

WEEK

ONE

K-3 | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 1

Bible Story: Easter (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18–20:23*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NlrV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Build the Story (K–1st grade), Picture Plates (2nd–3rd grade)

Application Activity: Buckets of Questions (K–1st grade), Jesus Went Away and Came Back (2nd–3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Motions (K–1st grade), Torn Paper Cross (2nd–3rd grade)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Easter (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18–20:23*

Conversation Starter

How do you celebrate Easter?

Bottom Line

You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

Monthly Memory Verse

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! • Philippians 4:4 NlrV

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

Opener

What You Need

👤	Host	1
👤	kid volunteers for each round you do (ask for new volunteers at the start of each round)	8
👤	Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
👤	Easter baskets	2
👤	Floor Tape	1
👤	40-60 Easter eggs (20-30 per tub) (adjust if you are using smaller or larger containers)	1
👤	bags of fake Easter grass (10 per tub) (adjust if you are using smaller or larger containers)	1

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music and/or sound effects on an authorized basis from a resource such as Apple Music®, Amazon Music®, and/or a sound effect library and have it ready to play. Or, if you choose to stream music, refer to the terms and conditions of your streaming service. Note that you will likely need a commercial license in order to stream music publicly. Also confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform music and sound effects in your kids' environments, such as a blanket PERFORMmusic™ license from CCS. *Note: Legally, a song and/or sound effect belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song and/or sound effect.*
- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software, such as ProPresenter, includes a built-in countdown clock that can be overlaid on a still image.*
- Create a starting line with floor tape at one end of the room.
- Place the two empty Easter baskets on the floor tape at the start line.
- Fill the two tubs with the Easter eggs and fake grass, and put each tub at the opposite end of the room directly across from the starting line.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

(Host enters with energy and excitement.)

Optional Video: Countdown

Optional Video: Theme Intro

Optional Video: Theme Loop

(Things to have ready: Floor tape set on one end of the room as a starting line. Tubs on the other end of the room filled with Easter eggs and fake grass. Empty Easter baskets on the start line. Timer—or smartphone or watch or countdown. Game slide. Bottom Line slide.)

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! Welcome to [Name of Environment]! I'm so glad you're here today. Give me a big wave if you're excited to be here! This month, we're celebrating Jesus and the joy that never, ever ends. Can you say, 'joy'?"

KIDS: "Joy!"

HOST: "And today, we get to celebrate Easter! Who loves Easter? Easter is when Jesus gave His life to rescue us, but then He came back to life. And now we can be God's friend forever! Jesus is alive! Jesus is our friend forever! That's so awesome, and the biggest reason to have joy! Yay!"

"Before we celebrate all of that, we're going to play a super-fun Easter game. Wow, look at these huge Easter baskets!"

(Gesture to the tubs.)

"I bet there are tons of Easter eggs hiding in there! And you know what, it's time to play one big Easter egg game! Today, we're playing a game called 'Egg Rush!'"

SLIDE: Egg Rush! Title

"Inside these big tubs are LOTS of hidden Easter eggs. They're sneaky eggs, and they're hiding way down deep in the grass. I think I even saw one trying to peek out at me!"

"Here's how the game works: we're going to have two teams of four, and both teams are going to line up at the start line. When it's your turn, you'll run all the way down to your team's tub, dig through the Easter grass, find ONE egg, and bring it back to your team's basket. Then tag the next person on your team, and they'll take their turn. We'll play for two minutes, and when the time is up, we'll count the eggs to see which team found the most."

"Let's go ahead and pick our teams! These friends will be our runners. If you'd like to volunteer, raise your hand!"

(Choose eight kids from the ones who have their hands raised, split them into two teams of four, and line them up at the start line.)

"Woohoo, we have our teams! And everyone else, you get to be our cheering squad!"

"Okay, cheering squad, are YOU ready?"

(Pause while kids cheer.)

"Team One and Team Two, are YOU ready?"

(Pause while kids cheer.)

"On your mark ... get set ... GO!"

Optional Video: 2-Minute Countdown

(Start timer—or smartphone or watch or countdown. One kid from each team is to run to the tub, search the tub for an egg, grab ONE egg, run back to the start line, return the egg to the team's Easter basket, and tag the next kid on their team.)

(Encourage each team as they race and involve the audience. Make sure the runners from each team are only bringing back ONE Easter egg at a time.)

11 min

Worship Option 1 | Amazing Music

3 min

Alive | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Look at those fast feet! Wow, they found a shiny egg! Let's hear some joyful cheers from the audience!

(When two-minute timer is up ...)

"And FREEZE! Time is up! Wow! You guys were FAST! Okay, everyone, help me count Team One's eggs!

(Count eggs together with kids and announce the final number.)

"Okay, now let's count Team Two's eggs.

(Count eggs together with kids and announce the final number.)

"Our winner today is ... [Name of Team]!

(Repeat the game for as many rounds as time allows. Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round.)

"Everyone did such a great job, and you were all so joyful during our game! But do you know what gives us the MOST joy? Jesus! Jesus is alive—at He can be our friend forever—and that means we can have joy every day.

"Let's check out our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

"Can you say that with me?"

KIDS AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "You can have joy because Jesus is alive!"

HOST: "Great job, everyone! Happy Easter! Jesus loves you so much!"

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com. Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.

(Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, friends! Are you ready to worship Jesus today? I love it! Worship is when we sing to God and show Him how much we love Him. And today is extra-special because Jesus is alive, and that means we can have joy every single day!

"Let's start by singing a song called 'Alive.' This song reminds us that Jesus is alive, and that gives us hope and joy. Everyone, stand up nice and tall. Wiggle your fingers ... wiggle your toes ... and let's get ready to dance!

SONG: "Alive" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

3 min

Living Hope | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Wow! You all sang that like you meant it! Now, let's sing another song that helps us remember something so important that Jesus gives us—freedom! When we follow Him, we don't have to worry or try to be the best. Jesus already loves us completely! Let's sing this one loud!"

"Great job, friends! You were singing so loud! Now we're going to sing 'Living Hope.' Jesus is our hope. He gives us joy because He beat death and came back to life. You can close your eyes, lift your hands, or sing as loud as you want—this is your time to worship."

SONG: "Living Hope" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"You all did such an amazing job singing those songs! I love seeing your smiles and hearing your voices."

"This month, we're celebrating the joy we have because Jesus is alive. Our Memory Verse helps us remember that joy comes from knowing Jesus. I'll say our Memory Verse first, then we'll say it together. It's Philippians 4:4!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4 (NirV)."

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Because you belong to the Lord."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Because you belong to the Lord."

WORSHIP LEADER: "I will say it again."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "I will say it again."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Be joyful!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Be joyful!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Philippians 4:4!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Philippians 4:4!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "You all did such an amazing job learning the verse. When you go to school, when you're playing at home, and when you're with your friends, Jesus is alive, He is with you, and His joy goes with you. Let this verse be a reminder all week long: you can always choose joy because Jesus is alive, and He loves you so much."

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by

10 min

Worship Option 2

| Orange Kids Music

5 min

I've Got Joy | Orange Kids Music

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Start The Party | Worship song

What You Need

No supplies needed

incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

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WORSHIP LEADER: "Alright, everyone, let's get ready to worship! This is our chance to celebrate how good God is! He made each one of us. He loves us more than we can imagine, and He's always with us, no matter what we're going through.

"When we sing, we're not just saying words, we're thanking God for who He is and all the amazing things He's done. So come on, let's stand up, smile big, and sing out loud to show God how much we love Him!

SONG: "I've Got Joy" available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

"You guys sound amazing! Did you know God hears every word? He loves it when we take time to worship Him—not just with our voices, but with our lives. Let's keep worshipping together!

SONG: "Start the Party" available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

"Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here's what we can remember today: worship doesn't stop here. You can keep worshipping God all through this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him.

24 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

38 min

Bible Story (Live)

Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!

If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." (Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the rest of the story of Scripture!) We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!












Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend. Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!

What You Do:

3 min

INTRODUCTION

What You Need

 Storyteller	1
 Host	1
 Table	1
 cardboard boxes labeled "Friday," "Saturday," and "Sunday" (See "What You Do" on how to prepare them.)	3
 big marker	1
 sheets of dark-colored tissue paper (enough to fill the "Friday" box)	Several
 Sad face visual and question mark visual that are provided ("Sad Face" printable and "Question Mark" printable)	1
 balloons (however many fit in the "Sunday" box)	3
 Ribbon (enough to tie some to each balloon)	1
 Balloon weights (enough for each balloon)	1
 Bible	1

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Print the "Sad Face" printable and the "Question Mark" printable that are provided.
- Using the marker, write "Friday" on one box, "Saturday" on one box, and "Sunday" on one box in big, bold letters.
- Blow up the balloons with helium, tie some ribbon to each one, and tie the balloons to the balloon weights.
- Put the dark tissue paper in the "Friday" box.
- Put the "Sad Face" printable and the "Question Mark" printable in the "Saturday" box.
- Put the balloons and balloon weights in the "Sunday" box.
- Line up all the boxes on the table in the order of the teaching (the order is "Friday," "Saturday," and "Sunday.")

(Things to have ready: Table on the stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Have all the Easter egg props lined up on the table in the order of the teaching.)

STORYTELLER: "Hi, friends! Today is a very special day. Does anybody like to smile? Let me see a big smile! Does anybody like to have parties? Who likes having fun? Well, you're in the right place because today, we're celebrating Easter! It's the best party ever!"

"Easter is when we celebrate that Jesus is alive! Jesus loves us so much that He gave His life to rescue us! And then, He rose back to life! Jesus beat death! And Jesus did all of that so we could be His friends forever! Hooray! That's what we're going to talk about today!"

"But before we get into one of the most amazing events in the entire Bible, let me tell you about something awesome we're doing this year!"

"We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!"

"Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants to be our close, close friend. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is to learn more about God!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! *(Gesture to slide.)*

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!"

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY**What You Need**

No supplies needed

(If you have them up, feel free to point to the Timeline Images as you talk about them.)

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"After God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they disobeyed God—again and again and again. Even the kings God gave them rebelled! So, God split the nation in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"Jesus lived a perfect life, and we will see today the most amazing thing He did with that perfect life! God has loved us for a long, long time.

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

STORYTELLER: "Today, we're continuing our journey through the Bible. And we're at one of the most important events in the whole entire Bible—Easter!

"But before we get started talking about Easter, let me ask you something. Have you ever had a day that started out really happy ... and then something happened that made you feel sad?"

5 min

JESUS IS ARRESTED AND DIES ON THE CROSS

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Maybe your favorite toy broke ... or a friend couldn't come over ... or something didn't go the way you hoped. Well, something big happened to Jesus' friends. They loved Jesus so much. They followed Him, they listened to Him, and they saw Him do amazing things. But then ... something happened that they didn't expect.

"These eggs (*gesture to the eggs on the table*) are going to help us understand what happened. Each one shows us a little piece of the story. You see, even though Jesus did everything right, some leaders didn't like the things He said. They didn't understand that Jesus was God's Son. And one night, soldiers came and took Jesus away.

"This part of the story can feel sad. It felt sad for Jesus' followers too. But remember, God is good, and He was writing a good story. God was working out His plan through everything that happened.

"Let's open the first egg to see what happened next.

(Pick up the first egg, open it, and hold up the cross.)

STORYTELLER: "Inside this egg is a cross. The cross reminds us of something very real and very important. After soldiers arrested Jesus, they took Him to a place called Golgotha. There, they nailed Him to a cross. Jesus never did anything wrong, not even once. But Jesus **CHOSE** to go to the cross because He loves us.

"Let's read what the Bible says happened:
(Open the Bible and read John 19:17-18a NIV.)

He had to carry his own cross. He went out to a place called the Skull ... There they nailed Jesus to the cross.

"Even though Jesus was the Son of God, He let Himself be arrested. He let Himself be taken away. He let Himself be nailed to the cross. Why? Because Jesus came to rescue us. Let's open the next egg.

(Pick up the second egg, open it, and hold up the heart.)

"Inside this egg is a heart. This heart reminds us that everything Jesus did—every step, every word, even, as we'll see, dying on the cross—was done because of love. Jesus loves you! Sadly, we all have this awful thing in our lives called sin. Sin is when we choose our way instead of God's way, and it pulls us away from God. But Jesus wants us to be His close, close friends! But something had to be done about this awful sin. So Jesus gave His perfect life and paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. He paid for sin! And now, when we accept what Jesus did for us, we can be close to God again! Jesus loves us so, so much that He gave His life for us!

"Jesus' friends didn't know it, but that's what Jesus was doing on Easter. Let's continue on with the sad part of our story. This is what the Bible says happened next:

(Open the Bible and read John 19:30 NIV.)

After Jesus drank he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and died.

5 min

JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

JESUS IS ALIVE

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Let's see what's inside the next egg.

(Pick up the third egg, open it, and hold up the tissues.)

"This egg has tissues in it. Jesus' friends were sad, sad, sad, so they cried and cried when He died. They had followed Jesus everywhere. They had seen Him help people. They had heard Him teach about God's love. And now ... Jesus was gone.

"Jesus' friends didn't understand what was happening. It felt like the saddest day in the whole world. But the story isn't over. God was still working."

STORYTELLER: "Let's open the next egg and see what it helps us remember.

(Pick up the fourth egg, open it, and hold up the stone.)

"Inside this egg is a stone. After Jesus died, two men who loved Him—Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus—took Jesus' body and placed it in a tomb. A tomb is like a cave dug in a rock. Then they rolled a big, heavy stone in front of the opening. The stone was so big that no one could move it by themselves.

(Open the Bible and read John 19:41 NIV.)

At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden. A new tomb was there. No one had ever been put in it before ... So they placed Jesus there.

"Jesus' friends didn't know what would happen next. They were sad. They were confused. And it seemed like everything was dark and quiet.

"But even on that quiet day, God was still at work. Something amazing was getting ready to happen—something that would change everything.

"Are you ready to see what comes next? This is the best part of the story.

STORYTELLER: "This is our last egg. And this one is the biggest surprise of all.

(Pick up the fifth egg, open it, and show the audience that it's empty.)

"It's ... empty.

"This egg is empty because the tomb was empty. Jesus wasn't there. Jesus is alive!

(Open the Bible and read John 20:1 NIV.)

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. It was still dark. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance.

"Mary Magdalene was one of Jesus' friends. She went to the tomb very early in the morning. When she got there, the big stone was moved. The tomb was open! Mary didn't know what had happened. She thought someone had taken Jesus' body.

"But Jesus hadn't been taken. Jesus had come back to life! After Mary told a couple of disciples what she had discovered, she came back to the tomb again. There were two angels sitting inside of it! Then, this happened:

(Open the Bible and read John 20:14-16 NIV.)

Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. So she said, "Sir, did you carry him away? Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him. Then she cried out in the Aramaic language, "Rabboni!" Rabboni means Teacher.

"When Jesus said her name, Mary knew it was Him. She knew Jesus was alive. She was so happy, so full of joy, that she ran to tell the others.

"Jesus gave His life to pay for our sins, so we could be His friends forever! Jesus loves us so much! Then, Jesus came back to life. Jesus is alive forever and ever and ever. Hooray!

STORYTELLER: "Wow, friends ... what an amazing story. Let's remember what happened.

"We opened the first egg and found a cross. The cross is the awful place Jesus chose to go to give His life. But why did Jesus choose to die? The next egg tells us! It had a heart inside. Jesus chose to give His life because He loves us! Jesus chose to die to pay for our sins so we could be close to Him again. Then we opened another egg and found the tissue—because Jesus' friends didn't know what was happening, and were so sad when He died. And we opened another egg and found a stone, just like the big stone that closed the tomb.

"And finally, we opened the last egg ... and it was empty, just like the tomb was empty because Jesus wasn't there. Jesus is alive!

"This is the best news in the whole world. Jesus gave His life to pay for our sins so we could be close to God! Then Jesus came back to life! Jesus beat death! He is alive, and He will be alive forever. And now we can be God's friend forever! Hooray!

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

Closing

"This is why we celebrate Easter. This is why we have joy that never ends. Jesus is alive! Let's say our Bottom Line together.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

HOST:[Bottom Line] "You can have joy because Jesus is alive!"

(Host enters and joins in.)

KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "You can have joy because Jesus is alive!"

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we covered two whole pictures in this map of God's Big Story! We talked about the picture that says, 'The Cross' and the picture that says, 'The Resurrection!' *(Gesture to timeline.)*

"Friends, this week, we talked about the central point of God's great rescue plan! Since the fall in the garden, *(gesture to the picture, if you have it)* God had promised that He was going to restore the closeness that was broken by sin. He was going to make a way for people to be His close friends forever. Years ago, God had said, 'I am going to rescue you.' 'I want you close.' 'This distance will not do.' And throughout His Big Story *(wide gesture to the other images in God's Big Story, if you have them)*, He faithfully, faithfully, faithfully was working to keep that promise to break that curse of sin that kept people from being close to Him. So Jesus, God's very own Son, came. He lived a perfect life, and then gave that perfect life to pay the price for sin. Because He never did anything wrong, Jesus was able to take on our sin. With His own life, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. He broke the curse of sin we were under. He set us free. With the curse broken, with sin paid for, we could be close to God again! What God had been working on in His Big Story was finally coming true! And then Jesus did something else amazing! He rose back to life! Jesus beat death! Our Rescuer who loves us is alive and with us forever and ever!
SLIDE: Week 1 Timeline Image

(If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.)

"This week, we learned the incredible news: Jesus died and rose again. Jesus loves us so much that He gave His life to rescue us, and then He rose back to life again! And because Jesus is alive, we can have life and joy! WOOHOO!"

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "Now that we've heard this amazing Easter story, let's talk about what it means for us today.

"What Jesus' friends didn't know those few days, but that we know now, is that when Jesus gave His life, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. With sin paid for, we could be close to God! That's what He wants more than anything—to be your close, close friend!

"You can be friends with the God of the universe because of what Jesus did on Easter!

"And that friendship is better than any friendship. Jesus is alive, even today, and as your forever friend, He goes with you through every single thing you face. When you wake up in the morning, Jesus, your forever friend, is with you. When you go to school, Jesus, your forever friend, is with you. When you play with your friends, Jesus, your forever friend, is with you. When you go to bed at night, Jesus, your forever friend, is still with you.

"You are loved, so loved, by the God of the universe! He gave His life to make a way so you could be close to Him, and then He rose again! That's the most exciting news ever!

"Happy Easter, everybody! Jesus loves you!

"Let's pray and thank Jesus for what He's done."

STORYTELLER OR HOST: "You can close your eyes and get still as we talk to Jesus.

"Jesus, thank You for loving us so much. Thank You for dying on the cross for us to rescue us. And thank You for rising again on Easter morning. Help us make our whole lives about growing our forever friendship with You that You bought for us on Easter. We love You so much, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."
(Dismiss kids to their small groups.)

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Getting Ready |

K3 Large Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with **APlay!** [JoinAPlay.com](https://www.joinaplay.com) is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. **APlay** gives you more time to focus on what truly matters—more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (25 minutes)

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- 8 kid volunteers for each round you do (ask for new volunteers at the start of each round)
- Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)
- Floor tape
- 2 Easter baskets
- 2 large tubs to hold the Easter eggs and Easter grass
- 40-60 Easter eggs (20-30 per tub) (adjust if you are using smaller or larger containers)
- 20 bags of fake Easter grass (10 per tub) (adjust if you are using smaller or larger containers)

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to play as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to play during the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- "Egg Rush! Title" Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

Optional Videos:

- Theme Loop
- Theme Intro
- 2-Minute Countdown

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music and/or sound effects on an authorized basis from a resource such as Apple Music®, Amazon Music®, and/or a sound effect library and have it ready to play. Or, if you choose to stream music, refer to the terms and conditions of your streaming service. Note that you will likely need a commercial license in

order to stream music publicly. Also confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform music and sound effects in your kids' environments, such as a blanket PERFORMmusic™ license from CCS. *Note: Legally, a song and/or sound effect belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song and/or sound effect.*

- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software, such as ProPresenter, includes a built-in countdown clock that can be overlaid on a still image.*
- Create a starting line with floor tape at one end of the room.
- Place the two empty Easter baskets on the floor tape at the start line.
- Fill the two tubs with the Easter eggs and fake grass, and put each tub at the opposite end of the room directly across from the starting line.

2. Worship and Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Alive"- available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Living Hope" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "I've Got Joy" - available on Store.ThinkOrange.com
- "Start the Party" - available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos for Orange Kids Music

- "I've Got Joy" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "Start the Party" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

- If you are utilizing the suggested songs from **Amazing Music**, search for your desired video resource for each song under the Worship section on APlay and add to your service!
- You can access Amazing Music's Dance Motion, Lyric, and Instrumental Videos in APlay under the Worship section.
- Amazing Music Song Trainings are available in Amazing Leaders and FREE on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@AmazingKidsMusic>
- If you are utilizing **the Orange Kids Music** suggestions, simply purchase and download from Store.ThinkOrange.com! You can upload these into APlay for easy use with your 252 curriculum.
- Dance Motion Videos and Lyrics Videos are available for Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.

- *Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:*

*"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe
©2000 Good Music Co.
CCLI License # 0000*

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table
- 5 large Easter eggs
- These items should fit in the large Easter eggs:
 - A small cross (or the cross from the "Cross and Heart Print" Printable that is provided)
 - A small, foam heart (or the heart from the "Cross and Heart Print" Printable that is provided)
 - A few tissues from a tissue box
 - A stone

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to play as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Theme Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- *Optional: "Cross and Heart Print" Printable*

Optional for God's Big Story:

- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- God's Big Story Slide
- Week 1 Timeline Image Slide
- We recommend that you create a timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed Timeline Images in order, week by week. We'll provide a Timeline Image for each week of the curriculum. There are two versions of each Timeline Image—a slide and a print version. A digital [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

Optional Video: (available in APlay)

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (Kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- StoryLab: Invite elementary kids to engage with inquisitive young hosts as they explore core biblical truths and stories in a STEAM-inspired setting.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

- The So & So Show: Guide preteens to explore questions of faith through a YouTube-style show full of humor and lots of zany fun.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Put the items (or the optional "Cross and Heart Print" printable, cut in half)—cross, heart, tissues, and stone—in four of the Easter eggs. Only put one item in each of the four eggs. Leave one Easter egg empty.
- Line up all the Easter eggs on the table in the order of the teaching (the order is cross, heart, tissues, stone, and the empty Easter egg).

Supplies

Opener	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. kid volunteers for each round you do (ask for new volunteers at the start of each round)	8
3. Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
4. Easter baskets	2
5. Floor Tape	1
6. 40-60 Easter eggs (20-30 per tub) (adjust if you are using smaller or larger containers)	1
7. bags of fake Easter grass (10 per tub) (adjust if you are using smaller or larger containers)	1

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Storyteller	1
2. Host	1
3. Table	1
4. cardboard boxes labeled "Friday," "Saturday," and "Sunday" (See "What You Do" on how to prepare them.)	3
5. big marker	1
6. sheets of dark-colored tissue paper (enough to fill the "Friday" box)	Several
7. Sad face visual and question mark visual that are provided ("Sad Face" printable and "Question Mark" printable)	1
8. balloons (however many fit in the "Sunday" box)	3
9. Ribbon (enough to tie some to each balloon)	1
10. Balloon weights (enough for each balloon)	1
11. Bible	1

WEEK

TWO

K-3 | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 2

Bible Story: On the Road to Emmaus • *Luke 24:13-35*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • *Philippians 4:4 NlrV*

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Bigger Story Joy (K-1st grade), Two Kids and a Stuffie (2nd-3rd grade)

Application Activity: Walk the Walk (K-1st grade), Help to See (2nd-3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Freeze Memory Verse (K-1st grade), Joy Uncovered (2nd-3rd grade)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

On the Road to Emmaus • *Luke 24:13-35*

Conversation Starter

How does knowing that Jesus is alive bring you joy?

Bottom Line

You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

Monthly Memory Verse

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! • *Philippians 4:4 NlrV*

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

Opener

What You Need

👤	Host	1
👤	kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	8
👤	Floor tape	1
👤	Tape	1
👤	"JOY" papers that are provided ("JOY Print" printable)	1
👤	stacks each of blue, pink, and green sticky notes (The smaller sticky notes that are 1 3/8 in x 1 7/8 in. will fit best on the printed "JOY" signs.)	1

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the sound effects from the Large Group scripts folder and have them ready to use.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software, such as ProPresenter, includes a built-in countdown clock that can be overlaid on a still image.*
- Print the two "JOY" papers that are provided on 11 x 17-inch paper. (They are called "JOY print" printables.)
- Place a starting line with floor tape at both ends of the room.
- Place a pile of sticky notes on both starting lines—one blue, pink, and green stack for each team.
- Tape the two "JOY" papers in the middle of the room at kids' height. (It may help to tape the "JOY" signs on posterboards, and put them both on easels. The signs need to be sturdy enough for kids to place sticky notes on them.)

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! Welcome to [Name of Environment]! I'm so happy you're here today. Every time you walk into this room, it feels like a party because we get to be together, learn together, and celebrate Jesus together. All month long, we're having a big block party because we're learning that Jesus gives us JOY that never, ever ends. That's our theme for this month: 'Block Party—Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!'

"I love seeing your faces each week. Some of you came in smiling, some of you came in sleepy, and some of you came in ready to run around! No matter how you feel when you walk in, you're in the right place. We're going to have so much fun today!

"You know what's really cool about joy? Joy is something God gives us on the inside. It's bigger than being happy. Joy lasts even on days when things feel confusing or a little tricky. And speaking of joy, today's game is called ...

SLIDE: Joy Run Title

AUDIO: Upbeat music

"JOY RUN"! Everyone, take a look at these posters. These are our 'JOY' posters. They're covered with blue, pink, and green circles. At the two starting lines, we've got stacks of sticky notes.

"We're going to split into two teams, and you all are going to help finish out our 'JOY' posters!

"When I say 'GO,' one friend from each team will grab ONE sticky note, and then run to their team's 'JOY' poster. Your job is to match the color of your sticky note to the same color circle on the poster. Blue goes on blue, purple goes on purple, orange goes on orange.

"After you place your sticky note on the matching circle, run all the way back to your team and tag the next teammate. We'll keep going until the timer runs out, and the first team to fill in all the dots and make the word 'JOY' wins.

"Every time someone places another sticky note on a matching circle, the picture will be clearer. The more circles that are covered, the more you'll see. And when it's full, you'll see the word JOY. It's going to be fun!

"Alright, let's choose our teams. I'm going to need eight volunteers, so raise your hand if you'd like to play the game.

(Choose eight volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and split them into two teams of four. Send each team to a different starting line on either side of the room and stand in a single file line.)

"Okay, teams, are you ready? On your mark ... get set ... GO!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Optional Video: 2-Minute Countdown

(Play the game. Make sure the kids are only grabbing ONE sticky note at a time to add to the "JOY" paper.)

(Encourage each team as they race and involve the audience.)

"Keep going! Match those colors. You're doing great. Look, the picture is starting to show up!

(When the two-minute countdown is up ...)

"And five, four, three, two, one ... stop!

"Wow, great job, teams. It looks like [Name of Team] won this one! And look at the posters in the middle of the room! As each team matched the colors, the whole word appeared, and now you can see the word 'JOY'!

(Repeat the game for as many rounds as time allows. Remove the sticky notes, and ask for eight new volunteers at the start of each round.)

"That was fun. Great job, everyone. You know, this game reminds me that when we only see a tiny piece of something, it can feel confusing. But when we see the whole picture, everything makes sense. And that's true with God too. God sees the BIG story, and when we remember that, we can have joy. That's our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

"Say that with me, everyone!"

KIDS AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "You can have joy because there's a bigger story!"

HOST: "Great job today, friends! Let's go learn more about what that means!"

11 min

Worship Option 1 | Amazing Music

3 min

Alive | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Forever (We Sing Hallelujah) | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com. Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.

(Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! Are you ready to worship Jesus today? Worship is when we sing to Jesus and show Him how much we love Him. And we can sing with our voices, we can move our bodies, and we can worship with big smiles because Jesus gives us joy that never ends.

"Today we're singing songs that remind us how amazing Jesus is. Our first song is called 'Alive.' This song tells us that Jesus is alive, and that fills our hearts with joy. Everyone, stand up tall, take a big stretch, and let's get ready to sing!

SONG: "Alive" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"Wow! You all sang that like you meant it! Now, let's sing another song that helps us remember something so important that Jesus gives us—freedom! When we follow Him, we don't have to worry or try to be the best. Jesus already loves us completely! Let's sing this one loud!

"Great job, friends! You sang that beautifully. Jesus is alive, and He is so good to us. Our next song is called 'Forever (We Sing Hallelujah).' You can lift your hands, close your eyes, or just sing with a happy heart—this is your time to worship Jesus.

SONG: "Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"I love worshipping Jesus with you all! You can have a seat."

"All month long, we're learning that Jesus gives us joy that never ends. And the Bible has a verse that reminds us where that joy comes from. This verse helps us remember that we belong to Jesus, and because of that, we can have joy every single day, no matter what's happening around us.

What You Need

No supplies needed

10 min

**Worship Option 2
| Orange Kids
Music**

5 min

I've Got Joy | Orange Kids Music**What You Need**

No supplies needed

"Our Memory Verse is found in Philippians 4:4. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4 (NIRV)

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Because you belong to the Lord."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Because you belong to the Lord."

WORSHIP LEADER: "I will say it again."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "I will say it again."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Be joyful!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Be joyful!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Philippians 4:4!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Philippians 4:4!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great job, friends! You can keep this verse in your heart all week long. Whenever something feels confusing or hard, you can remember that you belong to Jesus, and that means you can always have joy."

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com. Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, everyone! Who's ready to worship today? Worship is a special way we show God how much we love Him by singing, dancing, and celebrating the amazing things He's done. And I know you can do all of that really well!

"Today, we're going to start with a song called 'I've Got Joy.' Let's get ready to sing!

SONG: "I've Got Joy" available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

5 min

Start The Party | Worship song

What You Need

No supplies needed

"You guys sound amazing! Did you know God hears every word? He loves it when we take time to worship Him—not just with our voices, but with our lives. Let's keep worshipping together!"

SONG: "Start the Party" available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

"Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here's what we can remember today: worship doesn't stop here. You can keep worshipping God all through this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him.

24 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

38 min

Bible Story (Live)

Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!

If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." (Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the rest of the story of Scripture!) We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!

Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend. Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!

What You Do:

3 min

INTRODUCTION

What You Need

👤	Storyteller	1
👤	Host	1
👤	Table	1
👤	kid volunteers	4
👤	puzzle pieces that are provided ("Puzzle 4 Piece 1" Printable, "Puzzle Piece 2" Printable, "Puzzle Piece 3" Printable, "Puzzle Piece 4" Printable)	4

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Print and cut out the four puzzle pieces that are provided, and laminate them if you're able to.
- Lay the four puzzle pieces face down on the floor at the front of the room.

(Things to have ready: Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Have the four puzzle pieces mixed up and lying face down on the floor at the front of the room.)

STORYTELLER: "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today. This month, we're celebrating Jesus and the joy that never, ever ends. That's our theme: 'Block Party—Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!'

"All month long, we're learning that joy doesn't come from everything going our way. Joy comes from trusting God and remembering that He is good and He is always working for good!

"As we'll see in our true story from the Bible today, we can always find joy because our good God is working on a good story that we're living in the middle of.

"But before we get into our true story from the Bible today, let me tell you about something amazing that we've been doing all year.

"We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!.

"Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants to be our close, close friend. So, as we go through the Bible this year, we hope to learn more about God!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! *(Gesture to slide.)*

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

(If you have the Timeline Images up, feel free to point to them as you talk about them.)

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"After God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they disobeyed God—again and again and again. Even the kings God gave them rebelled! So, God split the nation in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"Jesus lived a perfect life, and He gave that perfect life to pay the price for our sin. Because He never did anything wrong, Jesus was able to take on our sin. With His own life, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. He broke the curse of sin we were under. He set us free. With the curse broken, with sin paid for, we could be close to God again. What God had been working on in His Big Story was finally coming true!

"And then Jesus did something else amazing! He rose back to life! Jesus beat death! Our Rescuer who loves us is alive and with us forever and ever!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

STORYTELLER: "Today, we're continuing right on through the Bible. We're going to talk about a story that happened on the same day Jesus rose from the dead. It happened on that first Easter.

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

LITTLE PIECE OF THE STORY**What You Need**

No supplies needed

“So as we start our story, let me ask you this: Have you ever had a day when you weren’t sure what was going on? Maybe something happened that didn’t make sense, or you felt confused, or you didn’t know what was going to happen next. That can feel uncomfortable, right? When we only see one tiny part of a situation, it can be hard to understand the whole picture.

“That’s exactly what happened to the two friends in our Bible Story today. They had followed Jesus. They loved Him. They had heard Him teach amazing things and saw Him help people everywhere He went. But then something sad happened—Jesus died on the cross. And even though these two people had heard rumors that Jesus came back to life on Easter morning, they didn’t understand what God was doing. They only saw their small part of the story, and it made them feel sad and confused.

“Today, we’re going to use these special puzzle pieces to help us understand what happened. Each piece shows only a little part of a bigger picture. Just like the two friends on the road, each piece by itself won’t make sense. But when we put them together, we’ll see the whole story God was telling.

“Let’s take a look at the first puzzle piece and begin. I’m going to need one friend to come choose our first mystery puzzle piece. Who would like to volunteer?

(Choose one kid from the ones who have their hands raised. Invite them to come to the front of the room. Instruct them to flip over one of the puzzle pieces and hold it up so everyone can see.)

“Thank you, helper! You get to stay up here with me and hold on to your puzzle piece until the end of the lesson.

“Look at this puzzle piece, friends. It shows us a little something ... but not the whole picture. We can’t tell what the full scene is yet. And that’s exactly how two of Jesus’ friends felt in today’s true story from the Bible. “These two people believed Jesus was the One God had promised. But then, Jesus died on the cross, and even though some people were saying the tomb was empty, these two friends didn’t understand everything, and it made them feel sad and confused.

“They started walking from Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus. It was a long walk—seven miles! And while they walked, they talked about everything that had happened.

“Let’s read about what the Bible says happened:
(Open the Bible and read Luke 24:13-19a NIV.)

That same day two of Jesus’ followers were going to a village called Emmaus. It was about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked about those things, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. But God kept them from recognizing him.

5 min

SEEING MORE OF THE STORY**What You Need**

No supplies needed

Jesus asked them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?"

They stood still, and their faces were sad. One of them was named Cleopas. He said to Jesus, "Are you the only person visiting Jerusalem who doesn't know? Don't you know about the things that have happened there in the last few days?"

"What things?" Jesus asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

STORYTELLER: "Did you hear that? Jesus Himself came and walked right next to them! But they didn't know it was Him. They couldn't see the whole picture yet. All they could see were the sad parts.

"This first puzzle piece reminds us that sometimes, we only see a small part of what's happening. But just like this story, God is always doing something bigger.

"Okay, I need someone to pick out the next piece of our picture. Who would like to volunteer?"

(Choose one kid from the ones who have their hands raised. Invite them to come to the front of the room. Instruct them to flip over one of the puzzle pieces and hold it up so everyone can see.)

"Thank you, helper! You get to stay up here with me and hold on to your puzzle piece until the end of the Bible Story."

STORYTELLER: "This piece shows a little more ... but still not the whole picture. And that's exactly how the two friends felt. They knew some things about what had happened, but they didn't understand how it all fit together.

"As they walked, they began telling Jesus everything they knew. They told Him about His miracles, His death on the cross, and how some people said the tomb was empty. But they still didn't realize the Person they were talking to was Jesus Himself!

"This is what the Bible says the two people said to Jesus:

(Open the Bible and read Luke 24:19b-24 NIV.)

"He was a prophet. He was powerful in what he said and did in the sight of God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death. They nailed him to a cross. But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to set Israel free. Also, it is the third day since all this happened. Some of our women amazed us too. Early this morning they went to the tomb. But they didn't find his body. So they came and told us what they had seen. They saw angels, who said Jesus was alive. Then some of our friends went to the tomb. They saw it was empty, just as the women had said. They didn't see Jesus' body there."

5 min

THEIR EYES ARE OPENED

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER: "These friends shared everything they knew, but they still didn't understand the bigger story God was telling. So Jesus began to help them.

(Open the Bible and read Luke 24:25-27 Nlrv.)

Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are! How long it takes you to believe all that the prophets said! Didn't the Messiah have to suffer these things and then receive his glory?" Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures. He began with Moses and all the Prophets.

STORYTELLER: "Jesus showed them more of the BIG story that God was writing—how everything in Scripture pointed to Him. Their hearts were starting to understand, even if they didn't see it all yet.

STORYTELLER: "Okay, I need another friend to come choose our third mystery puzzle piece. Who would like to help me?"

(Choose one kid from the ones who have their hands raised. Invite them to come to the front of the room. Instruct them to flip over one of the puzzle pieces and hold it up so everyone can see.)

"Thank you, friend! You get to stay up here with me and hold on to your puzzle piece until the end of the lesson.

"This piece shows us even more of the picture. We're getting close! And the friends on the road were getting close too. Their hearts were starting to understand that God had been doing something huge, even if they didn't see it clearly yet. God still had one more piece of the puzzle that He wanted to show them personally!

"As the two friends and Jesus reached the town of Emmaus, it was getting late. Jesus acted like He was going to keep walking, but the friends didn't want Him to leave. They asked Him to stay with them.

(Open the Bible and read Luke 24:29 Nlrv.)

But they tried hard to keep him from leaving. They said, "Stay with us. It is nearly evening. The day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

STORYTELLER: "Jesus stayed, and they all sat down to eat together. And something amazing happened next.

(Open the Bible and read Luke 24:30-31 Nlrv.)

"[Jesus] joined them at the table. Then he took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and began to give it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. But then he disappeared from their sight."

STORYTELLER: "Their eyes were opened. Suddenly, they understood. This was Jesus! He really was alive. Everything Jesus had taught, everything the Scriptures said, now they could see the BIG picture.

(Open the Bible and read Luke 24:32-35 Nlrv.)

They said to each other, "He explained to us what the Scriptures meant. Weren't we excited as he talked with us on the road?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the 11 disciples and those with them. They were all gathered together. They were saying, "It's true! The Lord has risen!" ... Then the two of them

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

told what had happened to them on the way. They told how they had recognized Jesus when he broke the bread.

STORYTELLER: "Now they had been personally taught the big story that God had been working on for years and years. Jesus had come to rescue us, just like the Scriptures said! And He was alive, and joy filled their hearts.

"And now we'll add our last piece to the puzzle to show the whole picture. Let me get one more helper—raise your hand if you'd like to volunteer.

(Choose one kid from the ones who have their hands raised. Invite them to come to the front of the room. Instruct them to flip over the last puzzle piece and hold it up so everyone can see.)

(Instruct the four kids to hold all four pieces of the puzzle together.)

"Look at that! When all the pieces come together, we can see the whole picture. The friends on the road saw the bigger picture too, and it filled them with joy.

"Thank you, helpers! You can all take a bow and return to your seats."

STORYTELLER: "Wow, friends ... what an amazing story. Let's remember what happened. We saw our first puzzle piece and could only see a tiny part of the picture, just like the two friends on the road who felt sad and confused because they didn't understand what God was doing.

"Then we saw our second piece and saw a little more of the bigger picture, just like when Jesus walked with the two friends and explained the Scriptures so they could understand more of God's big plan. Jesus had come to rescue us!

"Then we saw our third piece and learned that when Jesus broke the bread, the two friends' eyes were opened! They finally saw the whole picture. Jesus had come to rescue us, yes, but He had conquered death! Jesus was alive!

"And when we added the last puzzle piece, the picture was complete—just like the joy the friends felt when they understood God's bigger story.

"When all you see is one little part, things can feel confusing. But when you remember that there is a bigger story, it can help you find joy! And that's what Jesus helped His friends do. He showed them that God had been working out His bigger story all along, and that gave them JOY. Let's review our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "You can have joy because there's a bigger story! Say that with me."

(Host enters and joins in.)

KIDS, STORYTELLER AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "You can have joy because there's a bigger story!"

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're right up here on the picture of 'The Resurrection' of God's Big Story! Today's true story from the Bible took place on the very same day Jesus rose from the dead! (*Gesture to timeline.*)

"This week, we learned about two of Jesus' followers who didn't quite understand what all that Jesus had done meant. But Jesus was so patient with them. He went through the Scriptures and was like, 'Look what God was doing here!' 'Look what God was doing here!' It's kind of like what we've been doing all year with God's Big Story! (*Gesture to the Timeline Images if you have them.*) We've been going through the Bible and saying, 'Look what God was doing here!' The very truth at the heart of our lives is that we are so loved by God, and He is so good, that He worked and worked for years and years to bring Jesus to Earth to rescue us. God's whole Big Story is that He made a way for us to be His close friends forever, and in the end, He's going to make a beautiful place for us to be with Him forever! In the end, He's going to make everything right, and we're going to live with Him forever! That's the story that the two friends on the walk to Emmaus were living in, and it's the Big Beautiful Story that we are living in too. God has made a way for you to be His friend. Forever! Yay for God and His Big Story!

SLIDE: Week 2 Timeline Image

(If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.)

"This week, we learned about the two followers of Jesus walking to Emmaus and how Jesus told them about God's Big Story!"

HOST: "Friends, today's story reminds us that sometimes, we only see a tiny piece of what's happening. Maybe something doesn't go the way we want, or something happens that's sad or confusing. When we only see a small part, it can feel hard, just like it felt for the two friends on the road.

"But just like they were, you are living in a bigger story! And that true bigger story is this: The God of the universe wants to be your close, close friend. He sent Jesus to rescue you, and when you believe in what Jesus did for you, you get to be God's friend!

3 min

PRAYER**What You Need**

No supplies needed

"But that's not the whole story. One day, Jesus is coming back, and He is going to make everything right again. God is going to end pain, sickness, and death—forever! And you will live with Him forever in a place where there is no more crying, or sadness, or pain!

"That is the bigger story that you are living in every single day of your life! It's the best story, and it's all true!

"So when things get hard, and they will, remember that there is a bigger story. Ask Jesus to remind you that He is with you every step of the way, and ask Him to help you trust that the hard that you are going through right now,

"God is always working on His bigger story. He is working for good—a forever good. And let that bring you joy!"

"Let's talk to the God who is with you through every hard thing and who is working to make everything right in the end! Let's talk to the God who is writing the best story.

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Jesus, thank You for writing the best story of all, and that we are living in it! When things get hard or confusing, help us remember that You are good and are working for good. Help us be encouraged by the bigger story You are writing. Help us find joy as we turn our hearts to Your presence with us. We want to go through all of life aware of You and of Your bigger story! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

(Dismiss kids to their small groups.)

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Getting Ready | K3 Large Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with **APlay!** JoinAPlay.com is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. **APlay** gives you more time to focus on what truly matters—more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (25 minutes)

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- 8 kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)
- Floor tape
- Tape
- 2 "JOY" papers that are provided ("JOY Print" printable)
- 2 stacks each of blue, pink, and green sticky notes (The smaller sticky notes that are 1 3/8 in x 1 7/8 in. will fit best on the printed "JOY" signs.)

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to play as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to play during the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- "Joy Run Title" Slide
- "JOY Print" Printable
- Bottom Line Slide

Optional Videos:

- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme Intro

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the sound effects from the Large Group scripts folder and have them ready to use.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note:*

Some presentation software, such as ProPresenter, includes a built-in countdown clock that can be overlaid on a still image.

- Print the two "JOY" papers that are provided on 11 x 17-inch paper. (They are called "JOY print" printables.)
- Place a starting line with floor tape at both ends of the room.
- Place a pile of sticky notes on both starting lines—one blue, pink, and green stack for each team.
- Tape the two "JOY" papers in the middle of the room at kids' height. (It may help to tape the "JOY" signs on posterboards, and put them both on easels. The signs need to be sturdy enough for kids to place sticky notes on them.)

2. Worship and Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Alive"- available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "I've Got Joy" - available on Store.ThinkOrange.com
- "Start the Party" - available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos for Orange Kids Music

- "I've Got Joy" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "Start the Party" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

- If you are utilizing the suggested songs from **Amazing Music**, search for your desired video resource for each song under the Worship section on APlay and add to your service!
- You can access Amazing Music's Dance Motion, Lyric, and Instrumental Videos in APlay under the Worship section.
- Amazing Music Song Trainings are available in Amazing Leaders and FREE on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@AmazingKidsMusic>
- If you are utilizing **the Orange Kids Music** suggestions, simply purchase and download from Store.ThinkOrange.com! You can upload these into APlay for easy use with your 252 curriculum.
- Dance Motion Videos and Lyrics Videos are available for Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- *Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s),*

copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:

"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe
 ©2000 Good Music Co.
 CCLI License # 0000

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table
- 4 kid volunteers
- 4 puzzle pieces that are provided ("Puzzle Piece 1" Printable, "Puzzle Piece 2" Printable, "Puzzle Piece 3" Printable, "Puzzle Piece 4" Printable)

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to play as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- "Puzzle Piece 1" Printable
- "Puzzle Piece 2" Printable
- "Puzzle Piece 3" Printable
- "Puzzle Piece 4" Printable

Optional for God's Big Story:

- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- God's Big Story Slide
- Week 2 Timeline Image Slide
- We recommend that you create a timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed Timeline Images in order, week by week. We'll provide a Timeline Image for each week of the curriculum. There are two versions of each Timeline Image—a slide and a print version. A digital [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

Optional Video: (available in APlay)

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (Kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- StoryLab: Invite elementary kids to engage with inquisitive young hosts as they explore core biblical truths and stories in a STEAM-inspired setting.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

- The So & So Show: Guide preteens to explore questions of faith through a YouTube-style show full of humor and lots of zany fun.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Print and cut out the four puzzle pieces that are provided, and laminate them if you're able to.
- Lay the four puzzle pieces face down on the floor at the front of the room.

Supplies

Opener	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	8
3. Floor tape	1
4. Tape	1
5. "JOY" papers that are provided ("JOY Print" printable)	1
6. stacks each of blue, pink, and green sticky notes (The smaller sticky notes that are 1 3/8 in x 1 7/8 in. will fit best on the printed "JOY" signs.)	1

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Storyteller	1
2. Host	1
3. Table	1
4. kid volunteers	4
5. puzzle pieces that are provided ("Puzzle Piece 1" Printable, "Puzzle Piece 2" Printable, "Puzzle Piece 3" Printable, "Puzzle Piece 4" Printable)	4

WEEK

THREE

K-3 | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 3

Bible Story: Great Commission and Ascension • *Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11*

Bottom Line: You can share the good news about Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • *Philippians 4:4 NlrV*

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Parachute Party (K-1st grade), Emoji Story (2nd-3rd grade)

Application Activity: Be a Smartie (K-1st grade), Spread the Joy (2nd-3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Bubble Verse (K-1st grade), Unscramble the Relay (2nd-3rd grade)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Great Commission and Ascension • *Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11*

Conversation Starter

What does it mean to you that God is with you?

Bottom Line

You can share the good news about Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! • *Philippians 4:4 NlrV*

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

Opener

What You Need

👤	Host	1
👤	kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	6
👤	Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
👤	Floor tape	1
👤	bag of red pom-poms (enough to throw for the 2 minutes of the game)	1
👤	bag of blue pom-poms (enough to throw for the 2 minutes of the game)	1
👤	buckets	6

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the sound effects from the Large Group scripts folder and have them ready to use.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software, such as ProPresenter, includes a built-in countdown clock that can be overlaid on a still image.*
- Use floor tape to create two tape lines for the game—one on one end of the space, and one on the far end of the space.
- Dump the red pom-poms into one of the buckets.
- Dump the blue pom-poms into one of the buckets.
- Have the two buckets of pom-poms and the four empty buckets ready in the game area.

HOST: "Hello, friends! Welcome back to our Block Party! This month's theme is 'Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!'"

"Give me your biggest party cheer on the count of three. One ... two ... three!"

(Pause while kids cheer.)

HOST: "Great! Today, we're learning that you can share the good news about Jesus. And to start our celebration, we're going to play one of my favorite games ever. It's fun, silly, and full of pretend fireworks. It's called ... 'Firework Catch!'"

SLIDE: Firework Catch! Title

AUDIO: Upbeat music

"In this game, we get to pretend we're watching the coolest fireworks show ever. The fireworks will go boom ... pop ... swish ... right in the air!"

"Here's how it works: we're going to have one launcher for each team stand in the middle of our game space here.

(Gesture to the middle of the game space.)

"One launcher will toss red fireworks for the Red Team, and the other launcher will toss blue fireworks for the Blue Team.

"And we'll have two catchers for each team holding buckets that are standing outside of these tape lines here—one Red Team catcher and one Blue Team catcher on each side. The Red Team catchers will ONLY catch red fireworks, and the Blue Team catchers will ONLY catch blue fireworks.

"When the music starts, our launchers will gently toss their fireworks high up into the air like this to their catchers ...

(Demonstrate a soft toss—throw one of the pom-poms high up into the air to a catcher.)

"If you're a launcher, keep throwing fireworks to your two catchers on either side until the time runs out! And make sure the fireworks go high up in the air. We'll only count the fireworks that have gone up. And if you're a catcher, stay behind the line to catch the fireworks, okay?

"When the music stops, everyone freezes, and we'll see which team has the most fireworks in their buckets. Got it?

"Okay, let's pick our teams! I'm going to need six volunteers—raise your hand if you'd like to play!

(Choose six volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised. Choose one launcher and two catchers for each team. Give each launcher their bucket of pom-poms, and give each catcher their empty bucket. Direct the catchers to stand behind the tape lines, and the launchers in the middle of the space.)

"Launchers ready? Catchers ready? And if you're in the audience, you get to cheer for both teams because this is a joyful celebration!

"All right, friends. Are you ready for fireworks? Let me hear you say, 'Light it up!'

KIDS: "Light it up!"

HOST: "Okay, launchers ... three ... two ... one ... GO!"

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Optional Video: 2 minute-countdown

(Play the game. Start the music and the timer—or smartphone or watch or countdown. Make sure the catchers are only catching their team's color of pom-poms. Cheer on both teams and involve the audience.)

"Wow, look at those fireworks! Red Team, you're zooming! Blue Team, great catching! Audience, let's keep cheering on both teams!

(Once the two-minute timer is up, stop the music, and say:)

"Time is up! Everybody freeze! Catchers, hold your buckets still. Let's count each team's fireworks!

(Count the number of pom-poms for each team. Be energetic and count out loud as you go so the teams and audience can hear.)

"Great job, [Team Name], you got the most fireworks! Great job, everyone!

(Repeat for as many rounds as time allows. Ask for six new volunteers at the beginning of each round.)

"That was so much fun! And you know what? Fireworks remind me of joy—big, bright joy. And we can have joy because Jesus is alive, and we can share His good news everywhere we go.

"That's our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

HOST: [Bottom Line] "You can share the good news about Jesus. Say that with me, everyone!"

KIDS AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "You can share the good news about Jesus!"

HOST: "Great job! Now let's go find out more about what that means."

11 min

Worship Option 1 | Amazing Music

3 min

Alive | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Living Hope | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com. Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.

(Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Are you ready to worship Jesus today? Worship is when we sing to Jesus and show Him just how much we love Him. We can use our voices, our hands, our feet, and our big smiles to worship because Jesus gives us joy that never ends.

"Today, we're singing songs that help us remember how amazing Jesus is. Our first song is called 'Alive.' This song reminds us that Jesus is alive, and that fills our hearts with joy. Everyone, stand up tall, stretch your arms up high, and get ready to sing!

SONG: "Alive" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"Wow! You all sang that like you meant it! Now, let's sing another song that helps us remember something so important that Jesus gives us—freedom! When we follow Him, we don't have to worry or try to be the best. Jesus already loves us completely! Let's sing this one loud!

"You sang that beautifully. Jesus really is alive, and He gives us hope and joy every single day. Our next song is called 'Living Hope.' In this song, we get to tell Jesus that He is our hope, He helps us, He loves us, and He never leaves us.

"You can lift your hands, close your eyes, or just sing with a happy heart. This is your time to worship Jesus.

SONG: "Living Hope" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"I love worshipping Jesus with you all! You can have a seat."

"All month long, we've been learning something really special: Jesus gives us joy that never ends. Joy isn't just being happy for a moment. Joy stays with us because Jesus is always with us. And the Bible helps us remember where that joy comes from. Today, we're going to look at a verse that tells us why we can be joyful every single day. This verse

10 min

Worship Option 2 | Orange Kids Music

5 min

I've Got Joy | Orange Kids Music

What You Need

No supplies needed

reminds us that when we belong to Jesus, our hearts can be full of joy no matter what is happening around us.

"Our Memory Verse is found in Philippians 4:4. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4 (NIRV)

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Because you belong to the Lord."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Because you belong to the Lord."

WORSHIP LEADER: "I will say it again."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "I will say it again."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Be joyful!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Be joyful!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Philippians 4:4!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Philippians 4:4!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "You said that so well. And guess what? You can keep this verse in your heart all week long. When you feel scared, or when something is hard, or even when you're having the best day ever, you can remember that you belong to Jesus, and because of that, you can always have joy. Jesus is with you, and He loves you so much. That means you can show His joy everywhere you go!"

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com. Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, everyone! Who's ready to worship today? Worship is a special way we show God how much we love Him, by singing, dancing, and celebrating the amazing things He's done. And I know you can do all of that really well!

SONG: "I've Got Joy" available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

5 min

Start The Party | Worship song

What You Need

No supplies needed

"You guys sound amazing! Did you know God hears every word? He loves it when we take time to worship Him—not just with our voices, but with our lives. Let's keep worshipping together!"

SONG: "Start the Party" available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

"Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here's what we can remember today: worship doesn't stop here. You can keep worshipping God all through this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him.

24 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

33 min

Bible Story (Live)

Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!

If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." (Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the rest of the story of Scripture!) We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!










Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend. Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!

What You Do:

3 min

INTRODUCTION

What You Need

 Storyteller	1
 Host	1
 Table	1
 pre-inflated mylar helium balloons	4
 Ribbon, enough to tie some to each of the 4 balloons	4
 balloon weights	1
 Clear tape	1
 kid volunteers	1
 Black, permanent marker	1

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Inflate the four balloons with helium. Tie a ribbon to each balloon, and use a balloon weight.
- Put three of the balloons backstage.
- Before group time, discreetly tape one balloon to the table at the tab, so the audience can't see the ribbon or the weight. (The Storyteller will remove the tape during the Bible Story as a demonstration.)

(Things to have ready: Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Inflated mylar balloon discreetly taped to the table at the filling tab; black, permanent marker; ribbon, and weight on the table. The ribbon and the weight should not be visible to the audience. Other three prepared mylar balloons backstage.)

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! This month, we've been learning that joy comes from Jesus, and we can have joy no matter what's going on around us! Our theme this month is 'Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!'

"Today, we're going to hear a true story from the Bible that helps us understand something important about what Jesus asks His followers to do.

"This story reminds us that following Jesus is something we get to be part of! God has awesomely invited us to be a part of what He is doing!

"But before we get into our true story from the Bible today, let me tell you about something amazing that we've been doing all year!

"We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, which is just a little over a month from now, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants us to be close to Him. So as we go through the Bible this year, we hope to learn more about God!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! *(Gesture to slide.)*

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

(If you have the Timeline Images up, feel free to point to them as you talk about them.)

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"After God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they disobeyed God—again and again and again. Even the kings God gave them rebelled! So, God split the nation in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"Jesus lived a perfect life, and He gave that perfect life to pay the price for our sin. Because He never did anything wrong, Jesus was able to take on our sin. With His own life, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. He broke the curse of sin we were under. He set us free. With the curse broken, with sin paid for, we could be close to God again! What God had been working on in His Big Story was finally coming true!

"And then Jesus did something else amazing! He rose back to life! Jesus beat death! Our Rescuer who loves us is alive and with us forever and ever!

"But Jesus' friends were confused. Why did Jesus die? Why did He rise again? Jesus spent the next few days on Earth explaining what He had done and why!

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

JESUS APPEARS TO HIS FRIENDS

What You Need

No supplies needed

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

STORYTELLER: "We're continuing our journey through the Bible. Today's story is from the days Jesus was on Earth after He rose from the dead.

"As we get into our true story from the Bible today, let me ask you a question to get you thinking about something: Have you ever had a time when you weren't sure what was going to happen next? Maybe your teacher said, 'Everyone, line up,' and you didn't know where you were going. Or maybe someone said, 'I have a surprise for you,' but they didn't tell you what it was.

"When we don't know what's coming, it can feel a little confusing, right? Yeah, that happens to all of us sometimes. And guess what? That's how Jesus' friends were feeling in today's true story from the Bible. They loved Jesus. They followed Jesus. They wanted to stay close to Him. But they didn't know what would happen next, and they had lots of questions.

"Take a look at this balloon! I brought it up here with me because it can help us see something really special in our Bible Story. We'll use it in just a minute to help us understand what Jesus told His friends. Let's hear what happened to them.

"After Jesus came back to life, He didn't stay far away. He didn't hide. He wanted His friends to know He was really, truly alive.

"We're going to let this balloon remind us of Jesus in our story. Jesus appeared to His followers. That means they could see Him and talk to Him. They didn't have to wonder—Jesus was right there with them.

(Pick up the marker and write "J" boldly and clearly on the balloon.)

"I'm writing the letter 'J' on this balloon so we all remember who this balloon reminds us of: Jesus. Jesus wanted His followers to know that He was alive and He loved them.

"Let's read what the Bible says happened in the days after Jesus rose from the dead.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 28:16-17 NIV.)

Then the 11 disciples went to Galilee. They went to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him. But some still had their doubts.

5 min

JESUS GIVES HIS FRIENDS A BIG JOB

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Did you hear that? Jesus' followers saw Him! Jesus appeared to them just like the Bible says. Some of His followers were excited, and some weren't sure what to think yet. But Jesus was really with them. And Jesus was about to tell them something very important.

STORYTELLER: "Jesus loved His friends so much. And now that they knew He was alive, Jesus had something VERY important to tell them.

"Jesus gave His friends a big, huge, tremendous job. He told them to go and tell EVERYONE the good news about Him!

"Let's read what Jesus said.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 28:18-20a NIV.)

Then Jesus came to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.

"Jesus told His friends, 'Go and tell everyone about Me!' That's a big, huge, tremendous job, isn't it?

"But there was something else! Jesus said this:

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 28:20b NIV.)

"And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."

"But Jesus didn't ask His friends to do this big, huge, tremendous job alone! He was going to be with them all the time! But how? How could Jesus be with every person all of the time?

"A few days later, Jesus' friends were eating with Him and He told them:

(Open the Bible and read Acts 1:4-5, 8 NIV.)

"Do not leave Jerusalem," he said. "Wait for the gift my Father promised. You have heard me talk about it. John baptized with water. But in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. ... You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other."

"So that's how Jesus was going to be with His friends to do the big, huge, tremendous job He had given them! Jesus was going to send His very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, to be with them! He said the Holy Spirit would be with them, helping them every step of the way.

GOD IS WITH US

What You Need

No supplies needed

(Pull the discreet tape off the balloon, and show the kids the ribbon and balloon weight. But don't let the balloon go up yet. Keep holding it at the tab.)

"This ribbon on our balloon is to help us remember that Jesus promised something wonderful—the Holy Spirit would be with the disciples and help them."

STORYTELLER: "After Jesus gave His friends their big, huge, tremendous job—to go and tell everyone the good news that God loves them—something amazing happened. Listen to what the Bible says: *(Open the Bible and read Acts 1:9 NIV.)*

After Jesus said this, he was taken up into heaven. The apostles watched until a cloud hid him from their sight.

"Jesus began to go up ... up ... up ... into heaven.

(Slowly let the balloon rise while keeping hold of the weight.)

"Look at that! Jesus went up to heaven, just like our balloon.

"But look at this part ... the ribbon stayed. This ribbon reminds us that the Holy Spirit stayed with Jesus' followers. Jesus went to heaven, but He was still with them through His Spirit!

(Walk around the room with the balloon on the ribbon.)

"Wherever they went, God went with them. And wherever YOU go, God is with you too.

"Now remember the big job Jesus gave His friends? That big, huge, tremendous job? He told them to share the good news with others that He is alive and He loves them. And that good news kept spreading ... from one person ... to another ... to another ...

(Get the three balloons from backstage with the ribbon and weights on them.)

"I'm going to need three volunteers. Raise your hand if you'd like to help me!

(Choose three kids from the ones who have their hands raised, invite them to the front, and give them the three balloons.)

"Just like I gave these balloons to our volunteers, the good news about Jesus is meant to be shared. Jesus' friends shared it with others ... then those people shared it with others ... and it kept going and going. And YOU can share the good news about Jesus too. God is with you through the Holy Spirit, and He helps you every step of the way.

"Thank you to our volunteers! I will take those balloons back, and you can be seated."

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

(Set the balloons with the weights on the stage.)

STORYTELLER: "What a wonderful story we heard today. Jesus spent time with His followers after He came back to life, and they got to see Him with their own eyes. Then Jesus gave them a big job—to go and tell everyone the good news that He is alive and He loves them.

"But Jesus promised that He wasn't going to leave His friends alone. He promised the Holy Spirit would be with them and help them wherever they went. And just like our friends holding those balloons, the good news didn't stop with Jesus' friends. It kept going from one person to another. Jesus wants the good news that He is alive and He loves the world to keep spreading, and He invites us to be part of that.

"Let's take a look at our Bottom Line again.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "You can share the good news about Jesus. Say that with me."

(Host enters and joins in.)

KIDS, STORYTELLER AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "You can share the good news about Jesus."

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're right up here on the path after the picture of 'The Resurrection' of God's Big Story! Today's true story from the Bible took place in the days after Jesus rose from the dead, and when He went back to heaven! *(Gesture to timeline.)*

"This week, we learned about the great assignment God has given us! Back after that horrible decision the first people made to turn their backs on God in the garden of Eden, God promised that He was going to make a way for us to be close to Him again. And all throughout God's Big Story, God was working and working to set up the time for Jesus to come and pay for our sins. And He did! Jesus came to Earth, lived a perfect life, gave that perfect life, paid for our sin, making a way for us to be close with God, and went back to heaven again! And now He wants us to tell the whole world about it. God's great love, that He spent years and years and years proving *(gesture to the Timeline Images if you have them)* is for the whole world. And He wants us to spread the message everywhere we go: 'Jesus is alive, and God loves you!' 'Jesus is alive,

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

and God loves you! God's love is so big that He wants it to spread over the whole world!

SLIDE: Week 3 Timeline Image

(If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.)

"This week, we learned about the Great Commission, when Jesus told His disciples to tell the whole world about Him, and the ascension, when Jesus left Earth and went to be with God in heaven!"

HOST: "Today's story reminds us of something really special. Jesus gave His followers a big, huge, tremendous job—to go and tell everyone the good news that He is alive and that He loves them. And guess what? That job is for us too!

"We can do that in two ways: with the words we speak and the way we live!

"One of the best ways to share who God is is to love others like Jesus. When you're kind like Jesus, the world sees Him. When you're honest like Jesus, the world sees Him. When you're forgiving like Jesus, the world sees Him. Maybe you can be kind to a friend who's having a hard day. Maybe you can pray for someone who's sad. Every time you do those things, you're showing the world who Jesus is.

"But Jesus doesn't just want us to show the world who He is, He also wants us to tell people about Him and about what He did. So tell people about how much God loves them and what Jesus did for them. Tell them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus so they can be friends with God forever!

"But you don't have to do this big, huge, tremendous job alone! When Jesus went up to heaven, He didn't leave His friends alone. He promised the Holy Spirit would be with them and help them. And the Holy Spirit is with you too. That means God will help you share His love wherever you go. You can ask, 'Holy Spirit, can You show me what to say or do here?' And He will!

"You don't have to be a grown-up to share Jesus with someone. You don't have to know everything. You just have to remember this: God is with you, and He will help you."

"Let's talk to the God whose love is so big, it's for the whole world!

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Jesus, thank You for loving us so much. Thank You for coming to Earth, dying for us, and rising again so we can be Your friends forever. Now we have this good news of Your great love to share with others. We're so glad that You're alive and You're with us. Please help us show Your love to others this week. Help us be kind, help us be brave, and help us tell people how amazing You are and how much You love them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

(Dismiss kids to their small groups.)

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Getting Ready | K3 Large Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with **APlay!** [JoinAPlay.com](https://www.joinaplay.com) is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. **APlay** gives you more time to focus on what truly matters—more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (25 minutes)

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- 6 kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)
- Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)
- Floor tape
- 1 bag of red pom-poms (enough to throw for the 2 minutes of the game)
- 1 bag of blue pom-poms (enough to throw for the 2 minutes of the game)
- 6 buckets

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use during the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- "Firework Catch! Title" Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

Optional Videos:

- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme Intro
- 2-minute countdown

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the sound effects from the Large Group scripts folder and have them ready to use.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
-

Optional: Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note:* Some presentation software, such as ProPresenter, includes a built-in countdown clock that can be overlaid on a still image.

- Use floor tape to create two tape lines for the game—one on one end of the space, and one on the far end of the space.
- Dump the red pom-poms into one of the buckets.
- Dump the blue pom-poms into one of the buckets.
- Have the two buckets of pom-poms and the four empty buckets ready in the game area.

2. Worship and Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- “Alive” - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- “Living Hope” - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- “I’ve Got Joy” - available on Store.ThinkOrange.com
- “Start the Party” - available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos for Orange Kids Music

- “I’ve Got Joy” Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- “Start the Party” Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

- If you are utilizing the suggested songs from **Amazing Music**, search for your desired video resource for each song under the Worship section on APlay and add to your service!
- You can access Amazing Music’s Dance Motion, Lyric, and Instrumental Videos in APlay under the Worship section.
- Amazing Music Song Trainings are available in Amazing Leaders and FREE on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@AmazingKidsMusic>
- If you are utilizing **the Orange Kids Music** suggestions, simply purchase and download from Store.ThinkOrange.com! You can upload these into APlay for easy use with your 252 curriculum.
- Dance Motion Videos and Lyrics Videos are available for Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- *Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church’s CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a*

separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:

*"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe
©2000 Good Music Co.
CCLI License # 0000*

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table
- 4 pre-inflated mylar helium balloons
- Ribbon, enough to tie some to each of the 4 balloons
- 4 balloon weights
- Clear tape
- 3 kid volunteers
- Black, permanent marker

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Theme Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

Optional for God's Big Story:

- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- God's Big Story Slide
- Week 3 Timeline Image Slide
- We recommend that you create a timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed Timeline Images in order, week by week. We'll provide a Timeline Image for each week of the curriculum. There are two versions of each Timeline Image—a slide and a print version. A digital [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

Optional Video: (available in APlay)

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (Kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- StoryLab: Invite elementary kids to engage with inquisitive young hosts as they explore core biblical truths and stories in a STEAM-inspired setting.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

- The So & So Show: Guide preteens to explore questions of faith through a YouTube-style show full of humor and lots of zany fun.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Inflate the four balloons with helium. Tie a ribbon to each balloon, and use a balloon weight.
- Put three of the balloons backstage.
- Before group time, discreetly tape one balloon to the table at the tab, so the audience can't see the ribbon or the weight. (The Storyteller will remove the tape during the Bible Story as a demonstration.)

Getting Ready | 23

Small Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 Minutes)

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Opening Activity

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Offering container
- Inflated globe ball, one for each Small Group

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Story applies to real-life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

1. Emoji Story

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Print "Emoji Story" Activity Page on cardstock and cut, one set for every kid

2. Spread the Joy

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Print "JOY" Activity Page on cardstock, one for every kid
- Cotton rounds, one for every kid
- Washable markers, enough for each Small Group to share
- Double-sided tape, one roll for each Small Group

3. Unscramble Relay

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Bibles, one for every kid
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Print "Unscramble Relay" Activity Page on Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent, two sets for each Small Group
- Streamers, one roll for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Cut streamers into 24-inch lengths, thirty-four for each Small Group.*
- *Place one label on the end of each streamer.*
- *Create two piles of complete verse streamers, two sets.*
-

Keep the two sets separate until group time, so they don't get mixed up in any way.

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue App**.

Supplies

Opener	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	6
3. Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1
4. Floor tape	1
5. bag of red pom-poms (enough to throw for the 2 minutes of the game)	1
6. bag of blue pom-poms (enough to throw for the 2 minutes of the game)	1
7. buckets	6

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Storyteller	1
2. Host	1
3. Table	1
4. pre-inflated mylar helium balloons	4
5. Ribbon, enough to tie some to each of the 4 balloons	4
6. balloon weights	1
7. Clear tape	1
8. kid volunteers	1
9. Black, permanent marker	1

WEEK

FOUR

K-3 | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule April 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: Pentecost / Fruit of the Spirit • Acts 2:1-41 (supporting: Galatians 5:22-23)

Bottom Line: The Holy Spirit gives you joy.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NlrV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Headband Story (K-1st grade), Sculpted Creations (2nd-3rd grade)

Application Activity: Grouped Together (K-1st grade), Jesus in Many Languages (2nd-3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Joyful Jump (K-1st grade), To the Beat (2nd-3rd grade)

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Pentecost / Fruit of the Spirit • Acts 2:1-41 (supporting: Galatians 5:22-23)

Conversation Starter

When have you experienced joy in your life?

Bottom Line

The Holy Spirit gives you joy.

Monthly Memory Verse

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! • Philippians 4:4 NlrV




5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

Opener

What You Need

 Host	1
 kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	10
 20-30 balloons (orange, purple, blue, yellow, etc.), multiple of each color	30

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the sound effects from the Large Group scripts folder and have them ready to use.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software, such as ProPresenter, includes a built-in countdown clock that can be overlaid on a still image.*
- Blow up the balloons and scatter them around the floor in the game area before the kids enter.
- During the game, call out the colors of the balloons that you have.

HOST: "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! We're having a big block party this month because we're celebrating Jesus and the joy He gives us. That's our theme for the month, 'Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!' And we're going to get this party started with a super-fun game full of colors and balloons! It's called 'Balloon Frenzy'!"

SLIDE: Balloon Frenzy Title

"I need 10 kids to come play our game! If you want to help, raise your hand high!"

(Choose 10 volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised. Invite them to the game area.)

"Great! Let's give our volunteers a big cheer! Look at all the colorful balloons on the floor. For this game, you're going to dance around while the music plays. But when the music stops, you have to FREEZE! I'll call out a color, and then you'll run to grab one balloon of that color and hold it up high!"

"Everyone else, you get to cheer them on!"

"Okay, everybody ready? When I say 'GO,' the music will start, and you'll start dancing!"

"3 ... 2 ... 1 ... GO!"

AUDIO: Upbeat music

"Time to dance! Let me see your silliest moves! Dance, dance, dance!

(Play the game. Kids dance. Let the music play for 10-15 seconds.)

AUDIO: Music stops

"FREEZE! Your color is ... blue! Grab a blue balloon and hold it up!

(Kids run to find a blue balloon.)

"Great job! You can go ahead and put your balloons back on the floor.

"Let's do another round! Everybody ready?

"3 ... 2 ... 1 ... GO!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

(Kids dance. Let the music play for 10-15 seconds.)

AUDIO: Music stops

(Kids freeze.)

"FREEZE! This time find ... a yellow balloon! Hold one up when you find it!

(Kids run to find a yellow balloon.)

"Great job! This is so fun!

(Continue as time allows with more colors.)

"Wow, you guys are good dancers! Thank you for volunteering! You can go back to your seats.

(If time allows, ask for 10 new volunteers and continue with more rounds.)

"You all did AMAZING! So much joy and energy! And guess what? Today, we're going to hear a true story from the Bible where God gives His people joy, boldness, and power through the Holy Spirit!

"But first, let's check out what our Bottom Line is for today.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "The Holy Spirit gives you joy. Can you say that with me?"

KIDS AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "The Holy Spirit gives you joy."

HOST: "Great job, everyone! Now let's go find out more about what that means!"

11 min

Worship Option 1 | Amazing Music

3 min

Alive | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Joy (What the World Calls Foolish) | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com. Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.

(Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! Who's ready to worship Jesus today? Worship is one of the best ways to show Him how thankful we are. So let's take a moment to stand up tall, stretch out our arms, and get ready to sing with happy hearts. This first song is called 'Alive.' It reminds us that Jesus is alive, and because He's alive, we can have joy every single day. Let's sing and dance with all we've got!"

SONG: "Alive" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"Wow! You all sang that like you meant it! Now, let's sing another song that helps us remember something so important that Jesus gives us—freedom! When we follow Him, we don't have to worry or try to be the best. Jesus already loves us completely! Let's sing this one loud!"

"Our next song is all about the kind of joy only God can give. You don't have to be perfect, and you don't have to have everything figured out. Jesus gives joy because He loves you! Let's sing this one together."

SONG: "Joy (What the World Calls Foolish)" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"So great! Jesus loves when we spend time with Him by singing, praying, listening, and learning."

"All month long, we've been learning that Jesus gives us joy, real joy that stays with us no matter what kind of day we're having. And the Bible has a special verse that helps us remember where that joy comes from. It's Philippians 4:4! This verse tells us that we can have joy every day because we belong to Jesus. Let's look at our Memory Verse together!
SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4 (NirV)

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

10 min

Worship Option 2 | Orange Kids Music

5 min

I've Got Joy | Orange Kids Music

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Start The Party | Worship song

WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Always be joyful."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Because you belong to the Lord."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Because you belong to the Lord."

WORSHIP LEADER: "I will say it again."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "I will say it again."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Be joyful!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Be joyful!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Philippians 4:4!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Philippians 4:4!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "This verse reminds us that we don't have to wait for something special to happen to feel joy. Jesus is with us every day, and that means joy can live in our hearts all the time. Whenever you need joy, you can remember this verse. Thanks for worshipping with me today, friends!"

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Music and Orange Kids Music. We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com. Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Alright, everyone, let's get ready to worship! This is our chance to celebrate how good God is! He made each one of us. He loves us more than we can imagine, and He's always with us, no matter what we're going through.

"When we sing, we're not just saying words, we're thanking God for who He is and all the amazing things He's done. So come on, let's stand up, smile big, and sing out loud to show God how much we love Him!

SONG: "I've Got Joy" available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

"You guys sound amazing! Did you know God hears every word? He loves it when we take time to worship Him—not just with our voices, but with our lives. Let's keep worshipping together!

SONG: "Start the Party" available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

What You Need

No supplies needed

“Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here’s what we can remember today: worship doesn’t stop here. You can keep worshipping God all through this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him.

24 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

38 min

Bible Story (Live)

Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!

If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." (Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the rest of the story of Scripture!) We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!

Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend. Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!

What You Do:

3 min

INTRODUCTION

What You Need

👤	Storyteller	1
👤	Host	1
👤	Table	1
👤	Bible	1
👤	"Meter Print" printable (provided)	1
👤	Red marker	1
👤	kid volunteer to color the "Meter Print" printable	1
👤	Optional: Laminated "Meter Print" printable and red dry-erase marker	1

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Print out the provided "Meter Print" printable on 11 x 17-inch cardstock.
- *Optional: Laminate "Meter Print" printable and have the kid volunteer use a red dry-erase marker.*

(Things to have ready: Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Prepared "Meter Print" printable for the teaching, and a red marker.)

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm really excited to be with you today. For the past few weeks, we've been talking about Jesus and the joy that comes from knowing Him. Our theme has been, 'Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!'

"Today, we're going to look at a true story from the Bible where God showed us that His plan had been even bigger than anyone understood!

"But before we dive into our true story from the Bible today, let me tell you about something amazing that we've been doing all year!

"We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, which is just a little over a month from now, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants us to be close to Him. So as we go through the Bible this year, we hope to learn more about God!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! *(Gesture to slide.)*

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

(If you have the Timeline Images up, feel free to point to them as you talk about them.)

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"After God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they disobeyed God—again and again and again. Even the kings God gave them rebelled! So, God split the nation in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"Jesus lived a perfect life, and He gave that perfect life to pay the price for our sin. Because He never did anything wrong, Jesus was able to take on our sin. With His own life, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. He broke the curse of sin we were under. He set us free. With the curse broken, with sin paid for, we could be close to God again! What God had been working on in His Big Story was finally coming true!

"And then Jesus did something else amazing! He rose back to life! Jesus beat death! Our Rescuer who loves us is alive and with us forever and ever.

"But Jesus' friends were confused. Why did Jesus die? Why did He rise again? Jesus spent the next few days on Earth explaining what He had done and why.

"Jesus explained that He was going to leave, but He was going to be with His followers in a new way. He was going to be closer than close, like He always wanted to be.

"Then, Jesus went back to heaven, and His followers waited for the gift He had promised to give them.

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

THE BELIEVERS WERE WAITING

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER: "Today, we're continuing right along in our journey through the Bible. Jesus had gone back to heaven, but He told His friends to wait for the special gift that He was going to give them. That's where we are in the Bible!

"Waiting, waiting, waiting. Have you ever had a time when you were waiting for something exciting to happen? Maybe you were waiting for a birthday party to start or waiting for someone special to come visit. Waiting can feel really long when you know something good is coming!

"That's what Jesus' friends were doing in today's true story from the Bible. Jesus had gone back to heaven, but before He left, He told His friends that He was going to send them a Helper, Someone who would be with them all the time. They didn't know exactly what it would look like or when it would happen. They just knew Jesus told them to wait together.

"So that's what they did. They prayed, they stayed close, and they waited for God's promise. And friends ... what happened next was something only God could do. It's one of the most amazing things in the entire Bible!"

"In our story, Jesus' friends were all gathered in a house. They were praying and waiting for the special Helper Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit. They didn't know when He would come or what it would look like. They just waited together.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 2:1 NIV.)

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers gathered in one place.

(Show the audience the "Meter Print" printable.)

"Friends, this is our meter! It shows us what's happening in our story. I'm going to need a helper to come up here and color our meter to show where things are in our story.

"Raise your hand if you'd like to help me!

(Choose one kid from the ones who have their hands raised and invite them to come to the front of the room. Hand them the red marker and the meter.)

"Perfect! Can you color this bottom circle, right up to the lowest line? That's the bottom level of our meter. It's the lowest point. The red color is way down at the lowest level of our meter because Jesus' friends didn't feel bold or joyful yet. They were still waiting.

5 min

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES WITH POWER

What You Need

No supplies needed

"When you're done coloring [kid's name], can you show everyone the meter? I'll tell you when we need to color things again! *(Pause as the kid shows the audience the meter.)*

"Yes, the meter is way down at the bottom because in this part of our Bible Story, Jesus' friends were waiting quietly and wondering when the Holy Spirit would come. But something incredible was about to happen. God was getting ready to send the Holy Spirit, and everything was about to change.

"Jesus' followers were waiting together, praying, and trusting God. And then, all of a sudden ...

(Open the Bible and read Acts 2:2-4a NIV.)

Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues. The flames separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

"First, they heard a sound. It was loud—like a big, rushing wind!

"Can everybody make a wind sound? Ready ... whoooosh!

(Make a gentle "Whoooosh!" sound and invite the kids to do it with you.)

"Great job! That wind filled the whole house! And then, something even more surprising happened! The followers saw something that looked like flames of fire. But it didn't burn them, and it didn't hurt them. These flames rested right above each person!

"God was sending the Holy Spirit! When the Holy Spirit came, Jesus' friends didn't feel scared anymore. They didn't feel unsure. They felt strong, brave, and joyful.

"Helper, can you color the red up to the next line and then show the meter to everyone?

(Pause while the kid volunteer colors the meter to the next line and shows the audience.)

"But that's not all! God gave Jesus' friends a special ability. They started speaking in all kinds of languages—languages they didn't even know before!

(Open the Bible and read Acts 2:4b NIV.)

They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this.

5 min

THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS US**What You Need**

No supplies needed

"People who had traveled from many different countries heard them talking and understood every word! They were hearing the good news about Jesus in their own languages. That's something only God can do.

"Helper, can you color the meter to the next level, and show it to the audience?

(Pause while the kid volunteer colors the meter to the next line and shows the audience.)

"The Holy Spirit was filling them with His power and joy! And this is only possible because the Holy Spirit is God. God kept His promise. The Holy Spirit had come!

"When the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' friends, one of Jesus' followers named Peter stood up in front of a huge crowd of people. He wasn't nervous. He wasn't scared. The Holy Spirit helped him be brave. Peter wanted everyone to know that Jesus is alive and that God loves them so much. Peter began to preach, really loudly so everyone could hear! He told them about Jesus and about God's big plan. The people listened ... and their hearts began to change.

"Helper, can you color the meter to the highest point and then show everyone? Go ahead and color it to overflowing because the Holy Spirit was filling people up!

(Pause while the kid volunteer colors the meter to overflowing and shows the audience.)

"Great job! Thank you for helping today, friend! You can take a seat. Now let's see what happened next in our Bible Story.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 2:41 NIV.)

Those who accepted his message were baptized. About 3,000 people joined the believers that day.

"That day, so many people believed in Jesus. Not just one ... not just ten ... but about 3,000 people! That's a lot of people! Can you imagine that many people saying, 'Yes, I want to follow Jesus' all at once?

"And do you know what else the Holy Spirit does? He helps good things grow inside of us—things that look like Jesus.

"Just like a peach tree grows sweet, juicy fruit, the Holy Spirit grows sweet fruit in us. This is what the Bible says about the fruit the Holy Spirit produces:

(Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:22-23 NIV.)

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.

"The Holy Spirit helped the believers in our story show joy, boldness, kindness, and goodness as they shared about Jesus. And the Holy Spirit helps us grow these same things today!

"We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us love others, be patient, be kind, make good choices, and stay close to God. And He can fill our hearts with joy, no matter what's going on around us.

"God didn't just send the Holy Spirit back then. He sent the Holy Spirit for me and you! You can be filled with His power and boldness to share Jesus with others. You can be filled with His joy.

"Jesus' friends started out waiting and wondering what God would do next. But then, God kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit! There was a sound like a rushing wind, and what looked like little flames appeared above each person. The Holy Spirit filled Jesus' friends with joy and courage, helping them speak boldly about Jesus in languages they had never learned. And when Peter stood up to preach, thousands of people believed in Jesus that very day! God's Spirit brought joy to their hearts, and that same Holy Spirit fills OUR hearts too. When we trust Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us feel joy, even when things are hard, and helps us share God's love with others.

"Why? Why does the Holy Spirit do all of that? Why does He give us courage and strength and power and grow all of that beautiful fruit?

"Because the Holy Spirit is God in us! The God who is the strongest is in us through His Spirit, and that can make us brave and bold. The God who is loving, and joyful, and peaceful, and patient, and kind, and good, and faithful, and gentle, and self-controlled is in us, and as we stay close to Him, He will grow those things in us!

"We aren't doing life on our own; God Himself, the Holy Spirit, is with us, in us, helping us every step of the way. And there is nothing more joyful than that!

"Let's take a look at our Bottom Line again.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "The Holy Spirit gives you joy. Say that with me, everyone!"

(Host enters and joins in.)

KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "The Holy Spirit gives you joy."

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're right up here in the picture of 'Pentecost' of God's Big Story! Today's true story from the Bible shows us that even though Jesus went back to heaven, He wasn't leaving His followers alone! (*Gesture to timeline.*)

"This week, we talked about such an important part of God's Big Story! This week, we learned about Pentecost, when God sent the Holy Spirit, His very Spirit, to live inside of every person who decides to follow Him. Do you remember back in the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve's horrible decision to sin put distance between people and God? (*Gesture to that Timeline Image if you have it up.*) Well, before Adam and Eve made that choice, God was with them in the garden! He was so close! A few weeks ago, we learned how Jesus gave His life and paid for our sin. He paid for all sin for all time. Now we could be close to God again. But close wouldn't do! God wants to be closer than close! So He showed that His plan all along was for His people to be filled with His very Spirit. He was going to live in each of His followers through His Spirit! God has always wanted to be close to us, so His followers go through life with His very Spirit inside of them! We are never, ever alone!

SLIDE: Week 4 Timeline Image

(If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.)

"This week, we learned about Pentecost and the Holy Spirit, God's very Spirit, who goes through life with us!"

HOST: "So, what's our part in this Bible Story? Well, our part of the story is this: if you've chosen to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God's very Spirit, lives in you!

"So, go through life with Him. Talk to Him about everything like you would to your closest, closest friend. Ask Him to help you know what His voice sounds like, what His nudges in your heart feel like. He goes through everything with you, so ask Him to help you hear Him and understand Him when He is speaking!

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

"God's Spirit can speak to you in lots of ways throughout your day. He has so much to say to you! Sometimes He'll speak to you through nudges—like when you're on the playground, He'll nudge your heart so you hear, 'Hey, that lonely friend needs someone to play with.' Sometimes, He'll bring words to your mind. Like when you're in the grocery store line, He'll say, 'That person needs to hear I love them. Can you tell them?' Sometimes someone will share a Bible verse, and you'll think, 'Hey, my heart really needed to hear that!' Sometimes you'll be singing a worship song, and you'll know that He picked those words just for your heart to sing and be reminded of! He will send truths from heaven right to your heart throughout your day!

"Through His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, God goes through every second of life with you. So remember that He is always there. And you can ask Him to teach you what it looks like for you to go through life with Him as your closest friend.

"Let's ask Him to help us do that right now!

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Holy Spirit, we want to know that You are always with us and that You are our closest friend. Teach us how to hear Your voice and show us how to live in Your love so Your love and joy and goodness flow out of us and onto everyone else. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

(Dismiss kids to their small groups.)

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Getting Ready | K3 Large Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with **APlay!** JoinAPlay.com is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. **APlay** gives you more time to focus on what truly matters—more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (25 minutes)

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- 10 kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)
- 20-30 balloons (orange, purple, blue, yellow, etc.), multiple of each color

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use during the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- "Balloon Frenzy Title" Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

Optional Videos:

- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme Intro

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the sound effects from the Large Group scripts folder and have them ready to use.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software, such as ProPresenter, includes a built-in countdown clock that can be overlaid on a still image.*
- Blow up the balloons and scatter them around the floor in the game area before the kids enter.

- During the game, call out the colors of the balloons that you have.

2. Worship and Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Alive" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Joy (What the World Calls Foolish)" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "I've Got Joy" - available on Store.ThinkOrange.com
- "Start the Party" - available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos for Orange Kids Music

- "I've Got Joy" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "Start the Party" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

- If you are utilizing the suggested songs from **Amazing Music**, search for your desired video resource for each song under the Worship section on APlay and add to your service!
- You can access Amazing Music's Dance Motion, Lyric, and Instrumental Videos in APlay under the Worship section.
- Amazing Music Song Trainings are available in Amazing Leaders and FREE on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@AmazingKidsMusic>
- If you are utilizing **the Orange Kids Music** suggestions, simply purchase and download from Store.ThinkOrange.com! You can upload these into APlay for easy use with your 252 curriculum.
- Dance Motion Videos and Lyrics Videos are available for Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- *Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:*

"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe

©2000 Good Music Co.

CCLI License # 0000

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table
- "Meter Print" printable (provided)
- Red marker
- 1 kid volunteer to color the "Meter Print" printable
- *Optional: Laminated "Meter Print" printable and red dry-erase marker*

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Theme Slide
- "Meter Print" printable (provided)
- Bottom Line Slide

Optional for God's Big Story:

- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- God's Big Story Slide
- Week 4 Timeline Image Slide
- We recommend that you create a timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed Timeline Images in order, week by week. We'll provide a Timeline Image for each week of the curriculum. There are two versions of each Timeline Image—a slide and a print version. A digital [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

Optional Video: (available in APlay)

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (Kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- StoryLab: Invite elementary kids to engage with inquisitive young hosts as they explore core biblical truths and stories in a STEAM-inspired setting.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

- The So & So Show: Guide preteens to explore questions of faith through a YouTube-style show full of humor and lots of zany fun.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

What You Do:

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

Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).

- Print out the provided "Meter Print" printable on 11 x 17-inch cardstock.
- *Optional: Laminate "Meter Print" printable and have the kid volunteer use a red dry-erase marker.*

Supplies

Opener	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)	10
3. 20-30 balloons (orange, purple, blue, yellow, etc.), multiple of each color	30

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Storyteller	1
2. Host	1
3. Table	1
4. Bible	1
5. "Meter Print" printable (provided)	1
6. Red marker	1
7. kid volunteer to color the "Meter Print" printable	1
8. Optional: Laminated "Meter Print" printable and red dry-erase marker	1