

WEEK

ONE

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

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

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
("Joy to the World" from *Joy to the World Single* and "Extra, Extra [It's Christmas Time]" from *Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time) Single*)
- Bible Story
(sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: Take a Snapshot
2. Application Activity: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jesus Is Promised Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2

Bottom Line

Jesus is good news for everyone.

Conversation Starter

What's the best news you've ever heard?

Memory Verse

**"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11 NIrV**



Inclusive Pro Tips

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.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

→ **Host enters.**

Optional Video: Countdown

Optional Video: Theme Intro

Optional Video: Theme Loop

WELCOME

→ **Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.**

① Opener

HOST: "Hey there, friends! Welcome to *[Name of environment]*! This month is extra-special because we're discovering how Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus—God's greatest gift to us.

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it! God sent His Son because He loves us!

"We want this Christmas to feel different than any one you've experienced as you realize God's great love for you! Merry Christmas, much-loved ones!

"Now, who's ready for an exciting game to kick things off?

"We're going to play a game that's not just fun, but it also helps us understand how great news—like the news about Jesus—can bring people together. Just like when you hear the best news ever and you can't wait to share it with your friends, right?

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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

We've chosen these 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. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store. thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

"Our game today is called 'Gift Pass Parade.' It's all about working together and sharing the joy, just like the joy we share when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Let's get started!"

"Okay, friends! Everybody, form a line! Get ready for the 'Gift Pass Parade.'"

→ **Form a line of kids, and give the first kid in the line the wrapped present. (If you have a larger group, feel free to create several lines. You will also need to create more wrapped gifts—one gift for each line.)**

"When the music plays, pass the gift down the line. When it reaches the back of the line, the last person rushes to the front, unwraps one layer of gift wrap, and we keep the parade marching and passing the gift back down to the new last person!"

"If you peel off more than one layer of gift wrap, your team is disqualified."

"The team who is first to have the last kid in their line to unwrap the final layer and open the box, wins! Remember, it's not just about speed; it's about working together and sharing the joy."

"Ready? Let's get that Christmas music going and start the parade!"

AUDIO: Upbeat music (*Optional: Upbeat Christmas music*)

→ **Start the music and start the game.**

"Wow, you all did a fantastic job! It's amazing to see how quickly good news can travel when we work together. And speaking of good news, our Bottom Line today is: 'Jesus is good news for everyone.' Just like the gifts you passed along, Jesus is a gift that we can share with everyone around us. Remember that as we head into our time of worship and celebration!"

② Worship

→ **Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.**

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, wonderful friends! Christmas is such a special time, isn't it? It's when we celebrate Jesus, God's greatest gift to us. God gave us Jesus because He loves us so

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

much! Our first song is 'Joy to the World.' Jesus is joy for the whole world—Jesus is good news for everyone!

"Let's stand up and get ready to sing 'Joy to the World!'"

AUDIO: "Joy to the World" / track 1 from Joy to the World single

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great singing and dancing, everyone!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "Before we sing our last song, let's learn our Memory Verse together with some simple motions. This is part of the message the angel declared to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born! This message is recorded in the Bible in Luke chapter 2. It's Luke 2:11!"

"It goes like this:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord" (*Luke 2:11 NIV*).

"Let me teach you some motions that might help you remember the verse. You guys repeat the motions after me:

"Today in the town of David" (*Point straight down with both hands like you're marking right now.*)

"a Savior" (*Spread your arms wide like you're about to hug.*)

"has been born" (*Rock your arms like you're holding a baby.*)

"to you." (*Point to a friend or the group.*)

"He is the Messiah," (*Pretend like you're putting on a crown with your hands.*)

"the Lord." (*Point both hands up to the sky.*)

"Luke 2:11" (*Open the palms of your hands together like you're opening a Bible.*)

"Let's all try that together!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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, two sections in the script below are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." *(Or if you're 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!

→ **Repeat the Memory Verse with the motions several times.**

"Great job! This season, we can remember that God sent His Son, Jesus, to us. Isn't that amazing? It's great, great news! This next song is talking about how we can share that great news with everyone!"

AUDIO: "Extra, Extra (*It's Christmas Time*)" / track from Extra, Extra (*It's Christmas Time*) Single

"Great job, everyone! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

③ Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Background

→ **Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.**

INTRODUCTION

→ **Set a small table on stage so the Communicator can set their Bible on it and read from it.**

"How do you find out what's going on around you? Do you watch the news or see a news story in social feeds or online? Do you hear about it at school or at the dinner table with your family? Some news is hard to hear. But today, we're talking about some news that's really, really good. In fact, it's so good you'll want to share it with others."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's kick things off with a question: What's the best news you've ever heard? Think about that for a moment. Got it? Now, imagine you're waiting for years, and I mean, a really long time, for that news to come true. That's a long wait, right?"

"Today, we're gearing up for Christmas—a time when we celebrate something truly special. Christmas isn't just about the lights or the gifts under the tree. It's about the best news ever—news that was promised a long time ago and then ... it finally happened. We're talking about Jesus, God's greatest gift to us."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Now, think about a gift you've been given that meant a lot to you. Maybe it was something you needed or something you didn't even realize you wanted until you received it. That's a bit like what we'll discover today, but on an even bigger scale.

"To get us into the mindset of what it must have been like to wait for Jesus, let's do a quick object lesson. Here, I have a wrapped gift. **(Hold up the wrapped box.)** We can shake it, look at it, but we don't know what's inside until the time comes to open it. The people back then knew a special gift was coming, but they had to wait and trust. And that's not always easy, is it?

"So, as we dive into our true story from the Bible today, let's keep this wrapped gift in mind and think about how it felt to wait for the best news ever—the news of Jesus' arrival. Let's find out how this long-awaited promise became the good news for everyone, just like our Bottom Line says.

"Before we start our story, turn to the person next to you and share—what do you think makes news 'good news'? How does it feel to wait for something you really want? **(Pause as the kids turn and talk.)**

"Wow, that was some awesome discussion! We're going to look at some really good news today—good news that will bring something incredibly wonderful to your whole life. But before we dive into our true story from the Bible, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're going through the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we going through the Bible? Is it because we really want to learn more about the Bible? Well, not exactly. Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him. He could have kept who He is a secret from us, a big mystery of the universe. But He didn't! He wants us to know Him, so He gave us the Bible. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is that we'll learn about Him!"

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

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

SLIDE: God's Big Story

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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

"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. God's people cried out to God—'Help us!' they said—and God heard them! God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (**and one queen**) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split 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. 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.

"But that long, long time was about to come to an end. God was about to show the world what He was working on for centuries!

"And that's where God's Big Story continues!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “So today, we’re traveling back in time, way before the first Christmas. Imagine a world without all the twinkling lights and the festive decorations. A time when people were waiting, hoping for something incredible. They were waiting for a promise to come true—a promise from God.

“You see, a long, long time before, God Himself had made a promise. Way back in the Garden of Eden, when the whole world fell under that awful curse and couldn’t be close to Him anymore, God promised that He was going to fix things. He wants to be close friends with people! He promised to rescue us!

“Throughout the years, God kept working on that plan, and working on that plan, and working on that plan. It turns out that the plan was a Person. We needed rescue, and God was going to send a Rescuer. And throughout the years and years when God was working on His rescue plan, He would share details about this Rescuer.

“Oftentimes, God would share messages about the Rescuer through His prophets. Today we’ll look at some of the clues and hints He gave to two of those prophets, Isaiah and Micah. Both of these prophets lived when times were really hard for God’s people because the people kept turning away from God. But God spoke hope to His people anyway. He never gave up.

SLIDE: 1 Isaiah Writes about the Messiah

“This is one of the messages God told the prophet Isaiah about the Rescuer, the Savior, who was coming.

→ **Open the Bible to Isaiah 9:6 (NirV) and read.**

A child will be born to us.

A son will be given to us.

He will rule over us.

And he will be called

Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.

He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever

and Prince Who Brings Peace.

“This verse from the book of Isaiah tells us that the Rescuer will first be a child. He would also be a Wonderful Adviser, the ultimate friend and advisor. He would also be Mighty God—God Himself, the strongest.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"The Rescuer would also be a Father Who Lives Forever. In Isaiah's day, a lot of people thought of a king as the father of a nation. The Rescuer would be the King above all other kings, and He would live forever.

"The Rescuer would also be the Prince of Peace. The world didn't know it yet, but the Rescuer was going to bring peace to everyone and God.

"All of those attributes of the Rescuer were so amazing! The Rescuer, the coming Messiah, was going to be such a precious gift to the whole world! God loves the world so much!

"The Rescuer was going to set the people free from that awful curse, but unfortunately, the people, God's people, didn't quite understand. For a long, long time, God's people had faced enemies on earth—wars, defeats, captivity. So many of God's people just wanted a military king. Someone who would win their battles. But God knew His people, and the whole world, were held captive by something deeper—that awful curse of sin that kept them from being close to Him. They needed a different rescue, a deeper rescue. And God was going to bring it. He was going to give the people a gift they didn't know they needed.

"God shared more information about this Rescuer with another prophet, Micah.

SLIDE: 2 Micah Speaks about the Messiah

COMMUNICATOR: "This is what Micah shared with the people. Open the Bible to Micah 5:2 (*NirV*) and read.

"Bethlehem Ephrathah, you might not be
an important town in the nation of Judah.
But out of you will come for me
a ruler over Israel.
His family line goes back
to the early years of your nation.
It goes all the way back
to days of long ago."

SLIDE: 3 Bethlehem: A Significant Small Town

COMMUNICATOR: "Can you believe it? Out of a tiny, seemingly insignificant town, God was going to bring His Rescuer! And God

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

gave more details about the Rescuer—His origins would be from ancient times. God was saying: 'Hey, this Rescuer has been part of the plan since the very beginning of time!'

"That's right! And this wasn't going to be a king who lived in a giant palace and wore a heavy gold crown. This king would be different. He would be humble and born in a place no one expected—a place that was often used for animals! Not exactly the entrance you'd expect for a king."

SLIDE: 4 Jesus Is Born

COMMUNICATOR: "God sent us the most amazing present ever. But it's not the kind of gift you unwrap and play with for a day, then forget about. Jesus is a gift that lasts forever. Jesus would break that awful curse and would make a way for us to be close to God again. He would make a way for us to be friends with God! And guess what else is awesome? This gift is for everyone. You, me, our friends, our family—everyone."

"And that's why we celebrate Christmas. It's not just about the presents under the tree or the yummy food. It's about celebrating the birth of Jesus, the best gift of all."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "So, let's get ready to celebrate! Let's remember the true reason for the season. God worked for years and years and years to keep His promise. And He did when the Rescuer was born. God loves you so much that He gave you Jesus. God loves the world so much that He gave them Jesus. Let's spread the good news that Jesus is here, and He's the good news for everyone!"

"As we get ready for Christmas, let's not get too caught up in the presents and the parties. Let's take time to think about the real gift of Christmas—Jesus."

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

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

SLIDE: God's Big Story

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"This week we're right up here on this picture of God's Big Story, 'The Birth of Jesus.' (*Gesture to slide.*) This is such an important part in God's Big Story!

"This week we talked about two of God's prophets, Isaiah and Micah. Even though they both lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God gave them both hints and clues about God's promised Rescuer who would come. If you'll remember, since way back in the Garden of Eden when the first people fell under that awful curse of sin and couldn't be close to God anymore, God said: 'I am coming to rescue you.' For years and years, God was working on keeping that promise. Then, as we'll see in the next few weeks, Jesus came, just like God said He would! God loves us so much that He sent the Rescuer, Jesus, who would save us all! Merry Christmas, God sent you Jesus!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

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 talked about two of God's prophets—Isaiah and Micah! This is an image of the prophet Isaiah!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "We've heard an incredible story today—a promise that changed the world. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, prophets like Isaiah and Micah told everyone that the Rescuer was coming. And that's exactly what happened on the first Christmas. God sent us Jesus, His greatest gift.

"As God told the people through Isaiah:

→ **Open the Bible to Isaiah 9:6 (NirV) and read.**

A child will be born to us.

A son will be given to us.

He will rule over us.

And he will be called

Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.

He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever
and Prince Who Brings Peace.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"This verse isn't just a part of history—it's about Jesus, who came to be our Wonderful Adviser and Prince of Peace. And what's also so amazing? He came for all of us.

"God went on to tell the people this about our Rescuer, Jesus:

→ **Open the Bible to Isaiah 9:7 (NirV) and read.**

There will be no limit to how great his authority is.

The peace he brings will never end.

He will rule on David's throne

and over his kingdom.

He will make the kingdom strong and secure.

His rule will be based on what is fair and right.

It will last forever.

The LORD's great love will make sure that happens.

He rules over all.

"Jesus' kingdom is built on fairness and justice, and it's all because of God's great love for us. That's the kind of ruler He is—and He rules over everything, including our hearts, when we choose to follow Him.

"As God told the people through Micah:

→ **Open the Bible to Micah 5:2 (NirV) and read.**

"Bethlehem Ephrathah, you might not be
an important town in the nation of Judah.

But out of you will come for me

a ruler over Israel.

His family line goes back

to the early years of your nation.

It goes all the way back

to days of long ago."

"Jesus came from a small place, but His story is for everyone, everywhere. And God had been working on bringing Jesus to us for a long, long time. His family line goes back to long ago. God was thinking about rescuing us for a long, long time. And Jesus' birth was the best news the world ever received.

"This Christmas, as we celebrate and have fun, let's remember that Jesus is good news for everyone. He's not just part of the decorations. He's the reason we have hope and joy. He's our Savior! Our Rescuer! He's the Breaker of that awful curse. That's why what the angel said to the shepherds—which happens to be

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

this month's Memory Verse—is so powerful.

"Can anyone remember it? It's Luke 2:11 NIV:

→ **Open the Bible to Luke 2:11 (NIV) and read.**

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."

"This verse tells us that Jesus is for all of us— the Savior for the entire world.

"Before we move to small groups, I want to leave you with this question: What's the best news you've ever heard? Think about that, and let's talk about why Jesus being born is such good news for us."

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] "What's the best news you've ever heard?"

SLIDE: Theme Background

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's talk to the God who loves us so much, He worked for years and years to send us Jesus."

③ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, thank You for giving us the best gift ever—Jesus. Help us to celebrate Him not just during Christmas, but every day. And help us to share the great news of Jesus. You are so good, and You love us all. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

→ **Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.**

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

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ Empty boxes (the amount will depend on your group size)
- ☐ At least 5 different types of Christmas-themed wrapping paper

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids play the game (Optional: Christmas-themed music)

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Countdown
- ☐ Theme Intro

What You Do:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Before kids arrive, wrap the empty boxes with at least five layers of different Christmas wrapping paper. Wrap each box with the same amount of layers.
4. Create as many wrapped boxes as you will have lines during the game.

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.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ "Joy to the World" from *"Joy to the World" single*
- ☐ "Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time)" from *Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time) single*

Optional Videos

Available for Purchase

- ☐ "Joy to the World" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video
- ☐ "Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time)" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

Store.ThinkOrange.com

What You Do:

1. Download all songs and have them ready to use. Note: 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

2. Dance Moves Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Communicator
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Small table (for the Communicator to read their Bible from)
- ☐ Shoebox-size box
- ☐ Christmas-themed wrapping paper

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Conversation Starter Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Bible Story Images, containing:
 - "1 Isaiah Writes about the Messiah" Slide
 - "2 Micah Speaks about the Messiah" Slide
 - "3 Bethlehem: A Significant Small Town" Slide
 - "4 Jesus Is Born" Slide

Optional Video

- ☐ Theme Loop

What You Do:

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.
2. Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
3. Before group time, wrap the small box with the Christmas-themed wrapping paper to make a gift.

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.

PLANNING

Getting Ready

Video Enhancements for Your Environment

Available in your media files and 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
- Themed transitions
- Countdown videos (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)

WEEK

TWO

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

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

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
("Silent Night" from *Silent Night (The King Is Born)* and "Extra, Extra [It's Christmas Time]" from *Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time) Single*)
- Bible Story
(sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: Take a Snapshot
2. Application Activity: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Gabriel Visits Mary Luke 1:5-66

Bottom Line

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

Conversation Starter

What are your plans this Christmas?

Memory Verse

**"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11 NIrV**



Inclusive Pro Tips

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.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

→ **Host enters.**

Optional Video: Countdown

Optional Video: Theme Intro

Optional Video: Theme Loop

WELCOME

→ **Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.**

① Opener

HOST: "Hi, everyone! Welcome to *[Name of environment]*. This month, we're discovering why we celebrate Christmas and how it's not just about the presents or the decorations. It's about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift to us.

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it! God loves you so much He sent Jesus to rescue you!

"And today, we have a special interactive game that's going to help us think about plans. Can anyone tell me some of their plans this Christmas?

"Those sound great! We all make plans during Christmas, like decorating the tree or visiting family.

"I bet a lot of us have different ways of celebrating Christmas. Maybe you have some fun traditions that you do with your family—like going to look at Christmas lights, or watching your favorite Christmas movie together. However you celebrate

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

Christmas, it's always important to remember the reason why we celebrate—because Jesus is God's Son, and He is the best gift of all!

"We've got another fun game to play today, and this one has to do with gifts. But I don't think you've ever done anything like it before. I'm not sure ANYONE has. I call it ... 'Present Pants'!"

"Let's bring up two pairs of contestants. Who wants to play?"

- **Choose four kids (*two pairs*) to come on stage. This game will work best if the kids already know their teammates. Try to pick older kids who will love being the center of attention.**

(To contestants) "Okay! On each team, one of you will be the thrower, and one of you will get to wear these 'present pants.'"

- **Show everyone the "present pants." These are extra-large, wrapped, open-top cardboard boxes with leg holes on the bottom. The kids can hold the sides of their box.**
- **Help the two kids step into their "present pants." Give each of them a bike helmet.**
- **Have the two throwers stand behind the tape line next to the pile of small wrapped boxes.**

"Throwers—when the music starts, you'll stand behind the line and try to toss these gifts into your teammate's 'present pants.' Just remember to toss gently so you don't hurt your teammate!"

(To the kids wearing the 'present pants') "[*Kids' names*], you can move around to try to catch the presents—but you can't use your hands to catch them, only the 'present pants.' The team with the most presents in their 'present pants' after 30 seconds wins!"

"We'll all be cheering you on. Ready, set, Present Pants!"

AUDIO: Fun Christmas music

Optional Video: Countdown (*30-second version*)

- **If you're not using a screen countdown, set a timer on your phone for 30 seconds.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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

We've chosen these 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. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store. thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

- **Comment on the action while the kids play the game. Retrieve the presents that no one catches and put them back in the pile so they can be thrown again. At the end of the game, congratulate the winning team.**
- **If you have time, play additional rounds with different contestants. (Ask the previous contestants to put all the presents back in a pile behind the tape line before they go back to their seats.)**

"That was so fun! And I know it wasn't easy. It might have even seemed impossible at first. But our contestants kept trying their best! Now let's all stand up and get ready to sing and celebrate Jesus—the greatest gift of all!"

② Worship

- **Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.**

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! It's a special time of year, and we're going to celebrate with some songs that remind us of the first Christmas when God gave us the greatest gift ever—Jesus! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! Are you ready to sing and celebrate together?"

"Let's start with a song called 'Silent Night.'"

AUDIO: "Silent Night (*The King Is Born*)" / track 1 from Silent Night (*The King Is Born*)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great singing and dancing, everyone!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "Before we sing our last song, let's read our Memory Verse together and learn some simple motions. This is part of what the angel declared to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born! It's great, great news! This message is recorded in the Bible in Luke chapter 2, verse 11.

"This is part of what the angel said:

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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, two sections in the script below are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." *(Or if you're 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!

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord" *(Luke 2:11 NIV)*.

"What great news! Jesus had been born! Let me teach you some motions that might help you remember the verse. You guys repeat the motions after me:

"Today in the town of David" *(Point straight down with both hands like you're marking right now.)*

"a Savior" *(Spread your arms wide like you're about to hug.)*

"has been born" *(Rock your arms like you're holding a baby.)*

"to you." *(Point to a friend or the group.)*

"He is the Messiah," *(Pretend like you're putting on a crown with your hands.)*

"the Lord." *(Point both hands up to the sky.)*

"Luke 2:11" *(Open the palms of your hands together like you're opening a Bible.)*

"Let's all try that together!

→ **Repeat the Memory Verse with the motions several times.**

"Great job! This season, we can remember that God sent His Son, Jesus, to us. Isn't that amazing? It's great, great news! This next song is about sharing the great news with everyone!

AUDIO: "Extra, Extra *(It's Christmas Time)*" / track from Extra, Extra *(It's Christmas Time)* Single

"Great job, everyone! It's so fun to celebrate what God did for us at Christmas! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

③ Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Background

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ **Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.**

INTRODUCTION

→ **Set a small table on stage so the Communicator can set their Bible on it and read from it.**

COMMUNICATOR: "Today, we have an amazing story. In fact, you may even say that the impossible became possible. It's how Jesus entered our world. But before we get started, I have a question for you."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Have you ever received a gift that you didn't even know you wanted until you opened it? Something so unexpected that it blew your mind?"

"Today, we're going to explore a couple of times when a few different people received news that was kind of like the most surprising gift ever. It was about a plan—a really big plan—that had been in the works for, well, a long, long time! And this plan was all about Jesus coming to earth. Can you imagine being part of God's huge plan?"

"But before we dive into that story, I want to show you something. (*Holds up a wrapped gift.*) This gift here represents that big surprise. It's all wrapped up, hiding what's inside. Sometimes, things in our lives—plans, events, or even people—can feel like this wrapped gift. We may not understand it at first, but there's something incredible planned inside.

"As we unwrap our story today, think about this: [*Bottom Line*] God always had a plan to send Jesus. His arrival was the gift that changed everything, and it's still changing our lives today. How does knowing that God had a plan for Jesus for a long, long time make you think differently about your own plans this Christmas?"

"So, let's turn to someone next to us and share one plan we have for this Christmas. It could be something small or big, anything you're looking forward to. Go ahead, I'll give you a moment to share."

→ **Allow time for the kids to "Turn and Talk."**

COMMUNICATOR: "You've got some good plans, I hope! Now, hold on to those thoughts about your plans as we get ready to

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

hear about God's ultimate plan. It's time to unwrap the true story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, of when the angel Gabriel visited Mary, and learn how God's greatest gift was part of a plan because God loves us so much.

"But before we dive into the true story from the Bible today, let me tell you something amazing that we're doing this year. We're going through the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we going through the Bible? Is it because we really want to learn more about the Bible? Well, not exactly. Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him. He could have kept who He is a secret from us, a big mystery of the universe. But He didn't! He wants us to know Him, so He gave us the Bible. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is that we'll learn about Him!"

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together! (*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!

"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. God's people cried out to God—'Help us!' they said—and God heard them! God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (**and one queen**) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split 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. 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!' God told His prophets to share. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"But that long, long time was about to come to an end. God was about to show the world what He was working on for centuries—His plan to rescue all of us.

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

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Today, we're diving deep into the book of Luke. God's people had waited a long, long time for a Rescuer.

"Ever since the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve ushered in the curse of sin that kept everyone from being close to God, God promised that He was going to rescue us. But after years, rescue hadn't come.

"But God, in His infinite wisdom, had not forgotten His people. Behind the scenes, He was orchestrating a divine plan, preparing the world for a miracle that would change the course of history. This narrative doesn't begin with the clash of armies or the pomp of a king's coronation. Instead, it unfolds through the lives of everyday people—people not unlike ourselves."

SLIDE: Book of Luke—An angel's visit changes everything

COMMUNICATOR: "In the midst of their daily routines, God chose to reveal a key part of His master plan. And at the heart of this plan was a child, a baby named Jesus, destined to save us all.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Let's journey back to this time as an angel descended with a message that startled an elderly priest named Zechariah during his temple service."

→ **Open the Bible to Luke 1:11-13 (NIRV) and read.**

An angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah ... The angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John."

"Childless and advanced in years, Zechariah and Elizabeth had long since given up hope of having a child. But God was going to do something about that. In fact, this son was going to be special. The angel Gabriel said: 'He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God' (**Luke 1:16 NIRV**). But Zechariah doubted what Gabriel said, which led to a temporary silence. Zechariah would be unable to speak until Gabriel's words were fulfilled. This was a tangible sign that God's plan would advance, regardless of human disbelief.

"Six months into Elizabeth's pregnancy, in the small village of Nazareth, a young woman named Mary was about to have her world turned upside down.

→ **Open the Bible to Luke 1:28 (NIRV) and read.**

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

"Mary couldn't believe it as the angel Gabriel announced she would give birth to God's Son. Despite her initial fear and the questions swirling in her mind, Mary's faith shone brightly. She didn't demand all the answers; instead, she embraced God's plan with a simple, 'I am the Lord's servant,' showing us what faith looks like—trusting God, even when we don't understand.

"The story took a turn as Mary visited her relative Elizabeth and received some unexpected encouragement. Their meeting was marked by joy and even the presence of the Holy Spirit.

→ **Open the Bible to Luke 1:41 (NIRV) and read.**

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"The unborn John leaped within Elizabeth, a sign of recognition and celebration for the coming Savior. The two women, united by their unique roles in God's plan, shared a moment of divine connection, filled with hope and praise. And when Zechariah's voice was finally restored, he too joined the chorus of joy, blessing God for His unwavering faithfulness. These are the pivotal moments that set the stage for the birth of Jesus, with each detail intricately woven into the tapestry of God's perfect plan."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Every piece of this story, each individual chosen by God, demonstrates the precision of His plan. At the exact times and places, He determined, through ordinary individuals, the promise was upheld. Jesus came to rescue us, to reconcile us with God. And that, dear friends, is the true joy of Christmas. It's the true story of how God meticulously planned to send Jesus ... and how He faithfully followed through."

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

COMMUNICATOR: "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 this picture of God's Big Story, 'The Birth of Jesus.' (*Gesture to slide.*) This is such an important part in God's Big Story!"

"This week, we talked about some important figures in God's great rescue plan—Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary! And God wanted to make it clear that He, and only He, was behind this great rescue. A couple who was too old had a baby? A young girl was going to have a baby who would be God's Son? Only God can do that! That seems impossible for us, but it's not impossible for God! For years and years and years, God had worked on this great rescue plan. But God wasn't just going to rescue us, He was going to send a Rescuer—His very own Son. God loves you so much that He gave you the greatest gift, your Rescuer, Jesus. Merry Christmas, God sent you Jesus!"

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!"

SLIDE: Week 2 Timeline Image

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ 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 talked about some of the people God did amazing things through in His great rescue plan—Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary. This picture is of the angel Gabriel coming to visit Mary to deliver the news that she was going to have Jesus, God's very own Son."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Sometimes life surprises us with unexpected news, just like Mary was surprised when Gabriel told her about Jesus. When things feel confusing or difficult, it's important to remember that God always keeps His promises."

"We can choose to trust God like Mary did. She didn't have all the answers, but she trusted God. She knew He is good, so she trusted Him. And that's something we can hold onto as well—the promise that God is good and He is always working for good, even when we can't see it."

"In this Christmas season, as we celebrate Jesus, we're reminded of God's great love for us. Just as our Memory Verse for this month tells us, part of what the angel announced to the shepherds:

→ **Open the Bible to Luke 2:11 (NIV) and read.**

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."

"This verse isn't just a part of history; it's about God's plan for us. A plan that is good and filled with love—a plan that brought Jesus into the world."

God always had a plan to send Jesus, and that's really what we're celebrating. It's not just about the festive lights or the gifts, but it's about God's faithful love that came to us through Jesus.

"As we look forward to our Christmas plans, let's ask ourselves..."

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] "What are your plans this Christmas?"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Are they full of love, joy, and the peace that comes from knowing Jesus? How can we show others the kind of love Jesus shows us? Chew on this question as we head to Small Group. We'll talk more about it there.

"Let's pray together and ask God to help us live out the truth of Christmas every day."

SLIDE: Theme Background

③ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "Lord, thank You for Your perfect plan that brought Jesus to us. Help us to trust You more and to share Your love with the people around us this Christmas. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

→ **After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.**

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

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ Four kid volunteers (plus more, if you're playing additional rounds)
- ☐ "Present pants": two extra-large, wrapped boxes, with an open top and leg holes cut in the bottom (these boxes need to be wide enough so that the kids can actually catch some of the thrown "gifts")
- ☐ Two bike helmets
- ☐ Lots of small, wrapped boxes, small boxes that LOOK wrapped, or other items that look like gifts—ideally as lightweight as possible (see "What You Do")
- ☐ Floor tape
- ☐ Smartphone or watch to keep time

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- ☐ Fun Christmas music to play during the game

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Countdown
- ☐ Theme Intro

What You Do:

1. 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.
2. Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
3. 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.
4. Choose boxes for the "present pants" that are extra-wide, so that the kids have a good chance of catching the thrown gift boxes in the "present pants."
5. Tape a line for the two throwers to stand behind. Place the pile of small gift boxes next to the line.

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.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ "Silent Night" from *Silent Night (The King Is Born)*
- ☐ "Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time)" from *Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time) single*

Optional Videos

Available for Purchase

- ☐ "Silent Night" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video
- ☐ "Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time)" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

Store.ThinkOrange.com

What You Do:

1. Download all songs and have them ready to use. Note: 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

2. Dance Moves Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Communicator
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Table
- ☐ Small box
- ☐ Christmas-themed wrapping paper

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Conversation Starter Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ "Book of Luke—An angel's visit changes everything" Slide

Optional Video

- ☐ Theme Loop

What You Do:

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.
2. Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
3. Before group time, wrap the box.

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.

PLANNING

Getting Ready

Video Enhancements for Your Environment

Available in your media files and 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
- Themed transitions
- Countdown videos (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)

WEEK

THREE

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

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

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
("Joy to the World" from *Joy to the World* single and "Extra, Extra [It's Christmas Time]" from *Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time) Single*)
- Bible Story
(sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: Take a Snapshot
2. Application Activity: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-20

Bottom Line

Jesus is the greatest gift.

Conversation Starter

What's the best gift you've been given?

Memory Verse

**"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11 NIrV**



Inclusive Pro Tips

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.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

→ **Host enters.**

Optional Video: Countdown

Optional Video: Theme Intro

Optional Video: Theme Loop

WELCOME

→ **Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.**

① Opener

HOST: "Hey everyone! Welcome to *[Name of environment]*! This month, we're celebrating a really special time of year. Can anyone guess what it is? That's right, Christmas! And during Christmas, we're discovering something incredible about Jesus. He isn't just a part of the Christmas story, He is the greatest gift of all. Today, we're going to find out why!

"Before we dive into our story, we've got a super-fun game that will help us think about what makes a gift really special. It's called 'Gift Guessing Extravaganza'!

"This game is all about trying to figure out the best gift you've been given, just like our question for today. And here's how we're going to play. I need three volunteers to come up on stage.

"First, I'm going to show you cards with the name of an everyday object on each card. Each of these items is wrapped in one of the six boxes on the table.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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

We've chosen these 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. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store. thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

"All three of you will each take turns, and you will be blindfolded. I will have you stand at the table and hand you a gift. You'll have to guess what is in the box, based on what you remember from the names of the six items I showed you a couple of minutes ago.

"You can shake the box lightly. You can turn it upside down. But you can't open it."

"For those of you in the audience, you'll notice that each box has a number. I'll be writing down the number of the box, and the person's guesses for each. After each contestant has made their guesses for each box, we'll see who has the most correct answers and declare our winner.

"Alright, volunteers, are you ready to play 'Gift Guessing Extravaganza'? Remember, you'll only have your sense of touch to figure out these gifts, so think carefully. Let's start the game now!

Allow the game to proceed with each volunteer taking their turn.

"Great job, everyone! It's not easy guessing what's inside just by feeling the outside of a gift, is it? Sometimes, the best gifts are the ones that surprise us, the ones we can't figure out until we open them. And that's what we're talking about today. We're going to open up the story of when Jesus was born and discover why He's the best gift we could ever receive. Let's give a big round of applause for our volunteers as they take their seats. *(Join in the applause.)*

"Now that we've warmed up with our guessing game, let's get ready to worship. We're going to sing some songs that help us celebrate the birth of Jesus—songs that remind us about the joy and hope He brings into our lives."

② Worship

→ **Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.**

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, friends! Christmas Day is almost here! Hooray! Christmas is such a special time because it's when we celebrate Jesus, God's greatest gift to us. God gave us Jesus because He loves us so much! Our first song is 'Joy to the World.' Jesus is joy for the whole world—Jesus is good news for

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

everyone!

"Let's stand up and get ready to sing 'Joy to the World!'"

AUDIO: "Joy to the World" / from *Joy to the World* single

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great singing and dancing, everyone!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "Before we sing our last song, let's learn our Memory Verse together with some simple motions. This is part of the message the angel declared to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born! The angel's visit to the shepherds is recorded in the Bible in Luke chapter 2. It's Luke 2:11!"

"It goes like this:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord" (*Luke 2:11 NIV*).

"What great news! Jesus had been born! Let me teach you some motions that might help you remember the verse. You guys repeat the motions after me:

"Today in the town of David" (*Point straight down with both hands like you're marking right now.*)

"a Savior" (*Spread your arms wide like you're about to hug.*)

"has been born" (*Rock your arms like you're holding a baby.*)

"to you." (*Point to a friend or the group.*)

"He is the Messiah," (*Pretend like you're putting on a crown with your hands.*)

"the Lord." (*Point both hands up to the sky.*)

"Luke 2:11" (*Open the palms of your hands together like you're opening a Bible.*)

"Let's all try that together!"

→ **Repeat the Memory Verse with the motions several times.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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, two sections in the script below are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." *(Or if you're 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!

"Great job! This season, we can remember that God sent His Son, Jesus, to us. Isn't that amazing? It's great, great news! This next song is about sharing the great news with everyone!"

AUDIO: "Extra, Extra (*It's Christmas Time*)" / track from *Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time) Single*

"Great job, everyone! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

③ Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Background

→ **Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.**

INTRODUCTION

→ **Set a small table on stage so the Communicator can set their Bible on it and read from it. Make sure the whiteboard is positioned in such a way that everyone can see it, and you can tape cards to it using Christmas-themed washi tape.**

COMMUNICATOR: "Christmas is so close. How many of you have been counting the days? How many of you are more excited about a break from school? Today, we're going to dive into the Christmas story and take a look at the best gift of all—Jesus."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "As we get closer to Christmas, we see all around us that it's a season of giving and receiving gifts for a lot of people. But today, I want you to think about something different. I want you to think about not just any gift, but the greatest gift you've ever received."

"While you're pondering that, check this out."

"I have with me a simple box. Now, this box looks ordinary on the outside, but it represents something extraordinary. Imagine if inside this box was the most amazing gift you could ever receive. What do you think that would be?"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Turn to the person next to you, and share what you think the greatest gift might be. Go ahead; I'll wait for a moment.

→ **Pause while the kids turn and talk.**

"Interesting choices! Now, what if I told you that the greatest gift was actually given to us over 2,000 years ago? It wasn't wrapped in shiny paper or tied with a ribbon. It wasn't even something you could hold in your hands.

"This gift was far more valuable. It was a gift of hope, peace, and love. It was the gift of Jesus. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus being born, which is the heart of the Christmas story we're diving into today.

"So as we open our Bibles to Luke, where we read about the birth of Jesus, let's remember that amidst all the presents and celebrations, the true meaning of Christmas is about receiving God's greatest gift to us.

"Why is Jesus considered the greatest gift? Keep that question in your mind as we journey through the story together today.

"But before we dive into our true story in the book of Luke today, let me tell you about something awesome we're doing this year! We're going through the key stories in the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we doing that? Is it because we just want to become really smart Bible people? Well, God wants us to know Him. He wants to be our close friends. Part of the reason He gave us the Bible is so we could get to know Him. So as we go through the Bible, hopefully we'll learn about God!

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can get to know 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!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ...

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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 be close to Him 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. God's people cried out to God—'Help us!' they said—and God heard them! God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (**and one queen**) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split 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. 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!' God told His prophets to share. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"But that long, long time was about to come to an end. God was about to show the world what He was working on for centuries—His plan to rescue all of us.

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

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "So we're picking up right on our journey through the Bible. We've reached the Christmas story, and that's the true story we're going to look at today.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"As I talk through the Christmas story, I will be stopping at different points in the story so you can vote whether that part of the Christmas story is fact or fiction. Let's get started.

"Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem, the city of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. Joseph was required to go there because everyone had to go to their hometown to be counted in a list of everyone in the Roman world. The journey to Bethlehem was not an easy one, especially for Mary, who was going to have a baby. They traveled for several days, through valleys and across hills, under the vast sky. When they finally arrived in Bethlehem, the town was bustling with people who had come for the census. Joseph searched for a place to stay, but the only place they could find was a place where animals came in on cold nights. When the right time came, there in the quiet of the night, Mary gave birth to her firstborn son.

"Okay, everyone, thumbs-up if this is true, or thumbs-down if it's fiction. Here we go ... Jesus was born in a palace."

→ **After everyone has voted, tape the headline card that reads "Jesus was born in a palace" under FICTION.**

"It's fiction. The Bible says:

→ **Open the Bible to Luke 2:7 (NirV) and read.**

She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.

"She wrapped Jesus in cloths and placed Him in a manger, a feeding trough for animals, because there was no guest room available for them. The King of kings and Lord of lords, the Savior of the world, was born in the most modest of circumstances, demonstrating from the very beginning that He would be a different kind of king than most people expected.

"That same night, in fields near Bethlehem, there were shepherds keeping watch over their flocks. Suddenly, an angel showed up, and the glory of the Lord shone all around them. The shepherds were so scared.

"Thumbs-up if this statement is true, or thumbs-down if it's fiction. Here we go ... an angel terrified the shepherds."

→ **After everyone has voted, tape the card that reads "An angel terrified the shepherds" under FACT.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"It's a fact. But being terrified wasn't the point. It was just that overwhelming and startling.

"Luke 2:10-11 says:

→ **Open the Bible to Luke 2:10-11 (NirV) and read.**

"Do not be afraid... Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."

"Suddenly, a lot of other angels appeared with the angel, praising God and saying:

→ **Open the Bible to Luke 2:14 (NirV) and read.**

"May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!
And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. After they saw Him, they told everyone they encountered about Jesus and what the angel had told them, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

COMMUNICATOR: "Luke 2:19 says:

→ **Open the Bible to Luke 2:19 (NirV) and read.**

Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over.

"The birth of Jesus was a humble beginning for Someone so significant, but it was filled with profound meaning and purpose. It was a night that would forever change the course of history. This child, born and placed in a manger, would grow up to teach about love, sacrifice, and salvation. He would perform miracles, heal the sick, and offer hope to the downtrodden. His life would be a testament to God's love for humanity, and His message would resonate throughout the ages. Then He would give His life to break the curse of sin and rescue us all.

"Okay, everyone, thumbs-up if this statement is true, or thumbs-down if it's fiction. Jesus is a different kind of king."

→ **After everyone has voted, tape the card that says**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

“Jesus is a different kind of king” under FACT.

“Matthew 1:21 says:

→ **Open the Bible to Matthew 1:21 (NirV) and read.**

He will save his people from their sins.

COMMUNICATOR: “As the years went by, Jesus would gather disciples, teach parables, and challenge the norms of the day. His teachings would not only touch the hearts of those who heard Him but would also be recorded for future generations to learn from and be inspired by.

“His birth marked the beginning of a new relationship between God and people, a promise of redemption and eternal life. Jesus’ birth story is a reminder that great things often have small beginnings, that hope can be found in the most unlikely of places, and that God’s love knows no bounds. It teaches us that no matter who we are or where we come from, we all have a place in God’s story.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “As you reflect on the story of Jesus’ birth, think about the love that God has for each one of us, sending His only Son to be our guide and Savior. Consider the humility of Jesus, who came not as a conquering king but as a helpless baby, reliant on the care and protection of others. And remember the joy and wonder that filled the hearts of the shepherds, of Mary, and all who heard the good news.

“This Christmas, as you celebrate with family and friends, take a moment to ponder the true meaning of the season. Let the story of Jesus’ birth fill your heart with hope, peace, and joy. Share the story with others, and let it inspire acts of kindness and love. For in the birth of Jesus, we find the greatest gift of all—the gift of God’s amazing love for us. And that, dear friends, is the story of how Jesus was born, a narrative that continues to unfold in the lives of believers around the world. It’s a story that began in a humble place where animals stayed, under a shining star, with a baby whose life would bring all who wanted to back to God.”

GOD’S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

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

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story, 'The Birth of Jesus.' (***Gesture to slide.***) Today we talked about when Jesus was born!

"This week, we talked about such an important part of God's great rescue! Ever since the Garden of Eden, when the whole world needed rescue from the curse of sin, God promised He was going to rescue us so we could be close to Him again. In all of the stories in the Bible we read up to this point (***gesture to your timeline***), God was working, working, working on this great rescue plan. And He loves us so much, He never gave up, even when people in His story turned away from Him. He kept on working toward our rescue, no matter what. And to the shock of both heaven and earth—Jesus, God's very own Son, was going to be our Rescuer! God is coming to rescue us! No one expected God's Big Story to take this turn, but God knew it all along. And then one night, that gift of Jesus arrived. And that little baby would grow up to be the One who would rescue us all. That little Baby in the manger is our Savior. Merry Christmas! God gave you Jesus!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

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 talked about when God gave us Jesus, our Rescuer!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "What a beautiful night we've journeyed through, seeing the wonder of Jesus' birth. It's a story we tell every Christmas because it marks the beginning of something new, the start of God's rescue plan for all of us. ***[Bottom Line]*** Jesus is the greatest gift.

"And just like the shepherds who were in awe of what they saw, we can respond with that same joy. We can let our hearts be filled with wonder, and we can take action. When we look at Christmas lights twinkling in the night, let's remember they point to Jesus, the light of the world.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"That's what we're celebrating all month, the great news that the angel announced to the shepherds.

→ **Open the Bible to Luke 2:11 (NIV) and read.**

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."

"This verse, our Memory Verse, reminds us of the best gift ever. Just think about it, a Savior who was born for you. And now, we get to live like we truly know it's true.

"So here's a question to take with you:

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] "What's the best gift you've been given?"

"Take some time to think about that, and we'll talk about it more in your Small Group. But also think about how you can be a gift to others, showing them the same kindness and love that Jesus shows us."

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's talk to the God who gave us the greatest gift together."

SLIDE: Theme Background

③ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "Dear God, thank You for sending us the greatest gift of all, Your Son, Jesus. Help us to remember this Christmas, and every Christmas, that You gave us the greatest gift because You love us so much. Help us tell everyone about Your great love. Merry Christmas, Jesus. We love You so much too."

→ **After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.**

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

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ Table
- ☐ Blindfold
- ☐ 6 random, everyday objects
- ☐ 6 index cards (to write down an everyday object)
- ☐ 6 Assorted small, wrapped gift boxes
- ☐ Christmas-themed gift wrap
- ☐ Clipboard, sheets of paper, and a pencil to write down each contestant's guesses

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Countdown
- ☐ Theme Intro

What You Do:

1. 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.
2. Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
3. Write the name of each item on an index card.
4. Wrap one object in each box, and number the boxes.
5. On the second page of your clipboard, write down what item is wrapped in what box.
6. Place the wrapped, numbered boxes on a table on stage.

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.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ "Joy to the World" from *Joy to the World* single
- ☐ "Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time)" from *Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time)* single

Optional Videos

Available for Purchase

- ☐ "Joy to the World" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video
- ☐ "Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time)" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

Store.ThinkOrange.com

What You Do:

1. Download all songs and have them ready to use. Note: 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

2. Dance Moves Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Communicator
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Table
- ☐ Small box
- ☐ Christmas-themed wrapping paper
- ☐ Whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ☐ 3 index cards with these headlines written on them prominently.
 - "Jesus was born in a palace."
 - "An angel terrified the shepherds."
 - "Jesus is a different kind of king."
- ☐ Christmas-themed washi tape

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Conversation Starter Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide

Optional Video

- ☐ Theme Loop

What You Do:

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.
2. Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
3. Before group time, wrap the box in the Christmas-themed wrapping paper.
4. On the whiteboard, use the dry-erase marker to clearly create two columns: one column labeled FACT, the other FICTION.
5. Create the three headline cards by writing each of these statements largely and clearly on an index card:
 - Jesus was born in a palace.
 - Angels terrified shepherds.
 - Jesus is a different kind of king.

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.

PLANNING

Getting Ready

Video Enhancements for Your Environment

Available in your media files and 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
- Themed transitions
- Countdown videos (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)

WEEK

FOUR

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

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

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
("Silent Night" from *Silent Night (The King Is Born)* and "Extra, Extra [It's Christmas Time]" from *Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time) Single*)
- Bible Story
(sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: Take a Snapshot
2. Application Activity: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Visit Jesus Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

Conversation Starter

How can you celebrate Jesus through the year?

Memory Verse

**"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11 NIrV**



Inclusive Pro Tips

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.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

→ **Host enters.**

Optional Video: Countdown

Optional Video: Theme Intro

Optional Video: Theme Loop

WELCOME

→ **Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.**

① Opener

HOST: "Hey there! Welcome to *[Name of environment]*. This month, we're discovering the joy and wonder of Christmas as we celebrate Jesus, God's greatest gift to us. I'm super-excited because today, we're going to have a special time sharing our own stories about Christmas.

"Before we jump into our story of the Wise Men and their journey, let's get to know each other a bit better with a game of 'Personal Story Sharing.' It's all about the times we've felt joy and gratitude during Christmas—kind of like our version of the Wise Men's adventure.

"Now, you might be wondering, 'How can we celebrate Jesus all year long?' That's a great question, and our game today will help us start thinking about that. You'll see how, just like the Wise Men, we can find joy and give thanks for Jesus no matter what month it is.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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

We've chosen these 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. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store. thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

"Let's circle up with our small groups. *(Pause as the kids get in their small groups.)*

"Each group will receive a small gift-wrapped box and some slips of paper. What you're going to do is write down one thing you love about Christmas on the slip of paper. It could be a favorite memory, a tradition, or something you're thankful for about Christmas.

"Once you've all written something down, fold your paper and place it inside the box. Then, pass the box around in the circle. When you receive the box, take out one slip of paper, read the Christmas memory or tradition written on it, and guess who in the circle it belongs to. If you guess right, the person will share more about their story. If you guess wrong, keep passing the box in the circle until the right person's name is called.

HOST: "This isn't just any game; it's a way for us to celebrate Jesus by sharing our joy with each other. It's a reminder that all the good things we enjoy at Christmas—and all year round—are gifts from God, just like the Wise Men understood when they followed the star to find Jesus.

"Are you ready to share and celebrate together? Let the game begin!"

- **Play the game. Ensure all participants are respectful and attentive when others are sharing. Encourage a positive atmosphere where everyone feels safe and valued.**

"Wow, I learned so much about you all! Now let's get ready and worship the God who gave us Jesus—the greatest gift!"

② Worship

- **Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.**

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! Are you ready to sing and celebrate? Even though Christmas is over, Jesus is still the best gift ever, and we can celebrate His coming all year!"

"We have some special songs today that help us remember the best gift ever! Let's start with a song called 'Silent Night.'

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

AUDIO: "Silent Night (*The King is Born*)" / track 1 from
Silent Night (*The King is Born*)

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "Before we sing our last song, let's recite our Memory Verse together. Our Memory Verse is part of the message that the angel said to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born, but it is good news for all year! It's Luke 2:11 NIV:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."

"Now I'll say a part, and you repeat it after me!"

"Today in the town of David,"

KIDS: "Today in the town of David,"

WORSHIP LEADER: "a Savior has been born to you."

KIDS: "a Savior has been born to you."

WORSHIP LEADER: "He is the Messiah, the Lord."

KIDS: "He is the Messiah, the Lord."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great job! Every time we remember these words, we celebrate the amazing gift of Jesus. Now, let's pray together and thank God for sending us His Son.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our Savior. Help us to celebrate Jesus not just today, but every day. We love You, and we're so grateful for Your gift. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Alright, let's sing one more time and celebrate Jesus, the best gift we've ever been given!"

AUDIO: "Extra, Extra (*It's Christmas Time*)" / track from
Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time) Single

"Great job, everyone! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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, two sections in the script below are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." *(Or if you're 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!

③ Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Background

→ **Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.**

INTRODUCTION

→ **Set a small table on stage so the Communicator can set their Bible on it and read from it.**

COMMUNICATOR: "Most people think the Wise Men were at the manger because that's how it is when we see the Nativity. But actually, the Wise Men didn't meet baby Jesus—they met two-year-old Jesus. And while you might think they were a little late to the party, they were actually right on time. Let's dive into the story."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Have you ever received or wanted a gift that was so special, you still think about it even if it's not your birthday or a holiday? Maybe it was something you wanted for a long time, or something that reminded you of a great memory."

"Think about that feeling—holding onto the joy of that gift. It's kind of like Christmas, right? We get excited, we count down the days, and then it's over in a flash. But what if we could keep that celebration going all year? That's what we're talking about today, because at Christmas, we celebrate Jesus, God's greatest gift to us."

"But before we dive into our story about some wise guys who knew a thing or two about celebrating Jesus, let's try something. I have here a small, wrapped gift. By looking at it, can you guess what's inside?"

"Now, turn to the person next to you and share what you think is in here, and why you think that. Go on, I'll give you a moment. *(Pause while the kids turn and talk.)*

"Alright, let's see if anyone guessed it. Inside this box is ... a small compass! *(Open the gift and show the kids the compass.)* Now, why would I bring a compass today? Well, it's all about direction and following something important, much like the Wise Men we're going to learn about. They followed a star to find Jesus and celebrate Him."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Just like this compass helps us find our way, we can look to Jesus to guide us through every day of the year, not just at Christmas. So, as we explore our story today, let's think about how we can keep celebrating Jesus all year long, in the big and the small moments of our lives.

"But before we get into our true story, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're going through the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we going through the Bible? Is it because we really want to learn more about the Bible? Well, not exactly. Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him. He could have kept who He is a secret from us, a big mystery of the universe. But He didn't! He wants us to know Him, so He gave us the Bible. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is that we'll learn about Him!"

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can get to know 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!

"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. God's people cried out to God—'Help us!' they said—and God heard them! God freed His people

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (**and one queen**) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split 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. 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!

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

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, something happened that no one expected. A brilliant new star appeared in the sky—so bright, it stood out from every other star. A group of Magi, Wise Men from far to the east, studied the skies. When they saw this star, they knew it meant something big. A new king had been born.

"They didn't wait for an invitation. They didn't wait until it was easy or convenient. They packed up treasures, left home, and began a journey that would take them hundreds of miles."

SLIDE: The Journey to Jerusalem

COMMUNICATOR: "The journey may have taken months. Imagine traveling across deserts and mountains with no hotels, no maps, no fast-food stops. Just you, your supplies, and a star guiding the way. At last, they arrived in Jerusalem, the capital city. If you're looking for a newborn king, the palace seems like the obvious place to start.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"King Herod was ruling at the time. The Wise Men asked:

→ **Open the Bible to Matthew 2:2 (NirV) and read.**

"Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."

"Herod was not happy. He called the priests and teachers of the law and asked where the Messiah was supposed to be born. They told him what the prophet Micah had written: Bethlehem."

→ **Open the Bible to Matthew 2:6 (NirV) and read.**

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you. He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd."

"Herod told the Wise Men to search for the child so he could worship Him too. But Herod didn't want to worship Jesus. He wanted to get rid of Him."

SLIDE: The Star Leads to Bethlehem

COMMUNICATOR:

"The Wise Men left Jerusalem. And suddenly—the star appeared again! It moved ahead of them, leading them straight to Bethlehem."

→ **Open the Bible to Matthew 2:10 (NirV) and read.**

When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.

"And then it stopped. Not over a palace. Not over a grand building. But over a small house. Inside was Mary, and the child—Jesus."

SLIDE: The Wise Men Worship Jesus

COMMUNICATOR:

"The Wise Men entered the house and saw Jesus with His mother, Mary."

→ **Open the Bible to Matthew 2:11 and read.**

They went into the house. There they saw the child with His

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

"These weren't random gifts. They were precious gifts for a king. The Wise Men gave Jesus their best, because they knew He was worthy."

SLIDE: God Protects His Rescue Plan

COMMUNICATOR:

"Herod still planned to harm Jesus. But God warned the Wise Men in a dream not to return to Herod. So they went home a different way. They chose to listen and obey. Their obedience kept God's rescue plan safe."

→ **Open the Bible to Matthew 2:12 (NirV) and read.**

But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.

"Here's the thing: the Wise Men didn't just celebrate Jesus for one moment. Their whole journey, their gifts, their worship, and their obedience were a celebration. And their lives were forever changed because they recognized who Jesus was—the promised King."

"Just like the Wise Men didn't celebrate Jesus on that first Christmas but two years later, we can celebrate Jesus all year long.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: ""So what about us? It's easy to celebrate Jesus at Christmas. The tree's up. The lights are glowing. The songs are everywhere. But what happens in January ... or June ... or September? Here's the truth: Jesus doesn't stop being King when the decorations come down. He's still Savior. He's still Lord. He's still worthy of celebration every single day.

"The Wise Men show us how. They didn't just admire the star—they moved. They gave their best. They worshiped. They listened and obeyed. Their whole lives became part of celebrating Jesus. And we can do the same.

"The Wise Men gave God tremendous gifts—we may not have fancy gifts like they did, but we do have the precious gift of our

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

lives. We can honor Him by showing His kindness, goodness, justice, patience, and love in everything we do.

"We can celebrate Jesus way beyond Christmas."

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

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 a little bit past this picture of God's Big Story, 'The Birth of Jesus.' (*Gesture to slide.*) Jesus is just a toddler in the story we read today, so we are on the path just after Jesus was born!"

"This week we talked about the Wise Men who came to worship Jesus! After years and years, God had kept His promise, and He put a star in the sky to celebrate it. We needed rescue, and God sent a Rescuer. The Wise Men lived far away from Bethlehem, but they saw the star in the sky and knew it was for a king. Jesus is a King, He is the King of kings. And the people would find out in the coming years that this King had left heaven to come to earth, and give up His life to break that curse we were under. This King would be our Rescuer! The Wise Men came to worship a king—and Jesus is the King of kings, who would save us all.

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!"

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 talked about the Wise Men who came to celebrate Jesus!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "You know, friends, the Wise Men worshiped Jesus long after He was born. They celebrated Him on a regular day. We can do the same! We can actually celebrate Jesus every day.

"We celebrate Jesus when we give God our entire lives—when

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

we spread God's kindness, goodness, love, and justice everywhere we go. That means that when we see someone by themselves, we invite them to be a part of whatever we're doing. When we hear someone getting picked on, we try our best to stop it. It means when God puts something in your heart to do that spreads His goodness, you obey and do it.

"And the Wise Men also worshiped Jesus long before the first Christmas was over. They showed how valuable He is. You can do the same—all day, every day. When you see something in creation that's amazing, or something makes you smile, you can say in your heart, 'Wow, God. You're amazing for creating a world that's so good.'

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

"So here's a challenge for you: **[Conversation Starter]** 'How can you celebrate Jesus through the year?'

"Maybe you can show love by forgiving a friend or by helping someone in need. Maybe you can talk about Him with others or simply take time to thank God for His amazing creation. Think about that question as you head to your small groups—you'll talk more about that there.

"Let's pray together and ask God to help us celebrate Jesus every day, not just at Christmas."

SLIDE: Theme Background

③ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Teach us how to celebrate Him every day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

→ **After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.**

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

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ Small box to hold the slips of paper, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Non-holiday wrapping paper, enough to wrap the small boxes
- ☐ Slips of paper, one for every kid
- ☐ Pens, one for every kid

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Countdown
- ☐ Theme Intro

What You Do:

1. 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.
2. Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
3. Wrap each gift before Large Group time.

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.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ "Silent Night" from *Silent Night (The King Is Born)*
- ☐ "Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time)" from *Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time) single*

Optional Videos

Available for Purchase

- ☐ "Silent Night" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video
- ☐ "Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time)" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

Store.ThinkOrange.com

What You Do:

1. Download all songs and have them ready to use. Note: 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

2. Dance Moves Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Communicator
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Table
- ☐ Small gift-wrapped box (you can recycle one from the Opener)
- ☐ Compass

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Conversation Starter Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ "The Journey to Jerusalem" Slide
- ☐ "The Star Leads to Bethlehem" Slide
- ☐ "The Wise Men Worship Jesus" Slide
- ☐ "God Protects His Rescue Plan" Slide

Optional Video

- ☐ Theme Loop

What You Do:

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.
2. Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
3. Before group time (but after the Opener), put the compass in a small, wrapped box.

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.

PLANNING

Getting Ready

Video Enhancements for Your Environment

Available in your media files and 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
- Themed transitions
- Countdown videos (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)