are seated.

- When everyone is assembled, lead the following song.
  - “MEGA Sports Camp Song”

- Click to show the Discovery Poster.

WELCOME

- Welcome the kids to the Rally Zone with excitement and energy in your voice.

Welcome to our first MEGA Sports Camp rally! I’m so glad you’re here. At this camp, you’ll get to play sports. Who’s excited to play sports today? (Group response). AND we’re going to have fun! Who’s ready to have some fun? (Group response)
On the count of three, I want you to yell the sport that you’re going to be learning more about at our Sports Camp. Ready? One, two, three, go! *(Group response)*

In between Sports Sessions, we’ll meet together for rallies like this. These rallies will be fun times to discover more about our theme of *Epic Moments*. Epic moments are times in our lives that are unforgettable, and every day we’ll discover a new one. So let’s find out about today’s epic moment.

**MEGA SPORTS SPOTLIGHT**

*The MEGA Sports Announcer interviews a young adult athlete and introduces today’s theme and MEGA Point.*

- Play the Day 1 Sports Spotlight from the *Music & Media DVD*. As the video ends, the *Discovery Poster* appears.
- Show kids the *Discovery Poster*.

Wow! That was great! Finding a sport you love or a team to belong to is important for athletes. When you discover a place to belong, your coaches and team members can show you how you are valued. That’s our MEGA Point for today. *(Point to the poster or the screen.)* Let’s all say it together.

*Epic moments of discovery . . . show us we are valued.*

- Repeat the MEGA Point a couple of times in unison.

I hope every one of you discovers just how valued you are at our MEGA Sports Camp outreach.

**MEGA VISITS**

MEGA enters from the back and runs to the stage causing quite a distraction. *(He might climb over a row of kids, trip in the aisle, etc. When he finally gets to the stage, he should pause, catch his breath, then raise his hands triumphantly.)*

Kids, this is MEGA. He’s our Sports Camp mascot. Let’s give him a hand. *(Lead kids in applauding for MEGA.)* When MEGA shows up, he loves to hear the MEGA Point.

MEGA nods yes and does the MEGA Point action.

Oh, you’re doing that action to tell us to say the MEGA Point, right? *(MEGA nods yes.)* Let’s show MEGA that we already know today’s MEGA Point. Are you ready? *(Group response)*
Epic moments of discovery . . .
show us we are valued.

That was awesome! Wasn’t that awesome, MEGA? (MEGA gives kids a thumbs-up.)

MEGA loves the MEGA Point. So whenever he shows up and does this (MEGA does the MEGA Point action), he wants to hear the MEGA Point. Let’s try it right now.

→ MEGA does the MEGA Point action.

Epic moments of discovery . . .
show us we are valued.

→ MEGA should respond with excitement when the kids are done.

MEGA, are you going to hang out with us today?

→ MEGA nods yes.

Great, MEGA! Later, you and the kids will hear a sports story about a football player who discovered how much he was valued.

And you’ll hear about man named Peter in the Bible who was invited to join a very special team. In fact, we can choose to join this team too and live out our MEGA Point. Let’s say it together one more time.

→ MEGA does the MEGA Point action.

Epic moments of discovery . . .
show us we are valued.

So, be ready to say the MEGA Point at any time you see MEGA. You just never know when he’ll show up and want you to say the MEGA Point.

→ MEGA should respond with excitement.

AWARDS

Now, let’s talk about one of the best parts of this Sports Camp—awards! Who likes to win prizes? (Group response)

• Choose one or both of the following ideas (or add your own) to describe how to win awards at your camp.

Sports Flash

Every day, you’ll get a Sports Flash (hold up Sports Flash 1) filled with fun activities. Everyone who tries to do the activities and brings back the “I Did It!” portion next time will get their name entered in a special drawing.

• Tear off slip and show what to return.
Every day we’ll give away special prizes, so don’t forget to bring back your “I Did It!” slips.

- Display the items you’ve chosen as prizes. (The Gospel Ball or T-shirt from your kit make great prizes. Other options are marked in the MEGA Sports Camp Epic Moments Catalog.)

**Theme Keepers**

Who likes to collect things? *(Group response)* That’s great! Every day you attend, you’ll get a new Theme Keeper. Collect them all and they’ll have the Epic Moments MEGA Verse on the back.

- Show the Epic Moments Theme Keeper.

**CONCLUSION**

Who’s ready to play sports? *(Group response)* Let’s meet the coaches.

- Call the coaches to the front, grouped by sport. Introduce each coach.

Before we head out to our first Sports Session, let’s warm up and stretch. Everyone, stand up and follow our coach. *(Choose from the stretches listed.)*

- Ask a Head Coach to lead the kids in stretching exercises to prepare them for Sports Session 1. Use the warm-up exercises listed or your own.
  
  - eight jumping jacks *(Young kids may just jump up and down.)*
  
  - eight side stretches *(Kids put one arm on hip and reach the opposite arm over head to stretch side. Repeat on other side.)*
  
  - eight arm circles *(Kids hold arms out to the side and move in circles.)*
  
  - eight neck turns *(Kids turn head to left and right.)*

  → Have MEGA exit now if he has not done so already.

Great job getting warmed up!
PRAYER

I think we’re almost ready to go. Let’s pray and ask God to be with us today.

Dear Jesus, thank You for everyone who came to MEGA Sports Camp today. Help all of us have a good time and stay safe while we play. Help us listen carefully to our coaches as they help us become better athletes. Amen.

• Dismiss the kids to go to Sports Session 1.
**SPORTS SESSION 1**

The Head Coaches conduct this session in the various Sports Areas. Instructions are found in the sports playbooks. The Huddle Coaches will assist the Head Coaches and encourage the athletes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEADERS</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Sports Areas</td>
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<tr>
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**COACH HUDDLE**

Coach Huddle is held in the Sports Areas. The Huddle Coaches lead this discussion time with their kids. The Coach Huddle Guide provides the Huddle Coaches with direction.

<table>
<thead>
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**SPORTS SESSION 2**

The Head Coaches conduct this session in the various Sports Areas. Instructions are found in the sports playbooks.

<table>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SNACKS & BREAK**

Let the kids take a break and finish their snacks before they gather for the Halftime Rally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEADERS</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snack Coaches</td>
<td>Concession Stand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HALFTIME RALLY

The Halftime Rally allows kids to hear a sports story that reinforces the day’s theme.

RALLY OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>MEGA; Rally Coach; Director CD-ROM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTS STORY/CONCLUSION</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rally Coach; MEGA; Director CD-ROM</td>
</tr>
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YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ MEGA Sports Camp Epic Moments Music & Media DVD
- ☐ MEGA Sports Camp Epic Moments Sports Flash 1
- ☐ MEGA Verse Wristband, one per kid

GETTING READY

- ✔ Practice the songs you plan to sing.

TRANSITION TIME & MUSIC

- Transition from snack time by playing the “MEGA Sports Camp Song” to announce the beginning of the Halftime Rally. Encourage the kids to begin singing as soon as they arrive.
  - When everyone is assembled, lead the following song.
  - “Movin’ Me”

WELCOME

Who’s had fun playing sports? (Group response) Who’s already learned something new? (Group response) What have you learned? (Group response)

MEGA VERSE SONG

All right! We have another new thing we’ll learn at our Sports Camp, and that’s our MEGA Verse from the Bible. We’ve got a song to help us learn it.
  - Lead the following song.
  - “Romans 8:28”
  - Click to show the Discovery Poster.

NEW RESOURCES

* You may purchase the songs and video segments by downloading them from www.MEGASportsCamp.com

COACH’S CORNER

MEGA can join the group for the singing and do the actions with the kids, but he should be unobtrusive during the Sports Spotlight segment.
MEGA VERSE WRISTBANDS

We have something to help you remember the MEGA Verse. It’s something you can wear. Each of you will receive one at the end of this rally.

- Display the MEGA Verse Wristband.

Wear your Wristband every day to our Sports Camp. You can use it to help you learn the MEGA Verse.

MEGA VISITS

MEGA enters, jumps up and down, and waves his hand to get the Rally Coach’s attention.

MEGA! What do you want? Do you want to say the MEGA Verse?

- MEGA shake his head no and then does the MEGA Point action.
- Lead the kids in saying the MEGA Point.

Epic moments of discovery . . .

show us we are valued.

MEGA, the kids are doing so well saying the MEGA Point! Did you visit the Sports Sessions and help them work on it? (MEGA nods.) Well, keep up the good work! You’re doing a great job helping them.

- MEGA does a theatrical bow, then does the MEGA Point action.
- Lead the kids in saying the MEGA Point.

Epic moments of discovery . . .

show us we are valued.

Wow! That was great! Can you stay and help me tell a sports story?

- MEGA nods and claps excitedly.
SPORTS STORY

Kids hear a sports story that reinforces today’s theme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOU WILL NEED</th>
<th>GETTING READY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ MEGA Sports Camp Epic Moments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Flash 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Today’s sports story is about football. How many of you love football? Raise your hand.

- Let kids raise one hand.

  ➔ MEGA responds enthusiastically.


  ➔ Click to show Sports Flash 1.

Today’s sports story is about Michael Oher, an athlete who was drafted by the Baltimore Ravens and now plays for the Carolina Panthers.

How many of you would like to play in the NFL? Raise both your hands.

- Let kids raise both hands.

  ➔ MEGA responds enthusiastically.

Well, you might think that because we’ve been talking about how epic moments of discovery show us we are valued that we are going to talk about the day Michael Oher joined one of those NFL teams. But that’s not what today’s sports story is about.

Or you might think that we are going to talk about the day Michael joined the University of Mississippi’s football team.

  ➔ MEGA interrupts by tapping you on the shoulder, then points to his temple like he is remembering something.

MEGA, what are you thinking? Does it have something to do with Mississippi?

MEGA, are you telling me that you can spell Mississippi?

  ➔ MEGA responds enthusiastically and points to the audience.

Do you want everyone to spell it with you?

  ➔ MEGA nods enthusiastically and then poses like a music conductor.

Okay, everyone, let’s help MEGA spell. M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I. Great job!
MEGA, today's sports story is about a different team that Michael joined before he was on any of those football teams. It was about when he joined a new family. Raise your hand if you have a family.

- Let kids raise one hand.

MEGA responds enthusiastically.

Michael's mom had lots of kids—twelve in all. Let's see how many of you come from a big family like Michael did. Stand up if you have eleven or more brothers and sisters.

MEGA leaps off the stage and gives any kid who is standing a high five.

MEGA, come on back. Today's story about Michael Oher isn't about when he was living with his eleven brothers and sisters. Let's see if any of you have the same number of brothers and sisters that Michael was living with in our story. Who has ten brothers and sisters? Nine? Eight? (Continue counting down until you reach one.)

- Allow the kids to stand when you mention their number of brothers and sisters.

- Have all the kids who are standing be seated.

Now, if you have no brothers or sisters, stand up. (Allow responses.) That's how many brothers and sisters Michael had when our story starts. When Michael was seven years old, his mom couldn't take care of him anymore. His dad was in and out of prison, so Michael couldn't live with his family.

MEGA sits down and looks sad.

MEGA, you're right! I think Michael probably missed his family. While he was living with a foster family, he started playing football. But in order to play football, Michael had to get good grades. Michael's life hadn't made it easy for him to study and learn, so he had to get extra help to pass his classes. MEGA, is it okay to get extra help when we need it?

MEGA straightens up and nods.

It sure is! We all should get extra help when we need it. Well, when Michael was in high school, a family named Tuohy got to know him and realized that he needed a permanent home. So they invited Michael to live with them.

MEGA jumps up and down, claps excitedly, then does the MEGA Point action.

Click to show the Discovery Poster.
MEGA, that's a great idea.

**Epic moments of discovery . . .**
**show us we are valued.**

Not only was Michael discovered by a new family, but he was valued by them too. And they invited him to join their family permanently.

→ MEGA jumps up and down and claps excitedly.

Even though Michael Oher was drafted by an NFL team, joining his new family was even better than that.

MEGA, did you know every one of us can join a new family?

→ MEGA shakes his head no.

Someone special has invited each one of us to join His family, and you’ll find out more in the Closing Rally. MEGA, will you be back then?

→ MEGA jumps up and down and claps excitedly.

**CONCLUSION**

Great! But first, we have another Sports Session. Who’s ready to play some more sports? *(Group response)*. MEGA, will you be visiting the Sports Sessions so everyone can practice the MEGA Point?

→ MEGA waves excitedly.

Awesome! Follow your coach to your sport. Have fun!

- Dismiss the kids and coaches to Sports Session 3.
- Give each kid a **MEGA Verse Wristband** as they leave.
- Make sure each day that new kids receive a **MEGA Verse Wristband**.

**SPORTS SESSION 3**

*The Head Coaches conduct this session in the various Sports Areas. Instructions are found in the sports playbooks. The Huddle Coaches will assist the Head Coaches and encourage the athletes.*

<table>
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</tr>
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<td>✓ Sports Areas</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLOSING RALLY

In the Closing Rally, kids hear a Bible story that reinforces today’s theme.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>RALLY SEGMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIBLE STORY</td>
<td>Rally Coach; Director CD-ROM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESPONSE TIME/PRAYER</td>
<td>Rally Coach; Director CD-ROM</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CLOSING</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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YOU WILL NEED

- MEGA Sports Camp Epic Moments Music & Media DVD or Music CD
- MEGA Sports Camp Epic Moments Director CD-ROM
- Canoe, boat, or a table on its side decorated like a boat
- Two trash bags
- Sports Flash 1
- Theme Keeper
- Optional: Stopwatch

GETTING READY

- Fill one of the trash bags with crumpled newspaper. Hide it behind the boat before the rally begins.
- If you’re not using the DVD, you will need a timer during the Bible Story.

ARRIVAL TIME & MUSIC

- Have the Music Coach onstage and either “Romans 8:28” or “MEGA Sports Camp Song” playing as the kids arrive. Encourage the kids to begin singing as they are seated.

  ▶️▶️ When everyone is assembled, lead the following song.

  ▶️▶️ “This Is Our Time”

  ▶️▶️ Click to show the Discovery Poster.

WELCOME

Welcome back! Did you learn something that will help you play your sport better? (Group response)

If you had a lot of fun, clap and cheer as loud as you can when I count to three. Are you ready? One, two, three!

- Pause for kids to cheer.

Great job, everyone!
MEGA VISITS

MEGA enters and runs onstage.

MEGA! I'm so glad you're back. Did you see all these kids playing sports today? (MEGA nods yes.) Didn't they all do a great job? (MEGA nods yes.) Did they say today's MEGA Point for you? (MEGA nods yes.)

MEGA does the MEGA Point action.

I think MEGA wants us to say the MEGA Point right now. Let's see how loud we can say it.

Epic moments of discovery . . . show us we are valued.

That's great! Hey, everyone, can you show MEGA how much we enjoyed having him at our Sports Camp with us today?

- Lead the kids in cheering.

MEGA acts embarrassed at the cheering.

MEGA, will you come back later to say good-bye as everyone leaves today?

MEGA nods enthusiastically.

Terrific! Let's wave good-bye as MEGA goes. We'll see him later.

MEGA waves and exits the stage.

BIBLE STORY (LUKE 5)

Kids hear a Bible story about Peter which reinforces today's MEGA Point.

YOU WILL NEED

- Canoe, boat, or a table on its side decorated like a boat
- Two trash bags
- Countdown clock (available on the MEGA Sports Camp Epic Moments Music & Media DVD and as a download at www.MEGASportsCamp.com)
- Optional: Stopwatch

GETTING READY

- Practice the songs you plan to sing.
- Fill one of the trash bags with crumpled newspaper. Hide it behind the boat before the rally begins.

Every day at MEGA Sports Camp, we'll hear a sports story about an athlete's unforgettable epic moment, and we'll hear a Bible story. All our Epic Moments Bible stories are about a man named Peter. He was one of Jesus' disciples. Today we're going to find out about the day Peter decided to become Jesus' disciple.
Peter and his brother Andrew were fishermen. Raise your hand if you love to go fishing. *(Group response)* I’m going to need two of you to be Peter and Andrew in the story today.

- Choose two volunteers to come to the stage and sit in the boat. Give them a large trash bag to use as their net.
- Choose one volunteer to represent Jesus. That volunteer will stay out of sight until later in the Bible story.

Well, Peter and Andrew didn’t just fish for fun. They had to fish every day to earn a living. It was hard work. One night, Peter and Andrew went fishing. All night long they put their net into the water.

- Have Peter and Andrew put their net in front of the boat, so the audience can see it. Then they pull it back into the boat.

Did they catch any fish? *(Group response)* No, they didn’t. They tried again and again, and still nothing happened. Turn to your neighbor and describe how you think Peter and Andrew were feeling right now. Then decide what you think Peter and Andrew should do next. When the countdown reaches 0, it’s time to stop talking.

- Click to start the Countdown Timer and give kids time to respond. (Or use a stopwatch.)
- When the timer reaches 0, the Bible Story art will appear.

If you thought Peter and Andrew were angry, raise your hand. *(Group response)* How about tired? *(Group response)* Discouraged? *(Group response)* Frustrated? *(Group response)* I think those are all good descriptions of how Peter and Andrew were feeling.

Let’s see what Peter and Andrew did next. If you said they would give up and go back to shore, you were right. After Peter and Andrew got to shore, they saw a Man. He was surrounded by a lot of people, and He was teaching. Raise your hand if you think you know who this person was. *(Group response)*

If you guessed Jesus, then you’re right! Jesus got into Peter’s boat, they pushed the boat a little way out from land, and Jesus kept on teaching right from the boat.

- Pause while the volunteer representing Jesus gets into the boat.

When Jesus finished speaking, He did something unusual. He told Peter to row back out onto the lake and let down his net to catch some fish. If you think Peter thought that was a crazy idea, jump up and sit down quickly. *(Group response)*

Peter *did* think it was crazy. Peter had been fishing all night long.
and how many fish had he caught? (zero) He hadn’t caught any fish, and now this Man was telling Peter to try again. But Peter and Andrew listened to Jesus. And they put their net back into the water.

- Peter and Andrew put the trash bag over the back side of the boat, drop it, and then bring up the trash bag that is filled.

And when they pulled the net back up, it was filled with fish! Peter was shocked. He knew in that moment that Jesus wasn’t just an ordinary person.

Then Jesus did something very unusual. He asked Peter and Andrew to follow Him, to be His disciples. Jesus asked them to be on His special team.

**RESPONSE TIME**

Huddle Coaches will have the opportunity to see who in their group is finding out about Jesus for the first time. Kids will consider how the epic moment in today’s Bible story applies to their lives.

When Jesus asked Peter to follow Him, Peter had a choice to make. Would he say yes or no? He had just seen Jesus do something amazing, and now Peter had the opportunity to choose to follow Jesus, to be on His team and get to know Him better. This was Peter’s epic moment of discovery when he knew he was valued.

Jesus is saying the exact same thing to us right now. He wants us to choose to follow Him too.

Let’s stop and think about that. Imagine Jesus is standing here right now.

Are you ready to follow Jesus and find out more about Him just like Peter did? If so, I want you to show Jesus you’re ready. Huddle Coaches, have you chosen to follow Jesus and continue to get to know Him better? If so, hold out both your arms in front of you and stack both your hands. *(Pause while they do this.)*

Kids, now it’s your turn. If today is the very first time you have heard that Jesus has invited you to join His team and follow Him, go and stack your hands on top of your Huddle Coach’s hands. *(Pause while kids do this.)* You’ll have the opportunity at Sports Camp to learn more about what it means to follow Jesus.

If today is not the first time you’ve heard about Jesus, but you want to get to know Him better, go and place your hands on top of the stack. *(Pause while kids respond.)*
If there are still kids who have not responded, add the following.) If you haven’t added your hands to the stack yet, that’s okay. Following Jesus is an important choice, and you should think about it carefully. Please join your Huddle Group and add your hands on top of the stack. (Pause while kids do this.)

**PRAYER**

Jesus is amazing, and He wants to show every one of us just how much we are valued by Him. Keep your hands stacked as we pray together.

Dear Jesus, thank You for loving each of us. Thank You for inviting us to be on Your team. Help us to follow You and know just how much You value us. Amen.

**CLOSING**

Okay, keep your hands stacked. It’s time for us to wrap up our MEGA Sports Camp time for today. So join me as I count to three. Then, Huddle Coaches, lead your group in shouting, “Epic Moments” as you throw your hands up into the air. Ready? One. Two. Three. Epic Moments!

MEGA enters, claps exuberantly then does the MEGA Point action.

Hey, let’s join MEGA. We should clap and celebrate because

**Epic moments of discovery . . .**

**show us we are valued.**

MEGA, every single person here is valued, aren’t they? In fact, I hope every one of them comes back next time. How about you?

MEGA nods and smiles.

As you leave today, you’ll get today’s Theme Keeper. Plus you’ll get the first *Sports Flash*. Remember to do the activities inside and bring back the “I Did It!” slip next time, so you can enter the drawing for a prize.

- Show *Sports Flash 1* and point out the slip kids need to return.

Great job, everyone! Thanks for a great day at our MEGA Sports Camp event. Good-bye!

MEGA waves good-bye too.

- Give a copy of *Sports Flash 1* and a Theme Keeper to each kid.