

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 ("Yes I Am" from Everything to Me, "I Can Do All Things" from At the Top of My Lungs)
- Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: True or False Flip (K-1st grade), The One and Only God (2nd-3rd grade)
2. Application Activity: Tower of Impossibility (K-1st grade), Built to Stand (2nd-3rd grade)
3. Memory Verse Activity: Fly Like an Eagle (K-1st grade), Move and Remember (2nd-3rd grade)
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

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

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:16-45

Bottom Line

God can do the impossible.

Memory Verse

Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.
Isaiah 40:31 (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

① Opener

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

HOST: “Hello, hello everyone! We’re so excited that you’re here today as we discover another EPIC scene in the big story God is telling in the Bible!

“But first, I gotta ask ... who here likes to build stuff? Let’s see a show of hands. **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)**

“If you like to build with LEGO® bricks, wave that hand back and forth! **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)**

“If you like to build with magnet tiles, raise both hands and clap three times. **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)**

“If you like to play block-building games on a screen, shout: ‘Endless possibilities!’ **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)**

“Endless possibilities! There are so many fun ways to build, but anytime you construct something, you’ve got to have a strong foundation. This year, we’ve been putting together pieces of God’s Story, so we can build our lives on it! That’s why this month’s theme is ‘Bedrock: Building Confidence in God, Block by Block.’

“Today we’re talking about a seriously epic part of God’s Story! But before we do that, we’re gonna warm up with a super-fun building game. I need 12 volunteers!

→ **Quickly select 12 kids and bring them up on stage with you. (BE SURE THE KIDS ARE DRESSED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY CAN FORM A HUMAN PYRAMID—DRESSES PROBABLY AREN’T HUMAN-PYRAMID FRIENDLY.) Divide them into two groups.**

“Okay, this is great. We have our two teams of builders. But ... **(LOOK AROUND.)**

“... we seem to be missing any kind of blocks or bricks to build with. So instead, we’re going to build with you!

“When I say ‘go!’ each team is going to form a human pyramid with three kids on bottom, two in the middle, and one on top.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"When your last person climbs on top, then the whole team needs to count: 'one, two, three!' The first team to reach 'three' is the winner. Everyone ready? **(MAKE SURE BOTH TEAMS ARE READY.)** Awesome! Ready, set, BUILD!"

AUDIO → Upbeat Music

Assist the kids if they need help. After the game, send the kids back to their seats.

"Excellent building skills, my friends. You all did great! None of you could have built that tower on your own. And none of us can do anything at all without God! So let's show God our love as we sing some worship songs. On your feet, everyone!"

② Worship

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! I'm so excited to worship through song with you! Today, we're going to look at a story about how God can do the impossible. God is the biggest! And when we believe that the God who is the biggest goes through life with us, we can be confident in anything."

"And the God who is bigger than anything loves you so much. You are a child of the Father who is bigger than everything! That's what the first song we're going to sing is about. It's called: 'Yes I Am!' So let's get ready to sing together!"

AUDIO → "Yes I Am" track 1 from Everything to Me

Optional Video → "Yes I Am" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"Great worshipping! Let's keep going—this next song is all about how, with God's help, we can do things that might seem impossible to us. God helps us with all things, and since He is the biggest, we can do big things with Him! So, let's sing it together: 'I Can Do All Things'!"

AUDIO → "I Can Do All Things" / track 5 from At the Top of My Lungs

Optional Video → "I Can Do All Things" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

WORSHIP LEADER: "Awesome job! Let's look at our Memory Verse that we are going to try to get in our heads and hearts this month! It's Isaiah 40:31! Let me read it to you, and then you can repeat after me!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE → Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER and KIDS: ""Those who trust in the LORD
will receive new strength.
They will fly as high as eagles.
They will run and not get tired.
They will walk and not grow weak. —Isaiah 40:31

"Now, repeat after me!

WORSHIP LEADER: "Those who trust in the LORD"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Those who trust in the LORD"

WORSHIP LEADER: "will receive new strength."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "will receive new strength."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will fly as high as eagles."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will fly as high as eagles."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will run and not get tired."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will run and not get tired."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will walk and not grow weak."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will walk and not grow weak."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Isaiah 40:31!"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Isaiah 40:31!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great job, you guys! God wants to give you strength so you can soar through life like an eagle flies high in the sky! That's awesome! We'll try to put that truth in our hearts all month."

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

③ Bible Story

SLIDE → Theme Background

- **Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can set their Bible on it and read their Bible from it. Place the table in the middle of the storytelling space, so the kids who will hold the signs will be on either side of the Storyteller. Also have both signs (THE "THAT'S GOOD" SIGN AND THE "THAT'S BAD" SIGN) on the table**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: “Hi, builders! I am so, so very glad you’re here today!

“Let me tell you about something amazing we’re doing this year! We’re journeying through the key stories of the Bible, cover to cover.

“Why are we going to look at the story of the entire Bible? Well, part of the reason why God gave us the Bible is so we can know who He is and what He is like. He wants us to learn about Him! So hopefully, as we go through the story of the Bible, we’ll learn about God.

GOD’S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

“We’re going to go through God’s Big Story!” **(GESTURE TO SLIDE.)**

SLIDE → God’s Big Story

“Each week, we’ll look at a story from God’s Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we’ve been in the Bible as we journey along. **(GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)**

“Let me bring you up to speed on where we’ve been in God’s Big Story so far!

“So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made 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! It was so sad.

“And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

“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. Many years later, Abraham’s great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn’t know about Joseph. He saw how many of God’s people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

“God’s people cried out to God for help. He answered! God brought His people out of Egypt into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land!

“After some time living in the Promised Land, God’s people wanted a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings **(AND ONE QUEEN)** followed. Sadly, the nation of God’s people split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"During this time, there were prophets in both kingdoms who spoke and taught on God's behalf. God would guide and direct the prophets to tell others about Him and His heart.

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

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Today, we're continuing right along through the Bible in the book of First Kings! **(HOLD UP THE BIBLE.)**

"You might remember at this part in God's story, the nation of God's people had split into two nations—the northern kingdom was called Israel, and the southern kingdom was called Judah. And while some of the kings of the southern kingdom of Judah were good, ALL of the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel were bad! They didn't listen to God and even led people away from God.

"So, a lot of bad things happened. But also some good things. And some good things and bad things happened in our story today too! That's what I need help with as we go through today's story—the good things and the bad things!

"I need two volunteers to help me point out those things in our story! Raise your hand if you'd like to volunteer!

- **Choose two volunteers and bring them up on stage. Place them on either side of you while you stand at the table to read from the Bible. Give one a green sign reading "THAT'S GOOD" and one a red sign reading "THAT'S BAD."**

"Okay, great! Now, when I say 'that's good,' I want **[NAME]** to hold up this green sign as high as you can. And I want everybody else out there to shout, 'Yay!'

"But when I say, 'That's bad,' I want **[NAME]** to hold up this red sign as high as you can. And all of you can shout, 'Boo!'

"Let's try that.

- **Practice a couple of times. Make sure the volunteers put the signs back down after a few seconds.**

ELIJAH CHALLENGES AHAB

STORYTELLER: "Great! You guys are ready! Now back to our story. One of the worst kings of the northern kingdom of Israel was named Ahab. He was so, so, so, so, soooo bad. He led the northern kingdom to worship false gods. He was bad!

- **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Boo!"**

"Several years before our story starts, God sent the prophet Elijah to King Ahab to tell him that there would be a drought. And for more than three years, there was no rain. The crops died, and the people of the northern kingdom of Israel became desperate. That's bad!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

- **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Boo!"**

"During that time, over and over and over God took care of Elijah in special ways. Sometimes He sent Elijah food through ravens. Sometimes God fed Elijah from a widow's flour and oil that never ran out. Over time, Elijah learned that God is good, and God is faithful. That's good!"

- **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Yay!"**

"But after three years, God sent Elijah to speak to King Ahab again.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:17-19 (NIRV) and read.

When [AHAB] saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you? You are always stirring up trouble in Israel."

"I haven't made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have turned away from the LORD's commands. You have followed gods that are named Baal. Now send for people from all over Israel. Tell them to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the 450 prophets of the god named Baal. Also bring the 400 prophets of the female god named Asherah."

"Okay, Elijah needed Ahab to gather all of those prophets of other gods because Elijah was going to host a god challenge. He wanted everyone to see who the true God is. That's good!"

- **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Yay!"**

SHOWDOWN ON MOUNT CARMEL

STORYTELLER: "Ahab gathered the 450 prophets of the false god Baal and met Elijah on the mountain. A huge crowd of God's people came to watch. Elijah said to them:

- **Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:21b (NIRV) and read.**

"How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the LORD is the one and only God, worship him. But if Baal is the one and only God, worship him."

"But did the people make up their minds? No! They just stood there and didn't say anything. That's bad!"

- **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Boo!"**

"Then Elijah explained what he wanted to do in the god challenge. He said:

- **Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:22-24 (NIRV) and read.**

"I'm the only one of the LORD's prophets left. But Baal has 450 prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves. Let

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

them cut it into pieces. Then let them put it on the wood. But don't let them set fire to it. I'll prepare the other bull. I'll put it on the wood. But I won't set fire to it. Then you pray to your god. And I'll pray to the LORD. The god who answers by sending fire down is the one and only God."

"Okay! Now the people would see who the true God is. That's good!

→ **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Yay!"**

STORYTELLER: "So the prophets of Baal prepared the offering and prayed to Baal, all through the whole morning! They begged Baal to answer them and send fire. They were convinced Baal would answer. That's bad.

→ **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Boo!"**

"All of those people, and all of those prophets were there. But Baal was not answering! Then the Bible says this happened:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:27 (NIRV) and read.**

At noon Elijah began to tease them. "Shout louder!" he said. "I'm sure Baal is a god! Perhaps he has too much to think about. Or maybe he has gone to the toilet. Or perhaps he's away on a trip. Maybe he's sleeping. You might have to wake him up."

"Whoa. Elijah really called out those prophets and their false god. But they kept calling out to Baal all through the afternoon anyway. Do you think Baal answered? Nope! That's good!

→ **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Yay!"**

"At last, Elijah called all of God's people to come near. He used 12 large stones to rebuild an altar to the Lord—one for the twelve tribes of Israel. The altar to the Lord had been torn down. Then Elijah dug a huge ditch around it and placed firewood on top, along with the bull, as an offering. So far, so good, right? But then Elijah told some people to pour four giant jars of water over the offering ... three times! That's 12 giant jars of water. And does wet stuff burn? Nope! That's bad!

→ **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Boo!"**

"The whole thing seemed outrageous! It seemed impossible. But then Elijah prayed to the one true God:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:36-37 (NIRV) and read.**

When it was time to offer the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward. He prayed, "LORD, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel. Let them know I'm your servant. Let them know I've done all these things because

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

you commanded me to. Answer me. LORD, answer me. Then these people will know that you are the one and only God. They'll know that you are turning their hearts back to you again."

GOD SENDS FIRE AND RAIN

STORYTELLER: "And guess what happened? You got it! God answered right away. He sent fire, and God sent fire that was so hot and so fiery that it burned up the sacrifice and the wood ... and even the stones! God wanted to leave absolutely no doubt that He was the one who answered. He wanted the people to turn their hearts back to Him!

"And it worked! The people who were there saw what God had done, and they fell on their faces in awe. The Bible says:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:39 (NIRV) and read.**

All the people saw it. Then they fell down flat with their faces toward the ground. They cried out, "The LORD is the one and only God! The LORD is the one and only God!"

"The people saw God's power and turned to Him! That's good!

→ **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Yay!"**

"But God wasn't done yet. He knew the people needed something else. So then this happened:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:41 (NIRV) and read.**

Elijah said to Ahab, "Go. Eat and drink. I can hear the sound of a heavy rain."

"Now remember: there had been no rain for more than three years, and the people were desperate. Even as Elijah said this, the sky was completely clear! That's bad!

→ **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the red sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Boo!"**

"Elijah climbed to the very top of Mount Carmel and bowed down. Six times he sent his servant to look for rain clouds. But at last—

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:44 (NIRV) and read.**

The seventh time the servant said, "I see a cloud. It's as small as a man's hand. It's coming up over the sea."

Elijah said, "Go to Ahab. Tell him, 'Tie your chariot to your horse. Go down to Jezreel before the rain stops you.'"

"In moments, the sky darkened and a wild wind picked up. Heavy rain fell in torrents! God sent the rain the people needed because He is in charge of all things! The drought was finally over! That's good!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

- **Nod to the volunteer to hold up the green sign. Encourage the kids to say: "Yay!" Encourage the kid to keep holding up the sign so the kids cheer more and for longer!**

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Elijah acted in complete confidence that God was with him. But Elijah wasn't just a faith rockstar all of a sudden! Elijah was able to trust God because, over and over, in big ways and small ways, God had shown that He was always faithful. So Elijah was able to trust that God would show up to do something impossible that day because God always showed up in little ways too."

"The people who were there saw God's goodness that day too, and they turned back to God. That's why it's so important for us to remember that—

SLIDE → Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] "God can help you make the wise choice. Say that with me."

STORYTELLER, HOST, and KIDS: **[BOTTOM LINE]** "God can help you make the wise choice."

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "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 on the path in God's Big Story! Elijah lived after King David, so we're on the path after that picture of King David being anointed. **(GESTURE TO SLIDE.)** That's where we are in God's Big Story! We're just journeying along!"

"This week, we looked at the story of Elijah. Elijah was a prophet during a time when the nation was split in two. Even though the nation of Israel was split in two, God's message was the same: 'Come back to Me, come back to Me.' Sadly, this part of God's family, where Elijah delivered God's messages, the northern kingdom of Israel, never did. But God didn't give up on His promise or His people! He saved a remnant, a small group of people mostly from the southern kingdom of Judah. God took care of His family, just like He promised! And by taking care of this family, God was also taking care of us. Because many, many, many years later, from this little remnant God protected would come Jesus! And Jesus would rescue us all! God never gave up on His promise to rescue us!"

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

SLIDE → Week 1 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 Elijah!"

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "When we think about Elijah, we can remember that Elijah trusted God for the impossible. God is big. Way bigger than we can even imagine. And as we saw in Elijah's story, God can do things that are unthinkable to us. In fact, God can do the impossible.

"But Elijah was able to trust God with the big things because he also had learned that God is trustworthy in the little things too.

"Remember those ravens? Ravens brought food to Elijah during the first part of the drought. Every time a raven arrived with food for Elijah, he saw, 'God is faithful. God is faithful. God is faithful.' And remember the widow's jar of flour and jug of oil that lasted for months and months? Every time the widow's jar of flour and jug of oil didn't run out, Elijah saw, 'God is good. God is good. God is good.'"

"So Elijah's big faith in God to do the impossible that day was built, block by block, with little things.

"And you will do that too! You can trust God for the little things, and the big, impossible things, because He can do both!

"Your God is the biggest! When you believe that, you can go through everything you face with a lot more confidence.

"In fact, the Bible promises that when you choose to follow Jesus, God sends His Holy Spirit to live inside of you! God Himself lives inside of you. The God who is the biggest faces everything with you! You go into every situation with the God who is bigger than anything.

"What did Elijah do before God did the big thing? He prayed. Elijah trusted that God would do the big thing, and he prayed.

"So when you're facing something that seems impossible, something that is bigger than you, pray. When you need help, pray. Talk to the God who can do the impossible. Ask Him for help. Whatever you need, ask!

"You can ask God to give you confidence because He goes with you, the biggest of all goes with you, even when something seems impossible.

"Let's talk to God about that right now!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Prayer

HOST: "Dear God, thank You so much that You are the biggest and You love us. Teach us to trust You in the little things and the big things so we go through life confidently with You. Help us to listen to You and follow You so that when things seem impossible, we can trust You to be with us and guide us every step of the way. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ 12 kid volunteers (dressed appropriately to build a human pyramid)

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:

- Prepare the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music and/or sound effects on an authorized basis from a resource such as Apple Music®, Amazon Music®, and/or a sound effect library and have it ready to play. Or, if you choose to stream music, refer to the terms and conditions of your streaming service. Note that you will likely need a commercial license in order to stream music publicly. Also confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform music and sound effects in your kids' environments, such as a blanket PERFORMmusic™ license from CCS. *Note: Legally a song and/or sound effect belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song and/or sound effect.*

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ "Yes I Am" from Everything to Me
- ☐ "I Can Do All Things" from At the Top of My Lungs

Optional Videos

Available for purchase.

- ☐ "Yes I Can" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- ☐ "I Can Do All Things" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

Note: We've suggested worship songs 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, 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.

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

→ 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

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

→ Visit the Orange Store for Music Scope and Cycle purchases. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Storyteller
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ 2 kid volunteers
- ☐ "That's Good" sign on cardstock (printable)
- ☐ "That's Bad" sign on cardstock (printable)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Theme Transition to Virtue
- ☐ Virtue Transition to Theme

What You Do:

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 on its own as a standalone, without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer."

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 through the Bible with you this year!

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 curriculum. The timeline image is listed as a slide, but can be printed. A [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Print out the "That's Good" sign on cardstock and the "That's Bad" sign on cardstock. Place them on the table that's at the front of your teaching area.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Storyteller
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ 2 kid volunteers
- ☐ "That's Good" sign on cardstock (printable)
- ☐ "That's Bad" sign on cardstock (printable)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Theme Transition to Virtue
- ☐ Virtue Transition to Theme

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)

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.

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 ("Yes I Am" from Everything to Me, "At the Top of My Lungs" from Live It Out!)
- Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: Let's Go Fishing (K-1st grade), Which Way Will I Go? (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension (4th-5th Grade)
2. Application Activity: Jump If You ... (K-1st grade), God Our Compass (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (4th-5th Grade)
3. Memory Verse Activity: Jumping Verse (K-1st grade), Memory at Sea (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (4th-5th Grade)
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

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

Jonah

Jonah 1-3

Bottom Line

God knows what's best.

Memory Verse

"Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."
Isaiah 40:31 (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

① Opener

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

HOST: “Hello, everyone! Welcome! I’m so glad that you came today. This month, we’re digging into Bedrock by building confidence in God block by block.

“Placing our trust and confidence in God is something that we learn by doing it! We all need practice. And in today’s story, we’ll meet a guy who REALLY needed some practice. In fact, instead of trusting God, he ran away and found himself in a fishy situation.

“Now, before we launch into our story, we’re going to warm up with a fishing game!

“Have any of you ever gone fishing? If you’ve gone fishing, raise your hand! **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)**

“Great! Well, whether or not you’ve been fishing before, I need two volunteers who would like to try their hand at fishing. And I need two more volunteers who would like to help line up the fish after they are caught!

→ **Select four volunteers and bring them up on stage.**
(PREFERABLY, SELECT VOLUNTEERS WITH MORE ADVANCED READING SKILLS.) Give the first two magnetic fishing rods.

“Great. Now, you two are fishermen. And you two are going to put our fish in order! See, there are ten special fish scattered around the stage. Each of these fish has one part of our Memory Verse! The verse is Isaiah 40:31! That’s the verse we’re trying to get in our heads and hearts this month. There are numbers on the fish, in case you need help putting them in order!

SLIDE → Memory Verse

“Your job is to put the fish in order on this board so that we can see the whole Memory Verse!

“Use your fishing rod to pick up the fish.

“Okay, fishermen, are you ready? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Fish liner-uppers, are you ready? **(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)**

"Then it's time ... to GO FISH!"

AUDIO → Upbeat Music

→ **Assist the fishermen if needed, and help the Memory Verse volunteers line up the verse on the board if needed.**

"You all did a fantastic job of catching fish and lining them up! Let's all read our Memory Verse together. **(READ THE MEMORY VERSE FROM THE CARDBOARD FISH, OR READ IT FROM THE SLIDE.)**

"You can trust God, no matter what. So let's show God our love and trust as we sing some worship songs. On your feet, everyone! Let's worship God!"

② Worship

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! I love, love, love getting to worship God through music with you each week! God loves us so much, and I love telling Him that we love Him back with you!"

"This month, we've been learning that we'll face life with more confidence when we live out the truth that God, the strongest, is with us! You are a child of a Father, the strongest, who loves you! Let's sing about that truth right now!"

AUDIO → "Yes I Am" / Track 1 from Everything to Me
Optional Video → "Yes I Am" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"Awesome singing, you much-loved ones! Let's sing one more song together. God is so good, so amazing, so powerful, and He wants to be our friend forever! So let's sing about how much we love Him and praise Him at the top of our lungs! This song is called 'At the Top of My Lungs!' Let's get loud as we sing about how good God is!"

AUDIO → "At the Top of My Lungs" / Track 6 from Live It Out!
Optional Video → "At the Top of My Lungs" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"Great job, everyone! God gave us the Bible to teach us about who He is and what is true in the world! We try to put a little bit of truth in our heads each month, that's what our Memory Verse is! This month, it's Isaiah 40:31. Let me read it out loud, and then you can repeat after me!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE → Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Those who trust in the LORD
will receive new strength.
They will fly as high as eagles.
They will run and not get tired.
They will walk and not grow weak. —Isaiah 40:31

"Let's say it together!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Those who trust in the LORD"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Those who trust in the LORD"

WORSHIP LEADER: "will receive new strength."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "will receive new strength."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will fly as high as eagles."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will fly as high as eagles."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will run and not get tired."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will run and not get tired."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will walk and not grow weak."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will walk and not grow weak."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Isaiah 40:31!"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Isaiah 40:31!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Way to go, you guys! God loves you so much that He wants to give you strength as you go through life! God's strength is like a power-up that fills your heart, so you can face your life stronger. That's awesome! We'll try to put that truth in our hearts all month."

"This week we're going to look at the story of a God-follower named Jonah who learned that following God and His ways is always best. Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Bible Story

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ **Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit**

INTRODUCTION

→ **Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can set their Bible on it and read from it as they use their hands to lead the audience to make the story sounds.**

STORYTELLER: “Hey, friends! I’m so, so glad you’re here today! You’re coming in to something amazing—we’re going through key stories in the entire Bible from cover to cover this year!

“Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him! So as we go through all of these true stories in the Bible this year, we will learn about Him!

GOD’S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: “We’re going to go through God’s Big Story together! **(GESTURE TO SLIDE.)**

SLIDE → God’s Big Story

“Each week, we’ll look at a story from God’s Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we’ve been in the Bible as we journey along. **(GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)**

“Let me bring you up to speed on where we’ve been in God’s Big Story so far!

“So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made 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! It was so sad.

“And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

“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. Many years later, Abraham’s great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn't know about Joseph. He saw how many of God's people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

"God's people cried out to God for help. He answered! God brought His people out of Egypt into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land!

"After some time living in the Promised Land, God's people wanted a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings **(AND ONE QUEEN)** followed. Sadly, the nation of God's people split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

"During this time, there were prophets in both kingdoms who spoke and taught on God's behalf. God would guide and direct the prophets to tell others about Him and His heart.

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

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Today, we're continuing right along through the Bible in the book of Jonah. **(HOLD UP BIBLE.)**

"Jonah lived during the time when the nation of God's people was split into two nations. There were a lot of different kings and a lot of different prophets during that time—Jonah was a prophet. Prophets spoke messages from God to different people. And most prophets spoke the same message from God: 'Come back to Me! Come back to Me!'

"God actually sent the prophet Jonah to deliver that message to the people of Nineveh, who were really, really mean. That's the story we're going to look at today!

"To tell Jonah's story in the Bible, I'm going to need some help from all of you! There are all sorts of wild sounds in this story. So when we need a special sound, I'll hold my hands up like this, and ask you to make the sound!

→ **Raise both hands high.**

"But when I do this with my hand—

→ **Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.**

"then it's time to stop the noise and be super-quiet. Let's try that. Everyone, bark like a dog!

→ **Raise both hands while kids bark.**

"You all are a wild pack of dogs! And stop!

→ **Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Suuuuuuuper quiet. You guys got it! Okay, let's go!

JONAH RUNS AWAY

STORYTELLER: "One day, God spoke to Jonah.

→ **Open the Bible to Jonah 1:2 (NIRV) and read.**

"Go to the great city of Nineveh. Preach against it. The sins of its people have come to my attention."

"Now, Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria—the big, bad villain of Jonah's day. Everyone make your best super-villain entrance sound!

→ **Raise both hands high.**

"Duh, bum bad um bum bah dum!

→ **Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.**

"Very scary! As you can imagine, Jonah was NOT excited about traveling hundreds and hundreds of miles away from home into the heart of enemy territory.

"In fact, Jonah decided to RUN AWAY from God. Brilliant move, right? Everyone make a speedy WHOOSH sound, like someone's running fast.

→ **Raise both hands high.**

"WHOOOOOOOSH!

→ **Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.**

"Instead of heading northeast toward Nineveh, Jonah went to the harbor at Joppa and hopped on a boat heading for Tarshish ... pretty much as far as you could go in the opposite direction.

"Jonah went below deck for a nap. But while Jonah was sleeping, God sent a wild wind that made a mega-storm. Let's make some wind noises!

→ **Raise both hands high.**

"Whooooooooo ... Okay, keep that going now, but a little softer while I tell more of the story.

"The sailors panicked as the ship creaked, and they cried out to the false gods they worshipped. Finally, the captain hauled Jonah out of bed and said:

→ **Open the Bible to Jonah 1:6b (NIRV) and read.**

→ **Keep one hand raised for sound.**

"How can you sleep? Get up and call out to your god for help! Maybe he'll pay attention to what's happening to us. Then we won't die."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"The whole time, the storm was still raging and the wind was still blowing—whooooooooo!—and the waves were getting higher! At last, Jonah confessed that he was running away from God!

"The terrified sailors asked Jonah how to make the seas calm down.

→ **Open the Bible to Jonah 1:12 (NIRV) and read.**

→ **Keep one hand raised for the wind sound.**

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," **[JONAH]** replied. "Then it will become calm. I know it's my fault that this terrible storm has come on you."

"The sailors didn't want to do this, but the storm got even WORSE. WHOOOOOOOOO!

→ **Raise both hands high to prompt the kids to make a louder sound.**

"So at last the sailors took Jonah and threw him overboard.

→ **Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign. Wait for complete silence.**

"Right away, the sea became calm!

"But God wasn't done with Jonah. So God brought about a pretty wild plot twist ... by sending a giant fish to swallow Jonah whole! Let's hear your best gulp!

→ **Raise both hands high.**

"GUUUUUULLLLP!

→ **Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.**

JONAH IN THE BELLY OF THE FISH

STORYTELLER: "Whoa. For three days and three nights, Jonah was stuck in the belly of that fish. I bet it was super-stinky and super-icky. Maybe he could hear the fish's giant tummy rumbling. Let's hear those tummy rumbles.

→ **Raise both hands high.**

"Ruuuuuumble. Guurgleburble!

→ **Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.**

"And during this time, Jonah finally cried out to God.

→ **Open the Bible to Jonah 2:1, 6 (NIRV) and read.**

"When I was in trouble, I called out to the LORD.
And he answered me.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

When I was deep in the place of the dead,
I called out for help.
And you listened to my cry. ...
I sank down to the bottom of the mountains.
I thought I had died
and gone down into the grave forever.
But you are the LORD my God.
You brought my life up
from the very edge of the pit of death."

"At the end of three days, God made that fish swim to shore and spit out Jonah on dry land! So ... fish spit up. I have a feeling this is gonna be really gross, but ... let's hear your best giant fish spit up!

→ **Raise both hands high.**

"Bleeeeeuuuuuch!

→ **Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.**

"Whoa. Okay, that's as much fish spit up as I can take. Whew! But ... being spit up by the fish was still WAY better than being stuck inside the fish!

JONAH GOES TO NINEVEH

STORYTELLER: "God spoke to Jonah once more:

→ **Open the Bible to Jonah 3:2 (NIRV) and read.**

"Go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce to its people the message I give you."

"And this time, Jonah listened to God! He made the epic road trip to Nineveh. Let's hear a speedy whoosh in the RIGHT direction.

→ **Raise both hands high.**

"Whoooooosh!

→ **Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.**

"When Jonah got to Nineveh, well, the city was so large it took three whole days to cross!

"Jonah began by going one whole day into the city. As he went, he announced:

→ **Open the Bible to Jonah 3:4 (NIRV) and read.**

"In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed."

"This was terrible news. But the people of Nineveh actually LISTENED. The message even reached their king, who put aside his royal robes and sat down in the dust in misery. The king sent out a message to the whole city:

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ **Open the Bible to Jonah 3:8b-9 (NIRV) and read.**

"All of you must call out to God with all your hearts. Stop doing what is evil. Don't harm others. Who knows? God might take pity on us. He might not be angry with us anymore. Then we won't die."

"And would you believe it? The people did just as the king commanded. They turned to God and stopped doing wrong things. Let's hear your best cheer!

→ **Raise both hands high.**

"Yay! Woohooooo!"

→ **Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.**

"Because of this, God showed great mercy, and did not get rid of the city of Nineveh. And Jonah was thrilled, right? Actually, no. Jonah sulked because God had chosen to show love to even the enemies of his people! Let's hear your best pouty whine.

→ **Raise both hands high.**

"Booohooo. Waaah. Poooo me.

→ **Put one hand forward to make a "stop" sign.**

"Wow. That's enough. You all are reaaaaally good at that.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "See, Jonah thought that everyone in Nineveh should be punished. He thought God should pay them back big time! Jonah thought he knew what was best. But God is good and kind, and He is always working for good. So that means God always knows what is best ... even if it means showing mercy to your worst enemy. That's why it's so important for us to remember that—

SLIDE → Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] "God knows what's best. Say that with me."

→ **Host enters and joins in.**

STORYTELLER, HOST, and KIDS: **[BOTTOM LINE]** "God knows what's best."

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "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 up here on the path of God's Big Story after this picture of David being anointed and before this picture of Daniel. We're on the path, journeying along in God's Big Story!"

"This week, we talked about Jonah. Jonah was a prophet who lived during the time when God's kingdom was split in two—the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom. Jonah lived in the northern kingdom of Israel, but God wanted him to speak to the people of Nineveh. God's message was what He often said: 'Come back to Me! Come back to Me!' Sadly, the northern kingdom of Israel that Jonah lived in never came back to God. And it was destroyed. But God didn't give up on His promise! He wants us to be His close friends again! So He faithfully saved a remnant, a small group of people mostly from the southern kingdom of Judah. And from this little remnant that God protected, many, many years later would come Jesus! And Jesus would rescue us all!"

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

SLIDE → Week 2 Timeline Image

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

"This week we talked about Jonah!"

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "See, Jonah knew all about God ... but he sure didn't live like Him. He thought he knew better than God, and he disobeyed Him. Jonah didn't really believe the truth that God knows what's best.

"God wanted a whole group of people to live better lives, and He gave Jonah a chance to deliver that message. But Jonah didn't think the Ninevites deserved God's kindness, so at first, he disobeyed.

"What Jonah disregarded is that God is good, and that means He is always being good. Jonah should have obeyed God because His ways were good. We can always trust that God's ways are good too, and we can follow them, even if we don't understand them.

"Sometimes it's really hard to follow God's ways. But if you need help, just ask God! When you choose to follow Jesus, God's very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, comes to live inside you! He can help you when following God's ways are hard. You can ask, 'God, I need Your help being kind.' Or, 'God, I need Your help not to yell because I'm angry.' Or, 'God, I need Your help to be loving.' Whatever you need, ask! God loves to help you!"

"God made you and loves you more than you can imagine! He wants to help you follow His ways because they are best.

"Let's ask Him to help us follow Him well right now!"

SLIDE → Week 2 Timeline Image

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Prayer

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Dear God, thank You so much for giving us a chance to learn about You through the Bible. You are kind and loving and good. Help us to listen for Your voice and do what You say, instead of running away like Jonah. We want to follow You our whole lives. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ 4 kid volunteers
- ☐ Ten large colorful fish (see "What You Do")
- ☐ Ten magnets (like these: <http://bit.ly/4IijPiG>)
- ☐ 2 magnetic fishing rods (this is a set of four: <http://bit.ly/41eOsJ>)
- ☐ Large magnetic whiteboard on a large easel (The whiteboard should be big enough to hold the cardstock fish.)
- ☐ Double-sided tape

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:

NOTE: A lot of these supplies are used in the K1 Small Group "Let's Go Fishing" Bible Story Review Activity. Feel free to combine supplies if it's helpful!

- 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.
- Refer to Week 1 to confirm that your church has the appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your children's environments.
- Cut out ten fish on colorful cardstock. Write one section of the Memory Verse on each of the fish. Be sure to number each fish (it will help with verse assembly for pre-readers):
- The NIV is:
 1. Those who trust
 2. in the LORD
 3. will receive new strength.
 4. They will fly
 5. as high as eagles.
 6. They will run
 7. and not get tired.
 8. They will walk
 9. and not grow weak.
 10. Isaiah 40:31
- The NIV is:
 1. Those who hope
 2. in the LORD
 3. will renew their strength.
 4. They will soar
 5. on wings like eagles;
 6. They will run
 7. and not grow weary,
 8. They will walk
 9. and not be faint.
 10. Isaiah 40:31
- Use the double-sided tape to attach a magnet to the back of each fish. Place the fish around the stage.
- During the game, two volunteers will use magnetic fishing rods to catch the fish, and two volunteers will arrange the fish in order on the whiteboard to complete the verse.
- Optional: If you do not have a large, magnetic whiteboard or an easel, feel free to display the cardstock fish another way—taped on a posterboard, for example.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ "Yes I Am" from Everything to Me
- ☐ "At the Top of My Lungs" from Live It Out!

Optional Videos

Available for purchase.

- ☐ "Yes I Am" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- ☐ "At the Top of My Lungs" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

Note: We've suggested worship songs 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, 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.

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

- 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

- Dance Moves Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- Visit the [Orange Store](#) for Music Scope and Cycle purchases. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Storyteller
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Table

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide

What You Need:

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 on its own as a standalone, without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer."

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 curriculum. The timeline image is listed as a slide, but can be printed. A [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Storyteller
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ 2 kid volunteers
- ☐ "That's Good" sign on cardstock (printable)
- ☐ "That's Bad" sign on cardstock (printable)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Theme Transition to Virtue
- ☐ Virtue Transition to Theme

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)

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.

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 ("Yes I Am" from Everything to Me, "At the Top of My Lungs" from Live It Out!)
- Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: ROARing Review (K-1st grade), Act It Out! (2nd-3rd grade)
2. Application Activity: God Is Always with Me (K-1st grade), God Is My Shield (2nd-3rd grade)
3. Memory Verse Activity: Picture This! Memory Verse (K-1st grade), Verse Dash (2nd-3rd grade)
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



Today's Bible Story

Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel 6

Bottom Line

God is always with you.

Memory Verse

"Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."
Isaiah 40:31 (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

① Opener

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

HOST: “Hello, everyone! I’m so glad that you’re here today! All month long, we’re digging down to Bedrock: Building confidence in God, block by block. Because when you face tough situations, it’s so important to remember that God is with you—whether you’re walking past a barking dog, or like our main character in today’s story ... facing a bunch of roaring lions! Before we get started, I’ve got a game for us to play. And I’m going to need six volunteers.

→ **Choose six volunteers and bring them up on stage.**

“Very good. Now, I need one of you to be our zookeeper.

→ **Choose one kid and give them a safari hat to wear.**

“The rest of you get to be ... our lions!

→ **Optional: Give the kids lion-ear headbands to wear.**

“Our game is called Sleeping Lions! So when I say: ‘go to sleep,’ all of you lions find a spot on the stage and lie down to sleep—anywhere you want. It’s going to be our zookeeper’s job to wake you up! But lions, you want to stay asleep. In fact, if you move even a tiny bit, or laugh or say anything, then you’re out. Zookeeper, you can do anything to wake our sleeping lions ... except touch them! You can say something funny, or do silly things, or whatever you can imagine. You’ve got two minutes to wake the lions. I’ll set my timer here for two minutes. Ready? Lions, go to sleep!

Optional SFX → “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” by The Tokens **(SOFTLY)**

→ **Start your timer. Encourage the zookeeper to try different techniques to make the lions laugh or move. Make sure to catch any lions who laugh or move. If time allows, you can play multiple rounds. When the game is over, instruct the lions to wake up.**

“Wow. You were an excellent zookeeper. And the rest of you were fantastic lions. Now that you’re awake, let’s everyone give a giant roar. Ready? RRRRROOOOOOOOAAAAAR!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Wow! I definitely wouldn't want to meet up with a bunch of you in the jungle!"

"Now let's put all of that great energy into singing songs to show God how much we love Him! On your feet, everyone!"

② Worship

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! I'm so excited to worship God through song with you! Worship is showing that you value something. That means you can worship God by talking to Him—that's showing Him value. You can worship God by being kind like He is to other people. That's showing Him value too!"

"But right now, let's show God we value Him by worshipping Him through music!"

"Our first song is about how we are a child of a Father who loves us! Let's sing this song—it's called 'Yes I Am!'"

AUDIO → "Yes I Am" / Track 1 from Everything to Me

Optional Video → "Yes I Am" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"Great worshipping! You are so loved! I love that even though God asks us to care about people like He does, He gives us the strength to do it! That's what our Memory Verse says. It's Isaiah 40:31! Let me read it out loud, and then you can repeat after me!"

SLIDE → Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength."

They will fly as high as eagles.

They will run and not get tired.

They will walk and not grow weak. —Isaiah 40:31

"Let's say it together!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Those who trust in the LORD"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Those who trust in the LORD"

WORSHIP LEADER: "will receive new strength."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "will receive new strength."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will fly as high as eagles."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will fly as high as eagles."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will run and not get tired."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will run and not get tired."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will walk and not grow weak."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will walk and not grow weak."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Isaiah 40:31!"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Isaiah 40:31!"

"Great job! With God's help, we can do everything that God calls us to do. He will give us the strength to do anything He asks us to do. Let's sing one more song about that. It's called 'I Can Do All Things!'"

AUDIO → "I Can Do All Things" / track 5 from At the Top of My Lungs

Optional Video → "I Can Do All Things" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"Great job, everyone! God loves us so much that He will give us His strength to do anything He asks us to do! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

③ Bible Story

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ **Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit**

INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: "Hey, friends, today we're doing something so exciting! We're going to dive into the story of a person in the Bible about whom not a single bad thing is written! His name is Daniel!"

"But before we dive into Daniel's story, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We are going to learn about the key stories in the Bible from cover to cover!"

"Why? Well, one of the reasons God gave us the Bible is so we can know Him! He wants us to be His friends. So as we read key stories from the Bible this year, hopefully we'll learn about Him!"

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story together! (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"Each week, we'll look at a story from God's Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we've been in the Bible as we journey along. **(GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)**"

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

"So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made 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! It was so sad.

"And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

"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. Many years later, Abraham's great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn't know about Joseph. He saw how many of God's people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

"God's people cried out to God for help. He answered! God brought His people out of Egypt into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land!"

"After some time living in the Promised Land, God's people wanted a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings **(AND ONE QUEEN)** followed. Sadly, the nation of God's people split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

"During this time, there were prophets in both kingdoms who spoke and taught on God's behalf. God would guide and direct the prophets to tell others about Him and His heart.

"Many of the prophets delivered the same message from God: 'Come back to Me!' But many of the kings didn't listen. They turned their hearts away from God, and as a result, the northern kingdom of Israel was totally destroyed and never heard from again. The southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive by other nations. God's people were taken from the Promised Land! It was sad, but God was preserving a remnant mostly from the nation of Judah. He was going to keep His promise.

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

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Today, we're reading an exciting story from the book of Daniel.

"Sadly, when God's people were conquered by the Babylonians, many were taken captive and brought to Babylon. They left the Promised Land!

"One of these people captured was a young man named Daniel. Since Daniel and his friends were smart and wise, the king of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar, wanted them to work for him! King Nebuchadnezzar tried to make Daniel and his friends become like the Babylonians and worship false gods. But these young men refused. God gave them special wisdom and understanding—and the king was so impressed that he made them his advisors.

"Over the years, other kings came to power. But no matter who was in charge, Daniel continued to honor God. He even prayed to God three times every day.

"Today's story takes place when Daniel was older. Daniel had lived in a foreign land for years and years and years. But Daniel always followed God.

"As we tell our story today, I'm going to need the help of another zookeeper and the help of everybody here!

- **Select a volunteer who did not participate before and give them the safari hat. Bring them over to the table that has the red, pushable button.**

"Zookeeper, you can stand right over here. Any time I say the word 'lion,' I need you to press the red button.

"Everybody else? When our zookeeper presses the red button, I need you to give your most ferocious lion roar. Let's practice. **(CLEAR THROAT)**

"LION!

- **Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars!**

"Well done! You guys have got it! Let's get back to our story.

DANIEL PROMOTED

STORYTELLER: "A new empire conquered the Babylonian empire, and a king named Darius came to power. King Darius placed Daniel and two other men in charge of all the advisors in the kingdom! When he saw what an incredible job Daniel did, Darius planned to place Daniel in charge of everyone! The other advisors were jealous.

- **Open the Bible to Daniel 6:5 (NIRV) and read.**

Finally these men said, "We want to bring charges against this man Daniel. But it's almost impossible for us to come up with a reason to do it. If we find a reason, it will have to be in connection with the law of his God."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"These men had been watching Daniel, and they knew that he was faithful to God! So they came up with a terrible plan and went to the king.

→ **Open the Bible to Daniel 6:6b-7 (NIRV) and read.**

They said, "King Darius, may you live forever! All the royal leaders, high officials, royal rulers, advisers, and governors want to make a suggestion. We've agreed that you should give an order. And you should make sure it's obeyed. Your Majesty, here is the command you should make your people obey for the next 30 days. Don't let any of your people pray to any god or human being except to you. If they do, throw them into the lions' den."

→ **Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.**

"Yikes. Scary!

THE TERRIBLE ORDER

STORYTELLER: "This was a horrible plan. But King Darius liked the idea that everyone should pray to him like he was a god. So King Darius put the order in writing and signed it! Now you've got to understand ... at this time in Persia, once an order was made, NO ONE could change it. Not even the king.

"So if anyone dared to pray to the one true God, they must be thrown in a den with lions.

→ **Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars!**

"This was awful. But do you think that Daniel was stopped from talking to God by the thought of scary lions?

→ **Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.**

"No way! Daniel went right away and prayed to God just as he always did. Daniel knew that God was with him, no matter what happened.

"Sure enough, the other advisors were quick to go tattle to the king.

→ **Open the Bible to Daniel 6:12b (NIRV) and read.**

"Your Majesty, didn't you sign an official order? It said that for the next 30 days your people could pray only to you. They could not pray to anyone else, whether god or human being. If they did, they would be thrown into the lions' den."

→ **Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.**

"The king said that the order had to be obeyed.

→ **Open the Bible to Daniel 6:13 (NIRV) and read.**

Then they spoke to the king again. They said, "Daniel is one of the prisoners from Judah. He doesn't pay any attention to you, Your Majesty. He doesn't obey the order you put in writing. He still prays to his God three times a day."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Darius was trapped. He didn't want Daniel to be thrown to the lions!

→ **Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.**

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

STORYTELLER: "But the king couldn't change the order.

→ **Open the Bible to Daniel 6:16 (NIRV) and read.**

So the king gave the order. Daniel was brought out and thrown into the lions' den.

→ **Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.**

"The king said to him:

→ **Open the Bible to Daniel 6:16 (NIRV) and read.**

"You always serve your God faithfully. So may he save you!"

"Then Daniel was thrown into the dark den filled with lions!

→ **Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.**

"All night, the king paced his room, unable to sleep. Okay, audience, now I need you to change the sound you make because God did something amazing! This time, when our zookeeper presses the red button, I want you to try to make a sound that cats make when they're happy. Make a purring sound! You'll see why in a second! Now back to our story!

"As soon as the sun rose, the king hurried to the den and called out—

→ **Open the Bible to Daniel 6:20b (NIRV) and read.**

"Daniel! You serve the living God. You always serve him faithfully. So has he been able to save you from the lions?"

Volunteer presses button. Audience makes cat/lion purrs.

→ **Open the Bible to Daniel 6:21-22 (NIRV) and read.**

Daniel answered, "Your Majesty, may you live forever! My God sent his angel. And his angel shut the mouths of the lions."

Volunteer presses button. Audience makes cat/lion purrs.

"They haven't hurt me at all. That's because I haven't done anything wrong in God's sight. I've never done anything wrong to you either, Your Majesty."

"The king was so happy! He ordered the people who worked for him to lift Daniel out of the lions' den.

→ **Volunteer presses button. Audience makes cat/lion purrs.**

"And he sent a new decree to all the people of the kingdom.

→ **Open the Bible to Daniel 6:26a (NIRV) and read.**

"I order people in every part of my kingdom to respect and honor Daniel's God."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Daniel continued to serve Darius and found favor with the king. All his life, even living in a foreign land, Daniel was faithful to spend time with God and pray daily. He was so confident of God's presence with him that he could continue to honor God, even when he knew what awaited him when he did—a lions' den. One more time, this time let's give your loudest lion roars!

→ **Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.**

"Great job, [VOLUNTEER'S NAME]! Let's all give our excellent zookeeper a round of applause. And you guys in the audience did a great job too!

→ **Send the volunteer back to their seat.**

"Daniel was confident that God was always with him. And we can be confident of that too!

SLIDE → Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] "God is always with you. Say that with me."

→ **Host enters and joins in.**

STORYTELLER, HOST, and KIDS: [BOTTOM LINE] "God is always with you."

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "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 up here in this picture of Daniel and the lions' den. That's where we are in God's Big Story! (GESTURE TO IMAGE OF DANIEL.)

"This week we talked about Daniel! Sadly, Daniel was part of the group of people that was captured from the southern kingdom of Judah and taken to a foreign land. But even though God's people were taken from the Promised Land, God didn't give up on His promise! Because God would take care of this remnant. Many, many years later, God would make sure some of the people got to come back home to the Promised Land. And then many, many years after that, from this tiny remnant, God would send Jesus! And Jesus was the Savior who would rescue us all!

"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.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"This week we talked about Daniel!"

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: Throughout his life, Daniel made a habit of talking with God every day. Three times a day, he would stop what he was doing and pray. He would talk to his Friend. So when he faced being thrown to the lions, he had confidence that God was with him, just like God had been with him every other day.

"We can have the confidence that God is always with us too! When you make a habit of talking with God every day, it's easier to remember that God is with you no matter what you face.

"When you're worried about a big test, God is with you. When you've got the flu for a whole week, God is with you. When a kid is mean to you at recess, God is always with you!"

"Now, you may not always feel like God is with you, and that's totally normal. It helps to look back at the way that God has helped you through other difficult times. You can also read stories in the Bible about the way that God was with people like Abraham and Moses and David and Daniel. And how Jesus promised His followers He would always be with them.

"And don't forget, when you choose to follow Jesus, Jesus' very Spirit came to live inside you. The Holy Spirit gives us the same kind of confidence that Daniel had. Not confidence in ourselves, but confidence in God! The strongest One is with you—He's in you! You face everything with Him. So God is always with you! That's the kind of confidence that helped Daniel face the lions, and it's the same confidence God offers to you!"

"Let's pray and ask God to help us learn to live in the truth that He is always with us!"

③ Prayer

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Dear God, thank You so much for Daniel's story and the reminder of how important it is to make a habit of talking with You. Thank You that You are always with us in every single thing we face. Teach us to live with You as our closest Friend. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ 6 kid volunteers
- ☐ Safari hat
- ☐ Timer (or a smartphone or watch)
- ☐ Optional: 5 Lion-ear headbands

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- ☐ Optional: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" by The Tokens

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Countdown
- ☐ Theme Intro

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
- Optional: Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. Note: Some presentation software, such as ProPresenter, has a countdown clock built into the program that you can overlay on a still image.
- Place the safari hat and lion's-ear headbands (if using) on the stage.
- When choosing volunteers, make sure to select a "zookeeper" who is comfortable with trying to make the other kids move or laugh.
- Optional: Download "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" from your preferred music service.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ "Yes I Am" from Everything to Me
- ☐ "At the Top of My Lungs" from Live It Out!

Optional Videos

Available for purchase.

- ☐ "Yes I Am" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- ☐ "At the Top of My Lungs" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

Note: We've suggested worship songs 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, 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.

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

- 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

- Dance Moves Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- Visit the [Orange Store](#) for Music Scope and Cycle purchases. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Storyteller
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Tables (one to hold the Bible and one to hold the pushable button)
- ☐ Kid volunteer
- ☐ Safari hat (same one from Opener)
- ☐ Red, pushable button, like this: (<http://bit.ly/41iu2Vn>) (with the batteries removed)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room
- ☐ Optional: If you'd prefer to use more authentic sound effects for the Lion Roar and the Loud Contented Cat Purr, check out streaming sources like Apple Music or Spotify. Then simply have the sound effects person play the two sound effects when the "zookeeper" hits the red button.

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide

What You Need:

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PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

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- ☐ 2 kid volunteers
- ☐ "That's Good" sign on cardstock (printable)
- ☐ "That's Bad" sign on cardstock (printable)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Theme Transition to Virtue
- ☐ Virtue Transition to Theme

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)

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.

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 ("Yes I Am" from Everything to Me, "At the Top of My Lungs" from Live It Out!)
- Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: Built It Story Review (K-1st grade), What If? (2nd-3rd grade)
2. Application Activity: Stand Up! (K-1st grade), For Such a Time as This (2nd-3rd grade)
3. Memory Verse Activity: Isaiah 40:31 Crowns (K-1st grade), Built It! (2nd-3rd grade)
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



Today's Bible Story

Esther

Esther

Bottom Line

God can help you stand up for others.

Memory Verse

"Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."
Isaiah 40:31 (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

① Opener

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

HOST: Hey, everyone! I'm so glad that you're here with us today. All month, we're exploring what it means to build on a firm foundation with Bedrock: Building confidence in God, block by block. You've got to be on solid ground if you want to be able to stand tall and strong, as we'll see in today's story. And speaking of standing, are you all ready to play a game?

(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)

"Okay, I'm going to need everyone for this game! I'm going to say something, and if you agree with it, I want you to stand up. So if I say: 'I like pizza!'—then everyone who likes pizza will stand up.

"If you don't agree with something, that's okay! Just stay sitting down. Then I'll move on to the next statement. If you're standing up and you don't agree with the next thing I say, just sit down. Everybody ready to take a stand? Okay, here goes!

→ **Share some of the following statements—or create your own that are more unique to your environment. Make sure to include statements that will allow everyone to stand at least sometimes. (YOU COULD ALSO OFFER AN OPTION OF SIMPLY RAISING A HAND INSTEAD OF STANDING.)**

1. I like ketchup on French fries.
2. I like ketchup on green beans.
3. I like to wake up early in the morning.
4. My favorite color is yellow.
5. My favorite color is blue.
6. My favorite color is red.
7. I can do a cartwheel.
8. My favorite holiday is Christmas.
9. My birthday is in the summer.
10. I've eaten a s'more this fall.
11. I have a pet at home.
12. I would have a pet **(OR ANOTHER PET)** if my mom let me.
13. I can say something in a different language.
14. I have a brother or sister.
15. I like telling jokes.
16. I've written someone a letter and sent it in the actual mail.
17. I like salt and vinegar potato chips.
18. I like dark chocolate more than milk chocolate.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

19. I've played on a sports team.

20. I probably have more stuffed animals than anyone.

→ **Make sure everyone has had a chance to stand (OR RAISE THEIR HAND) a few times.**

"Wow! Way to take a stand. I feel like I know so much more about you all!"

"This week, our true story from the Bible is also about someone who took a stand for something much bigger. Our story is about a woman named Esther. She learned that God had put her exactly where she was to take a stand for her people—and she did!"

"But before we talk about our Bible Story today, let's praise and worship the God who put us where we are for this exact right time and then goes with us through everything we face!"

② Worship

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! It's so awesome that we love so many different things. But we can all still worship God together through music with our singing and our dancing. You can worship God quietly in your head and in your heart too ... but it's great to get to do it out loud together, right now."

"This first song is about how you are a child of a Father who loves you! It's called 'Yes I Am!' Let's sing it!"

AUDIO → "Yes I Am" / Track 1 from Everything to Me

Optional Video → "Yes I Am" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"Great worshipping! God created a world where good things like ice cream, hugs, puppies, and love exist! He is kind and good and trustworthy and faithful. God is so good! Let's keep singing to God about how much we love Him because He is so good. Let's sing it at the top of our lungs! Here we go!"

AUDIO → "At the Top of My Lungs" / track 5 from Live It Out!

Optional Video → "At the Top of My Lungs" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"Great job, everyone! God is so good, and He wants us to spread His love and goodness everywhere we go! But even though that's a big, big job, God promises that He will give us the strength to do it! That's what our Memory Verse this month promises. It's Isaiah 41:30. Let me read it out loud, and then you can repeat after me!"

SLIDE → Memory Verse

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength.
They will fly as high as eagles.
They will run and not get tired.
They will walk and not grow weak. —Isaiah 40:31

"Let's say it together!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Those who trust in the LORD"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Those who trust in the LORD"

WORSHIP LEADER: "will receive new strength."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "will receive new strength."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will fly as high as eagles."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will fly as high as eagles."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will run and not get tired."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will run and not get tired."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will walk and not grow weak."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will walk and not grow weak."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Isaiah 40:31!"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Isaiah 40:31!"

"So great! God will give us the strength to do everything that we are faced with. That's part of what our true story from the Bible is about this week. Let's go ahead and sit down and hear it!"

③ Bible Story

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ **Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit**

INTRODUCTION

→ **Place the chair on one side of the stage (FOR THE KING'S THRONE) and the table (FOR ESTHER'S TWO BANQUETS) on the other. Make sure the small table is also set on stage so the Storyteller can set their Bible on it and read from it. Put the box of props in a place that is easily accessible to the Storyteller as well.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

STORYTELLER: "Hey, friends! Today, we have a story that covers the ENTIRE book of Esther! **(HOLD UP BIBLE.)**

"But before we dive into Esther's story, where we'll learn that God has put us all at the exact right places and the exact right time, let me tell you about something amazing we are doing this year!

"We're going to go cover to cover through the Bible and learn the key stories!

"You see, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can get to know Him. He wants us to be His friends! So we're going to go through the entire Bible this year so we can get to know God!"

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: ""We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible to get to know Him! **(GESTURE TO SLIDE.)**

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"Each week, we'll look at a story from God's Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we've been in the Bible as we journey along. **(GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)**

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

"So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made 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! It was so sad.

"And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

"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. Many years later, Abraham's great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn't know about Joseph. He saw how many of God's people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

"God's people cried out to God for help. He answered! God brought His people out of Egypt into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"After some time living in the Promised Land, God's people wanted a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings **(AND ONE QUEEN)** followed. Sadly, the nation of God's people split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

"During this time, there were prophets in both kingdoms who spoke and taught on God's behalf. Many of the prophets delivered the same message from God: 'Come back to Me!'

"But many of the kings didn't listen. They turned their hearts away from God, and as a result, the northern kingdom of Israel was totally destroyed and never heard from again. The southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive by other nations. God's people were taken from the Promised Land! It was sad, but God was preserving a remnant mostly from the nation of Judah.

"After some time in captivity, God worked through a foreign king to allow His people to come home to the land of Judah, which is part of the Promised Land. Many of God's people came back home! But some stayed in foreign lands—like Esther and her family. But even there, God was still in charge, protecting His people and His promise to rescue us!

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

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "This week as we journey through the Bible, we're in the book of Esther. Esther's family had chosen not to go home to Judah and stayed in Susa, which was the capital of the Persian Empire.

"One of the Persian rulers was a proud king named Xerxes.

"Oh! This is where I'm gonna need some help. I have a very special costume box right here ...

→ **Gesture to the prop box.**

"And I'm gonna need one volunteer right now to help me tell the story. If you want to do a little acting, raise your hand!

→ **Choose one boy to come up on stage.**

"Okay, great! You're going to be King Xerxes. So you need a crown ... and a royal robe ... because you're the king ...

→ **Pull a crown and royal robe out of the costume box and put them on the boy.**

"You look very royal. Everyone else say: 'Hello, Your Majesty!'

→ **Pause as the kids respond.**

"Now, you should know that King Xerxes liked to par-TAY. Let's see your dance moves, King Xerxes.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

AUDIO → Upbeat party music

→ **Encourage the volunteer to do a few moves.**

"To show how rich he was, King Xerxes threw a party that lasted 180 days. That's nearly half of an entire year! And then he threw a SECOND party right after the first that lasted for seven more days. On the seventh day, King Xerxes decided he wanted to show off his queen, Vashti, to all his guests. But Vashti was like, 'Lemme think ... NO.' That did not go down well with King Xerxes, who said she could not be queen anymore. Yikes!

→ **Point out the chair to the kid who is playing King Xerxes.**

"Okay, King Xerxes, you can sit over here now on your pretend throne.

ESTHER CHOSEN AS QUEEN

STORYTELLER: "Through his own pride and arrogance, King Xerxes was now without a queen. So what did he do? He decided to hold a contest for the queen. That's also a terrible idea ... but Xerxes was king, and he could do what he wanted. Young women from all over the kingdom were gathered in the capital and given special care for one year before meeting the king.

"Now, I need another volunteer!

→ **Choose a girl to come up and be Esther. Give her a simple shawl to wear.**

"Everyone, meet Esther! Esther was one of the young women selected for the competition. She was a Jewish girl, one of God's people, living in exile under the care of her relative, Mordecai. Esther's parents had died, and even though Mordecai was her older cousin, he adopted her like she was his own daughter.

"Esther was taken to the palace, and while she was there, she didn't tell anyone she was Jewish, a member of God's people.

"But when she was taken to the king, he was so pleased with Esther that he picked her from among all the other women and made her queen!

(TO VOLUNTEER) "So now, you need a new outfit.

→ **Take the other royal robe and crown out of the prop box and exchange them with the shawl. Instruct "Queen Esther" to put on the robe and crown, and move to the side of the stage with the table.**

"Everyone, meet QUEEN Esther! Let's all say: 'Hail the Queen!'

→ **Join the kids as they say: "Hail the Queen!"**

HAMAN'S PLOT

STORYTELLER: "Now, remember Esther's cousin, Mordecai? He was an official, and he stayed near the palace gates.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"At this same time, Haman—one of King Xerxes's officials—had received a promotion. Let's get our Haman up here now!

→ **Select a boy to play Haman. Give him a ball cap (BACKWARD) and the fake, thick gold chain to wear.**

"Great. We've got Haman now! Everyone say: 'Hey, Haman!'"

"To honor Haman, the king commanded that all of the royal officials bow to Haman. But Esther's cousin Mordecai refused to bow. Haman was so angry that when he discovered Mordecai was Jewish, he decided to punish all the Jewish people! So Haman went to the king. This is what Haman told the king:

→ **Open the Bible to Esther 3:8-9 (NIRV) and read.**

Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "Certain people are scattered among the nations. They live in all the territories in your kingdom. They keep themselves separate from everyone else. Their practices are different from the practices of all other people. They don't obey your laws. It really isn't good for you to put up with them. If it pleases you, give the order to destroy them."

"Wow. Haman was not a great guy, either, was he? But King Xerxes did exactly what Haman asked. A decree was sent out that on a certain date, all the Jewish people were to be destroyed! Mordecai and other Jewish people throughout the kingdom wept and put on sackcloth—rough clothing people wore when they were sad.

"Mordecai heard what happened and put on rough clothes of mourning too. A messenger went back and forth between Esther and Mordecai. Through the messenger, Esther found out what was going on, and Mordecai told her that she should go ask the king for help! Well, Esther sent the messenger back with her response right away. See, she couldn't go before the king unless he asked for her! If anyone walked into the throne room without being asked, the king could have them killed!

"Unless ...

→ **Pull the golden scepter out of the prop box.**

"Unless the king decided to hold out his golden scepter toward them!

→ **Hand the scepter to the kid volunteer playing King Xerxes.**

"Okay, King Xerxes ... here is your golden scepter! Hold it up high!

"Now, Mordecai received Esther's message. Then he sent back this response.

→ **Open the Bible to Esther 4:13-14 (NIRV) and read.**

"You live in the king's palace. But don't think that just because you are there, you will be the only Jew who will escape. What if you don't say

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

anything at this time? Then help for the Jews will come from another place. But you and your family will die. Who knows? It's possible that you became queen for a time just like this."

"Wow. Those are some strong words. Mordecai was reminding Esther of an important truth. God had put her where she was to help! So she sent a strong message back to Mordecai:

→ **Open the Bible to Esther 4:16 (NIRV) and read.**

"Go. Gather together all the Jews who are in Susa. And fast for my benefit. Don't eat or drink anything for three days. Don't do it night or day. I and my attendants will fast just as you do. Then I'll go to the king. I'll do it even though it's against the law. And if I have to die, I'll die."

ESTHER'S COURAGE

STORYTELLER: "Esther was taking a huge risk! But she also knew that God had placed her in this special position for this exact time. For three days, Esther and the other Jewish people went without food to prepare. Then ... Esther went to the king.

→ **Direct the volunteer actors.**

"Okay, Esther, head over to the king.

"Knowing it could be the last thing she ever did ... Esther stepped into the inner courtyard of the palace in front of the king's hall. The king saw Queen Esther.

"This was it! The king could choose to send Esther away and have her killed. Or he could lower his scepter and allow her to live! What do you think will happen?

→ **Pause and get some responses from the audience.**

"Okay, King Xerxes ... lower that scepter! Whew! Esther was safe.

→ **Open the Bible to Esther 5:3-4 (NIRV) and read.**

The king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What do you want? I'll give it to you. I'll even give you up to half of my kingdom."

Esther replied, "King Xerxes, if it pleases you, come to a feast today. I've prepared it for you. Please have Haman come with you."

"Wait, what? After all that, Esther just gave the king a dinner invitation? See, Esther knew that she needed to work up to the big ask. Hand the volunteer playing Esther three plates and some play food from the prop box.

"Okay, Esther, head back over to the table and set up your banquet. You can bet Haman was pretty excited to get a dinner invite along with the king. So that evening, the two of them went to Esther's banquet.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ **Direct the kids playing King Xerxes and Haman over to Esther's table.**

"Let's see you scarf up some of that yummy food! King Xerxes was so pleased that he offered to give Queen Esther anything up to half of his kingdom. Wowzers! But instead of asking to save her people yet, Esther invited the king and Haman to ANOTHER banquet the next night. And then, finally, at that second banquet, she made her request.

→ **Open the Bible to Esther 7:3-4a, 5-6 (NIRV) and read.**

Then Queen Esther answered, "Your Majesty, I hope you will be pleased to let me live. That's what I want. Please spare my people. That's my appeal to you. My people and I have been sold to be destroyed. ..."

King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is the man who has dared to do such a thing? And where is he?"

Esther said, "The man hates us! He's our enemy! He's this evil Haman!" "Whoa. Haman just got called out big time. Kids, can you gasp? Pause as the kids gasp. Gasp yourself.

→ **(TO VOLUNTEER PLAYING HAMAN) "You can leave the banquet and go stand over there.**

"Long story short, King Xerxes sent a new decree allowing the Jewish people, God's people, to defend themselves. And Haman ... well, the king ordered that he be put to death.

"Okay, thank you, volunteers, for helping us tell our story today! Let's get our fantastic volunteers a big round of applause as they return to their seats!"

→ **Lead applause for the volunteers, take their costumes and props, and send them back to their seats.**

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Daniel continued to serve Darius and found favor with the king. All his life, even living in a foreign land, Daniel was faithful to spend time with God and pray daily. He was so confident of God's presence with him that he could continue to honor God, even when he knew what awaited him when he did—a lions' den. One more time, this time let's give your loudest lion roars!

→ **Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.**

"Great job, [VOLUNTEER'S NAME]! Let's all give our excellent zookeeper a round of applause. And you guys in the audience did a great job too!

→ **Send the volunteer back to their seat.**

"Daniel was confident that God was always with him. And we can be confident of that too!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE → Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] "God is always with you. Say that with me."

→ **Host enters and joins in.**

STORYTELLER, HOST, and KIDS: **[BOTTOM LINE]** "God is always with you."

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "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 up here in this picture of Daniel and the lions' den.

That's where we are in God's Big Story! **(GESTURE TO IMAGE OF DANIEL.)**

"This week we talked about Daniel! Sadly, Daniel was part of the group of people that was captured from the southern kingdom of Judah and taken to a foreign land. But even though God's people were taken from the Promised Land, God didn't give up on His promise! Because God would take care of this remnant. Many, many years later, God would make sure some of the people got to come back home to the Promised Land. And then many, many years after that, from this tiny remnant, God would send Jesus! And Jesus was the Savior who would rescue us all!

"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 Daniel!"

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: Throughout his life, Daniel made a habit of talking with God every day. Three times a day, he would stop what he was doing and pray. He would talk to his Friend. So when he faced being thrown to the lions, he had confidence that God was with him, just like God had been with him every other day.

"We can have the confidence that God is always with us too! When you make a habit of talking with God every day, it's easier to remember that God is with you no matter what you face.

"When you're worried about a big test, God is with you. When you've got the flu for a whole week, God is with you. When a kid is mean to you at recess, God is always with you!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Now, you may not always feel like God is with you, and that's totally normal. It helps to look back at the way that God has helped you through other difficult times. You can also read stories in the Bible about the way that God was with people like Abraham and Moses and David and Daniel. And how Jesus promised His followers He would always be with them.

"And don't forget, when you choose to follow Jesus, Jesus' very Spirit came to live inside you. The Holy Spirit gives us the same kind of confidence that Daniel had. Not confidence in ourselves, but confidence in God! The strongest One is with you—He's in you! You face everything with Him. So God is always with you! That's the kind of confidence that helped Daniel face the lions, and it's the same confidence God offers to you!

"Let's pray and ask God to help us learn to live in the truth that He is always with us!"

③ Prayer

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Dear God, thank You so much for the story of Esther and how she stood up for others. Please help us see when people in our lives need us to stand up for them, and help us know what to do. We need Your help and Your strength to show the world Your goodness and love. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host

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:

- 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.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ "Yes I Am" from Everything to Me
- ☐ "At the Top of My Lungs" from Live It Out!

Optional Videos

Available for purchase.

- ☐ "Yes I Am" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- ☐ "At the Top of My Lungs" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

Note: We've suggested worship songs 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, 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.

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

- 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

- Dance Moves Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- Visit the [Orange Store](#) for Music Scope and Cycle purchases. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Storyteller
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Small table (to hold Bible)
- ☐ 3 kid volunteers (2 boys and one girl)
- ☐ Prop box, containing:
 - 2 kid-size crowns
 - 2 kid-size royal robes
 - Simple shawl
 - Ball cap
 - Fake, thick gold chain
 - Golden scepter/stick
 - 3 plates
 - Play food
- ☐ Chair
- ☐ Table (for the two banquets Esther holds)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat party music to play at King Xerxes' party
- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide

What You Need:

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 on its own as a standalone, without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer."

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 curriculum. The timeline image is listed as a slide, but can be printed. A [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the sound effects from the Large Group scripts folder and have them ready to use.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Place a chair on one side of the stage and a small table on the other.
- Prepare a prop box and place all the costumes and props inside.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Storyteller
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ 2 kid volunteers
- ☐ "That's Good" sign on cardstock (printable)
- ☐ "That's Bad" sign on cardstock (printable)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Theme Transition to Virtue
- ☐ Virtue Transition to Theme

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)

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.

WEEK

FIVE

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 ("Yes I Am" from Everything to Me, "I Can Do All Things" from At the Top of My Lungs)
- Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: Build and Review (K-1st grade), Built to Last (2nd-3rd grade)
2. Application Activity: Big Things! (K-1st grade), The Blueprint (2nd-3rd grade)
3. Memory Verse Activity: Up in the Air Verse (K-1st grade), Verse Roll (2nd-3rd grade)
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



Today's Bible Story

Nehemiah

Nehemiah 1-4, 6:1-15

Bottom Line

God can help you do big things.

Memory Verse

"Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."

Isaiah 40:31 (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

① Opener

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

HOST: “Hey, there! I’m so glad that each one of you is here today. I love getting to spend time with you. All month, we’ve been digging into our theme of Bedrock: Building Confidence in God Block by Block. And today we’re going to meet someone who took that confidence in God and built on it ... literally! He knew God was with him, so he was able to build something big!

“So to warm us up, I think we should play a building game. It’ll fit right into our Bible Story today! Who wants to play?

→ **Choose 6 volunteers and bring them up on stage. Divide them into three teams of two.**

“All right. We’ve got our teams. But we still need our building material. And it looks like ... this!

→ **Pull out stacks of large, plastic cups. They can all be red, but it would also be fun to have a different color for each of the three teams.**

“Each team will get 50 **[OR YOUR NUMBER OF CHOICE]** cups. When I say, ‘stack it up,’ you will have ONE minute to see which team can build the very tallest tower. You can stack the cups end to end or make a large pyramid. You can build them up in any other way you want. But when we hit one minute, that top cup has to hold for at least a count of five!

“Are all of the teams ready? Do you understand the challenge? **(MAKE SURE EACH TEAM HAS WHAT THEY NEED.)**

“Then ... **STACK IT UP!**

AUDIO → Upbeat Music

Optional Video → One-Minute Countdown

→ **Start the timer or the countdown. When the timer reaches zero, count to five out loud and announce the winner. The winner will have the tallest structure that also holds the top cup steady for a count of five!**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Okay, those were some amazing towers! Let's have a round of applause for all of our builders.

→ **Lead the kids in a round of applause.**

"You can all go back to your seats now.

→ **If time allows, play a second round with new volunteers.**

"It's clear that plastic cups are not always trustworthy for building! But there is something we can always trust in. **SOMEONE**. It's God! He goes with us through every single thing.

"In our true story from the Bible today, we'll learn how someone's trust in God helped them do something really big! Before we dive into our true story from the Bible today, let's worship the God who goes with us everywhere! On your feet, everyone!"

② Worship

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! It's so great to worship with you through song. God loves you so, so much, and it's so fun to sing about that!

"You are a child of a Father who loves you! You are so loved! Let's sing about that right now in our song: 'Yes I Am!'

AUDIO → "Yes I Am" / Track 1 from Everything to Me

Optional Video → "Yes I Am" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"This next song we're going to sing is about a truth that's straight from the Bible! The apostle Paul, who was a fellow Jesus-follower just like us, had faced some good times and some bad times. And God had given him the ability to get through both with Jesus' strength. You can do all things in your life too, because Jesus gives you strength. Let's sing about that!

AUDIO → "I Can Do All Things" / track 5 from At the Top of My Lungs

Optional Video → "I Can Do All Things" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"You can do all things through Christ who gives you strength! God loves you so much that He will give you the strength to do anything He asks you to do!

"That's exactly what God promises in our Memory Verse this month. It's Isaiah 40:31.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Let me read it out loud, and then you can repeat after me!"

SLIDE → Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Those who trust in the LORD
will receive new strength.
They will fly as high as eagles.
They will run and not get tired.
They will walk and not grow weak. —Isaiah 40:31

"Let's say it together!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Those who trust in the LORD"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Those who trust in the LORD"

WORSHIP LEADER: "will receive new strength."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "will receive new strength."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will fly as high as eagles."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will fly as high as eagles."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will run and not get tired."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will run and not get tired."

WORSHIP LEADER: "They will walk and not grow weak."

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will walk and not grow weak."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Isaiah 40:31!"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Isaiah 40:31!"

"The man in our true story from the Bible today experienced this truth firsthand. He saw how God gave him strength to do a big, big thing—his name was Nehemiah, and he trusted God to help him build an entire wall! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

③ Bible Story

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: “Hey friends, today we’ve got an epic story from the book of Nehemiah! **(HOLD UP BIBLE.)**”

“All month long, we’ve been talking about building confidence in God, and Nehemiah actually took that confidence in God and led the people to build an entire wall!

“But before we get into our true story from the Bible, let me tell you about something amazing we’re doing this year! We’re going to go through the entire story of the Bible this year from cover to cover!

“You see, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so that we can get to know Him! So as we learn about the stories in the Bible, hopefully we will learn about Him!

GOD’S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: “We’re going to go through God’s Big Story in the Bible to get to know Him! **(GESTURE TO SLIDE.)**”

SLIDE → God’s Big Story

“Each week, we’ll look at a story from God’s Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we’ve been in the Bible as we journey along. **(GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)**”

“Let me bring you up to speed on where we’ve been in God’s Big Story so far!

“So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made 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! It was so sad.

“And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

“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. Many years later, Abraham’s great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn’t know about Joseph. He saw how many of God’s people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"God's people cried out to God for help. He answered! God brought His people out of Egypt into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land!

"After some time living in the Promised Land, God's people wanted a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings **(AND ONE QUEEN)** followed. Sadly, the nation of God's people split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

"During this time, there were prophets in both kingdoms who spoke and taught on God's behalf. Many of the prophets delivered the same message from God: 'Come back to Me!'

"But many of the kings didn't listen. They turned their hearts away from God, and as a result, the northern kingdom of Israel was totally destroyed and never heard from again. The southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive by other nations. God's people were taken from the Promised Land! It was sad, but God was preserving a remnant, mostly from the nation of Judah.

"After some time in captivity, God worked through a foreign king to allow His people to come home to the land of Judah, which is part of the Promised Land. Many of God's people came back home! But some stayed in foreign lands—like Esther's family, and a man named Nehemiah. The people who did come home came back to find their homeland had been destroyed. They had to rebuild everything.

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

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Today we're going right through the Bible to Nehemiah's story.

"As we do, let me tell you a little backstory before we get started!

"When God's people were captured and taken to live in foreign lands, their homeland was destroyed. Some years later, God worked in the heart of the Persian king Cyrus—he let God's people come back home! Some of God's people stayed in foreign lands, but the ones who did come home found their homeland was a mess!

"One of God's people who chose to stay in a foreign land was a man named Nehemiah. He held an important position as cupbearer to the current king of Persia, Artaxerxes. Nehemiah was a trusted servant who made sure no one poisoned the king's drink."

NEHEMIAH'S REQUEST

STORYTELLER: "Even though Nehemiah lived about a thousand miles from Jerusalem, he received news one day from his brother and some others, who had just returned from Jerusalem. They said:

→ **Open the Bible to Nehemiah 1:3 (NIRV) and read.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Some of the people who returned are still alive. They are back in the land of Judah. But they are having a hard time. They are ashamed. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down. Its gates have been burned with fire."

"Okay, I think we should see what the wall might have looked like. Can I get a couple of builders up here to help assess the situation? If you want to volunteer, raise your hand!"

- **Choose two volunteers from the kids with their hands raised. Bring the kids up on stage, and bring out the garbage bags full of cardboard bricks.**
- **Optional: Give the builders construction hats.**

"Great! **(OPTIONAL: "HERE ARE THESE HATS! NEHEMIAH DIDN'T HAVE HATS LIKE THIS. BUT, YOU KNOW, SAFETY!")** Before we build, we need to see what the wall looks like! Can you help me dump out all these bags?"

- **With the help of the volunteers, empty out all the bricks. Make sure the bricks are scattered across the stage.**

"Wow! Thank you, builders. You can wait right over here until it's time to start building."

- **Look at bricks.**

"What a mess. I would not want to live in a place that looked like this. And Nehemiah felt the same. The news was devastating to him. Without a strong wall, God's people were open to enemy attack. For days, Nehemiah wept and cried out to God. He prayed:

- **Open the Bible to Nehemiah 1:5-6 (NIRV) and read.**

"LORD, you are the God of heaven. You are a great and wonderful God. You keep the covenant you made with those who love you and obey your commandments. You show them your love. Please pay careful attention to my prayer. See how your people are suffering."

"Nehemiah reminded God how, long ago, God had promised to bring His people back home if they were faithful. Nehemiah believed that God wanted him to help—but Nehemiah couldn't travel to his homeland without permission from the king. So Nehemiah asked God to give him favor.

"The next time Nehemiah went to serve the king, he allowed himself to show the sadness he was feeling.

"The king was shocked because he had never seen Nehemiah looking sad. So Nehemiah explained that his hometown was in big trouble. Then this happened:

- **Open the Bible to Nehemiah 2:4-5 (NIRV) and read.**

The king said to me, "What do you want?"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

I prayed to the God of heaven. Then I answered the king, “Are you pleased with me, King Artaxerxes? If it pleases you, send me to Judah. Let me go to the city of Jerusalem. That’s where my people are buried. I want to rebuild it.”

“It was a bold move! But Nehemiah had prayed, and God gave him exactly what he needed. God gave Nehemiah favor with King Artaxerxes!

THE BUILDING BEGINS

STORYTELLER: “In fact, the king sent army officers and horses with Nehemiah, and letters to local governors so that Nehemiah would have all the supplies he needed.

“The journey was epic, lasting for months. When Nehemiah finally arrived in Jerusalem, he didn’t explain his mission right away. After three days in the city, Nehemiah went out at night to inspect the walls.

(TO VOLUNTEERS) “Okay, builders, I want to see you walk around our broken-down wall and inspect it like Nehemiah.

→ **Gesture for the volunteers to walk around the cardboard bricks. As they do, continue the story.**

“It was clear to Nehemiah that the walls were completely ruined. Huge stones lay tumbled everywhere. All the gates had been burned up. It was clear this was an EPIC job.

(TO VOLUNTEERS) “Excellent inspection. You can gather over here, now.

→ **Direct the kid volunteers to stand over to the side and stop their inspection.**

“Nehemiah called together the people. He said:

→ **Open the Bible to Nehemiah 2:17-18 (NIRV) and read.**

“You can see the trouble we’re in. Jerusalem has been destroyed. Fire has burned up its gates. Come on. Let’s rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Then people won’t be ashamed anymore.” I also told them how my gracious God was helping me. And I told them what the king had said to me.

They replied, “Let’s start rebuilding.” So they began that good work. Call the volunteers over to you and say to them:

“It’s time to get started, builders! I want you to go ahead and build up this wall. Make the wall as strong as you can!

→ **Continue telling the story as volunteers build**

“Now, you’ve got to understand—even though God’s people were eager to get to work, none of them were certified expert wall builders. They were priests and goldsmiths and perfume makers and merchants and nobles.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"But each family or group of workers took a different part of the wall or gates to repair. Men and women together, they worked with every bit of strength God gave them. Let's tell our builders, 'Keep up the good work!' Ready?"

STORYTELLER and KIDS: "Keep up the good work!"

STORYTELLER: "But not everyone was encouraging. Two of the enemies of God's people, men named Sanballat and Tobiah, kept mocking Nehemiah and God's people. Sanballat said:

→ **Open the Bible to Nehemiah 4:2b-3 (NIRV) and read.**

"The stones from their city wall and buildings are piled up like trash. And everything has been badly burned. Can they use those stones to rebuild everything again?"

Tobiah from Ammon was at Sanballat's side. He said, "What are they building? They're putting up a stone wall. But suppose a fox climbs on top of it. Even that will break it down!"

"Yikes! Builders, would that make you stop working?"

→ **Get a response from the volunteers.**

"I didn't think so. And Nehemiah refused to be intimidated too! He needed help from his enemies, so he cried out to God. God protected His people.

"In a short time, the wall had reached half its height!"

→ **Check out the wall.**

"We're definitely getting there. Good job, builders! Let's give them a thumbs-up and say, 'Keep up the good work!' Ready?"

STORYTELLER and KIDS: "Keep up the good work!"

THE WALL IS FINISHED

STORYTELLER: "Well, Sanballat and Tobiah were outraged and made a plot to attack the city. But Nehemiah continued to place his confidence in God, and he reminded the people to do the same. He said:

→ **Open the Bible to Nehemiah 4:14b (NIRV) and read.**

"Don't be afraid of your enemies. Remember the Lord. He is great and powerful. So fight for your families. Fight for your sons and daughters. Fight for your wives and homes."

"Nehemiah directed half the people to stand guard while the others worked on the wall.

(TO VOLUNTEERS) "Okay, I need one of you to stop working and stand guard. The other volunteer can keep working on the wall!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Nehemiah told the people to listen for the sound of the trumpet, in case there was trouble, and run to that place. He knew that God would fight for them! Even with all the threats against them, Nehemiah and the people did not slow their pace. Every day, they worked on the wall from the break of dawn until night fell and the stars came out.

"And in 52 days ... less than two months ... the entire wall of Jerusalem was finished!

→ **Treat the wall as finished, and speak to the builders.**

"Excellent job, builders. Come on out and stand beside your wall! Let's give our builders a giant round of applause!

→ **Lead applause and send the volunteers back to their seats.**

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem had seemed like a nearly impossible job. But Nehemiah had made a habit of talking to God. Whenever he needed help, he asked God! When Nehemiah went before the king to ask permission to go rebuild the walls, Nehemiah prayed. And God answered! When Nehemiah needed help with his enemies, he prayed. And God answered!

"God helped him with every single step of the building of the wall, so Nehemiah was able to do a big thing!

"God is always ready to help us do what He calls us to do too! Let's say our Bottom Line together.

SLIDE → Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] "God can help you do big things. Say that with me."

→ **Host enters and joins in.**

STORYTELLER, HOST, and KIDS: **[BOTTOM LINE]** "God can help you do big things."

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "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 up here on the path past the picture of Daniel, but before the birth of Jesus. We're on the path of God's Big Story, just traveling along! **(GESTURE TO IMAGE OF GOD'S BIG STORY.)**

"This week, we looked at the story of Nehemiah! God had worked in a foreign king's heart to allow some of God's people to go back to Judah, which was part of the Promised Land. But everything was in ruins. When

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem's walls were broken down, God put it on his heart to go to Judah and oversee the rebuilding—and he did. God would use those walls to protect the people of Judah, from whom Jesus would come! And Jesus would rescue us all!

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

SLIDE → Week 5 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 Nehemiah!"

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "So what can we take away from Nehemiah's story? Well, Nehemiah wasn't a builder. And he was living nearly a thousand miles from his homeland. But when God gave him a vision to repair the wall of Jerusalem, Nehemiah trusted that God would help him carry it out. And God helped Nehemiah do something incredible.

"God can help you do big things too! You can start where Nehemiah did: by talking with God and asking Him for every single thing you need. If you need courage, ask Him for it! If you need to know what to do, ask Him! If you need physical supplies to get the job done, ask Him! Whatever you need—ask Him!

"Then, like Nehemiah, trust that God will provide you with everything you need and keep working.

"Perhaps you've got a huge class project and no idea where to start. Maybe you have to start at a new school and make friends all over again. Or it might just be that your mom tells you to clean your room, and you can't even see the floor right now!

"Or maybe you're facing something even bigger and harder, and you have no idea how to navigate it. You're not even sure what the next step is.

"Ask God for every little thing you need! You never have to do something big on your own. Let's spend some time talking to God about that right now."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Prayer

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Dear God, thank You so much for the incredible story of Nehemiah. Help us to come to You first for help, any time we face something big. Help us to trust that You are always with us and You will give us everything that we need to do the things You call us to. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ 6 kid volunteers
- ☐ 100-150 large plastic cups (ideally in three different colors)
- ☐ Timer (or smartphone or watch)
- ☐ Optional: one large or three small tables

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:

- 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.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.

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

- Split the cups into an equal number for each of three teams of two volunteers.
- Place the cups in three piles on stage.
- Optional: Have the kids build on tables.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ "Yes I Am" from Everything to Me
- ☐ "I Can Do All Things" from At the Top of My Lungs

Optional Videos

Available for purchase.

- ☐ "Yes I Am" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- ☐ "I Can Do All Things" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

Note: We've suggested worship songs 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, 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.

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

- 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

- Dance Moves Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- Visit the [Orange Store](#) for Music Scope and Cycle purchases. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Storyteller
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ 2 kid volunteers
- ☐ Several garbage bags full of cardboard bricks (or other building supplies. See "What You Do")
- ☐ Optional: 2 construction hats

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide

What You Need:

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 on its own as a standalone, without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer."

Optional for God's Big Story

- ☐ Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- ☐ God's Big Story Slide
- ☐ Week 5 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 curriculum. The timeline image is listed as a slide, but can be printed. A [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Choose building blocks for the wall-building activity during the Bible Story. Large cardboard bricks or foam blocks are recommended, but you could use anything that stacks effectively.
- The two kid volunteers should be able to build up the wall in approximately the amount of time it takes to tell that part of the story. You may wish to time yourself building in advance so you can decide how many blocks you will need.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Storyteller
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ 2 kid volunteers
- ☐ "That's Good" sign on cardstock (printable)
- ☐ "That's Bad" sign on cardstock (printable)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

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Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Theme Transition to Virtue
- ☐ Virtue Transition to Theme

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)

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.