

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 about God's Big Story are included as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

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

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:16-45

Conversation Starter

What seems impossible to you?

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 Welcome

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

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everyone! Welcome to Bedrock, where we're building confidence in God that lasts—block by block. I'm so glad you're here, because today we're tackling one of life's biggest questions: What do you do when something feels absolutely impossible?"

"But first, let's warm up our brains and imaginations with a game that's ... well, pretty much impossible! It's called Would You Rather: Impossible Edition. I'm going to call out some wild choices—each one totally silly and totally impossible—and you'll have to decide which you'd pick, even if both options sound crazy.

"When I call out both options, I'll point to a side that corresponds with that option. You move to the side of the room that matches your answer! Ready? Let's get started!

One at a time, read each of the following ten scenarios aloud, direct the kids to the corresponding sides of your Large Group space (**POINT TO A SIDE FOR EACH OPTION**), and react to their responses.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

Would You Rather Scenarios:

- Would you rather ... try to eat a mountain-sized ice cream sundae in one day OR drink a swimming pool full of lemonade in one hour?
- Would you rather ... build a house out of spaghetti noodles OR out of marshmallows?
- Would you rather ... have to hop to school every day for a year OR only be able to walk backwards for a month?
- Would you rather ... have shoes made of jelly OR gloves made of pizza?
- Would you rather ... try to read a 10,000-page book in one night while bouncing on a trampoline OR write a 1,000-word essay while bouncing on a trampoline?
- Would you rather ... live in a treehouse 100 stories high OR a basement 50 stories underground?
- Would you rather ... only be able to eat food that's blue OR only wear clothes that are yellow for a year?
- Would you rather ... try to swim across a giant pool of JELL-O® OR roll down a hill made of popcorn?
- Would you rather ... balance a stack of 50 books on your head for a day OR wear a hat made of live chickens for a whole afternoon?
- Would you rather ... try to brush your teeth using spaghetti noodles for a week OR have to comb your hair with a fork forever?

→ **React to wild answers, and ask a few kids to explain their choices.**

"You all are hilarious—and honestly, I think some of you would actually try these impossible things! But whether you'd pick the jelly shoes or the chicken hat, every choice we just saw is basically impossible. That's what makes them funny. But in real life, sometimes things can feel just as impossible—even if they aren't quite this weird.

"So, what do we do when we come up against something that really feels impossible? That's what we're diving into today. But before we get there, let's get ready for worship—because God is with us even when we face impossible things. Everyone up on your feet! Let's worship God together!"

② Worship

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! It's time to worship. I don't know about you, but sometimes life feels impossible—like there's no way to get through the challenges in front of us. But here's the thing: we don't have to do it alone. God is right there with us, in us, giving us strength when we need it most.

"Worship through music is our chance to remind our hearts just how big God is. So let's sing out—knowing that with God, even impossible things can become possible.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Our first song today is called 'Yes I Am.' It's all about who God says we are, and how we can have confidence because of Him. We are a child of the Father who can do the impossible! Let's sing together!"

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

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

WORSHIP LEADER: ""Awesome singing! Let's keep it going. Our next song is called 'I Can Do All Things'—which is the truth straight from God's Word. God helps us with all things, and since He is the strongest One of all, we can do big things with Him!"

"Let's sing this out!"

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: "I love hearing all of your voices and seeing you praise God together."

"Before you sit down, let's start to work on locking this month's Memory Verse in our hearts. This month, it's Isaiah 40:31! I'll read it out loud, and then we can say it together!"

SLIDE → Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "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 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

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

"Remember: God's strength is greater than any challenge you'll ever face. You can always trust Him, no matter what."

"Let's sit down and get ready for what's next—we're going to look at the story of one of the most intense stories in the Bible today."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Bible Story (Communicator Script)

SLIDE → Theme Background

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

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “You know, today we’ve already laughed at some impossible ideas. But sometimes, life really does feel impossible—and not in a funny way. To kick things off, I need a volunteer who’s feeling brave.”

TENSION

→ **Select a volunteer, hand them 10 pencils to balance on one finger—it’s a silly but truly impossible challenge.**

“Here’s your challenge: You have one minute to balance every single one of these pencils on just one finger. Do you think you can do it?”

“Yeah, that’s pretty tough, isn’t it?!”

→ **Use the timer or stopwatch, and let the kid attempt to balance the pencils on their finger.**

“Wow! That was a great attempt! That’s more than I could have gotten! You can go ahead and take a seat. Sometimes, no matter how hard you try, you hit a wall. There are real limits to what we can do on our own. And it can be discouraging, embarrassing, or just plain frustrating when you realize something’s actually impossible.

“In the Bible, there are a ton of moments that looked impossible—people trapped, scared, running out of hope. Today, we’re looking at one of the wildest ones. God told His prophet Elijah to do something that everyone else thought was totally, completely impossible.

“Let’s see what happened when Elijah ran up against the impossible—and how God’s answer changed everything.

“But before we dive into one of the most incredible stories in the Bible, let me tell you about something amazing we’re doing this year! We’re going to go through the key stories of the Bible, so we’ll know the full story of the Bible from cover to cover!

“Why are we doing that? Is it because we want to become really knowledgeable about the Bible? Not quite! A key reason God gave us the Bible is so we could get to know Him. If God didn’t tell us who He is, we’d have no idea! He could’ve just remained a mystery. But He gave us the Bible. So as we go through the Bible this year, we’ll get to know God!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

COMMUNICATOR: "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.

"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!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR:

- Put about a five-foot line of red tape across the stage or room parallel to the back. Leave room for five more tape lines that will be parallel in front of it. Gesture for the group to notice the red tape line

COMMUNICATOR: "So let's set the scene of the impossible situation God led Elijah to create.

"Before that happened, let's envision what happened during the years prior.

"Imagine waking up every day and seeing nothing but cracked dirt and empty fields. For more than three years—over a thousand days—there wasn't a single drop of rain in the whole nation of Israel. Wells dried up. Rivers shrank to dry crustiness. Crops died in the fields, and every family had to ration what little food they had left. The land itself was groaning for relief.

"King Ahab, who was supposed to lead the people in God's ways, had led the nation in an evil direction—turning the nation to worship false gods, including Baal. Baal was supposed to be the storm god, but God is really in control of the weather. So to make a mockery of Baal, God stopped the rain. Elijah told King Ahab what God was going to do. Even though the people worshipped Baal to get it to rain, nothing happened. Nothing. It was silent, empty, desperate.

- Invite a volunteer to the red tape line, ask them to look out at the group.

"Picture yourself on that dry ground. Your family is worried. Your little brother or sister asks for water, but you have nothing to give. The sky is empty. If you were there, how would you feel? Would you be angry at God? Would you start to lose hope?

- Invite responses.

"This boundary—the first red tape line—is where the impossible begins. It's where people start asking: 'Where is God? Has He forgotten us?' If you've ever felt that way, you're not alone. That's where Elijah stepped in, trusting God, even when it made him the enemy of a desperate king and a hopeless nation.

"Thank you, [KID'S NAME]. You can return to your seat.

- Step a few feet ahead of the red tape line to a new spot, unroll, and place the second 5-foot red tape line parallel to the first.

"When the land was at its lowest, and people were losing hope, God spoke to Elijah again. He said:

- Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:1 (NIV) and read.
- "Go. Speak to Ahab. Then I will send rain on the land."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Can you imagine being Elijah in that moment? For years, Ahab had blamed Elijah for the drought, calling him a troublemaker. Ahab was angry, powerful, and dangerous.

→ **Invite a new volunteer to the next tape line. Instruct the volunteer to stand with their toes to the tape.**

"Crossing this line meant risking everything. It's one thing to trust God alone in the wilderness; it's another to stand face-to-face with a king who sees you as the enemy. But Elijah went anyway, because he believed God. He believed that God is good and worthy of his trust. So Elijah went—even when it put him in the path of someone who wanted him gone.

"Elijah's confidence and trust in God didn't come out of nowhere. He had built it, block by block, through days and days of seeing God's faithfulness. For days at the beginning of the famine, God brought Elijah food through ravens. Every time the ravens arrived, Elijah saw, 'God takes care of me. God takes care of me. God takes care of me.' And after the ravens, God provided Elijah food through a widow's jar of flour and a jug of oil that never ran out. Every day that Elijah ate bread, he learned, 'God is faithful. God is faithful. God is faithful.'

"Over years and years of moments where God showed His character in tough times—that He is worthy of love and obedience—Elijah learned to trust God. Bit by bit and block by block, Elijah learned he could be confident in God.

"Now, that confidence would be tested in front of everyone.

→ **Turn to the volunteer and ask:**

"Would you have the courage to step up to someone who's blamed you for all their problems? To speak the truth, even when it might cost you everything? Sometimes, the hardest line to cross is the one that puts us at risk of being misunderstood, blamed, or rejected. **(PAUSE. LET THE GROUP REFLECT.)**

"But Elijah didn't back down. He crossed that line, trusting that God would be with him the entire way.

"Thank you, **[KID'S NAME]**. You can return to your seat.

→ **Step a few feet ahead of the red tape line to a new spot, unroll, and place the third 5-foot red tape line parallel to the first and second. Double this third line to make it noticeably wider than the previous lines.**

"Because Elijah listened and obeyed, he found himself at the center of the most public, high-pressure moment of his life: a showdown on Mount Carmel. Listen to what Elijah told Ahab:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:18-19 (NirV) and read.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"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."

"Ahab did what Elijah asked. So many people showed up on Mount Carmel—a lot of people from the kingdom, and 450 prophets of Baal are mentioned.

"That was a crowd of hundreds, maybe thousands, all waiting to see who was right.

→ **Invite a volunteer to stand at the double-wide boundary/ tape line.**

"This line isn't just about doing something hard in private. It's about standing up for what's true, when it feels like everyone else is on the other side. Elijah was one man against hundreds, maybe thousands. The crowd was silent, stuck in the middle, watching. The prophets of Baal were loud and confident. And there was Elijah, standing at the edge of what looked impossible.

"Have you ever been the only one standing up for what's right? Maybe you've felt outnumbered or alone. That's this line. It's the moment when faith gets risky, when you wonder if anyone will stand with you.

→ **Turn to the volunteer and ask:**

"Would you cross this line, knowing every eye is on you? That's what Elijah did. He stepped across, trusting that God was stronger than the crowd's opinion.

"Thank you, [KID'S NAME]. You can return to your seat.

→ **Step forward a few feet ahead of the thick red tape line to a new spot, unrolling and placing the fourth red tape line parallel to the first three. Triple it to make it thicker than the previous ones. (This line will also contain the pretend altar to God.)**

"Elijah set the terms for the showdown. He said this:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Kings 18:23-24 (NIV) and read.**

"Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves. Let 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."

"The prophets of Baal went first, yelling and dancing, begging their god for hours. Nothing happened. Not a spark. The crowd waited, watching. The silence was heavy.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ **Invite a volunteer to stand at the thickest tape line.**

"You're going to do something a little different, [KID'S NAME]. As you stand here, I want you to mime like you're Elijah.

"When it was Elijah's turn, he rebuilt the altar to God. It had been torn down. He built it with twelve strong stones—one for each tribe of Israel. Then he dug a deep ditch around it. And then he did something wild. Elijah called for water—precious, rare water during a drought. Four large jars full. The people watched as other people poured the water all over the altar, the wood, the sacrifice, and filled a trench around it. They poured those four jars of water not once. Not twice. Three times.

"[KID'S NAME], pretend to be the people and pour heavy jars of water on the pretend altar you built.

→ **Watch as the volunteer pretends to pour heavy jars, with water splashing everywhere.**

"Elijah made the impossible ... even more impossible. The wood was soaked. The ground was muddy. Everyone could see there was no way this could work.

"Have you ever felt like every step you take just makes your challenge even harder? Like life piles on, and the finish line moves further away?

"This line is about doing the right thing, even when it feels like it can't possibly work. Sometimes, God leads us right up to a situation that everyone says is hopeless—just to show what only He can do.

"Thank you, [KID'S NAME]. You can return to your seat.

→ **Step forward a few feet ahead of the thick red tape line to a new spot, unrolling and placing the fifth red tape line parallel to the first four. Make this line just one line thick but long enough for five kids to stand shoulder to shoulder behind it.**

"Elijah stood alone, surrounded by the silence of the crowd and the soaked altar. He didn't shout. He didn't put on a show. He simply talked to the one, true God who he'd come to know is trustworthy. Elijah prayed this:

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

"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 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."

"I need five volunteers for this one.

→ **Invite the five volunteers to stand behind the red tape line, shoulder to shoulder.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"This line isn't dramatic or loud—it's about waiting. It's about trusting God in the quiet moments, when nothing seems to be happening. That's one of the hardest boundaries of all, isn't it? Not doing more. Not fixing it yourself. Just ... waiting and believing God can do what you can't.

"Have you ever prayed for something and had to wait? Maybe you're still waiting. Maybe you wonder if God hears you. Elijah waited. All of the people there waited. For Elijah, there was nothing left to do but trust.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: : "Volunteers, you can return to your seats.

→ **As the volunteers sit down, unroll the last tape line, stretching it all the way across the front.**

"And then—suddenly, with everyone watching—God answered. The God who wanted to turn everyone's hearts back to Him answered. Fire fell from heaven. It burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and even the water in the trench. God wanted to leave no doubt—He is God, and nothing is impossible for Him.

"I need five more volunteers for this one. Come up here, and stand shoulder to shoulder behind this tape line."

→ **Invite the volunteers to step forward together, crossing the last line as a group and standing on the other side.**

"Imagine the crowd—silent at first, then cheering, then falling on their faces in awe.

"This is what the Bible says happened:

→ **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!"

"Thank you, volunteers! You can return to your seats! **(PAUSE WHILE THEY DO. THEN, CONTINUE.)**

"A short time later, Elijah went up the mountain and prayed and prayed for rain. And God, the one who is charge of the weather, answered. He brought a deluge. The drought was over. The impossible was possible—because God showed up in a way no one could explain.

"That reminds me of our Bottom Line for today: God can do the impossible!

"Let's say it together:

COMMUNICATOR and KIDS: **[BOTTOM LINE]** "God can do the impossible!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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

→ **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!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Elijah's story shows us something about confidence that's hard to learn any other way: true confidence isn't built when everything's easy. It's built over time, often through hard things. Elijah learned to trust God partially through years and years of seeing Him provide food every single faithful day in some hard drought years. Over and over as Elijah saw God provide, Elijah learned he could be confident in Him."

"Confidence in God is built every time you stand at the edge of something tough and decide to trust God anyway. That's what Elijah did."

"Elijah wasn't a superhero. The very next part of Elijah's story, he threw a huge temper tantrum with God!"

"Elijah got tired. He felt alone. He asked hard questions and wondered if God would show up. But he kept taking the next step—sometimes shaky, sometimes bold—because he'd learned that God's character never changed, even when life did."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"You might not be facing a showdown on a mountain or waiting for fire from heaven. But I know you've got your own impossible lines—maybe it's a problem at home, a friendship that feels broken, an anxiety that doesn't seem to go away, or just the daily pressure to be 'enough.' Sometimes, the scariest thing is just being honest about what you're facing. You don't have to fake it with God. He can handle your worries, your doubts, even your disappointment.

"So here's the question:

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "What seems impossible to you?"

SLIDE → Theme Background

"Seriously. Don't rush past it. This week, I challenge you—talk to God about that one thing. Write it down. Tell someone you trust. And then ask God to help you, even if the answer or breakthrough doesn't come right away. He is there and will go through it with you. Let's pray."

③ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, thank You that You are always good and we can trust You, even if life is hard. Help us to trust You with what feels impossible. Give us courage to take the next step, knowing You're with us every moment. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Your 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: Welcome/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.
- 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 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 below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store. thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

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

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.

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

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."

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

- ☐ Communicator
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Red tape, one roll for each Large Group
- ☐ Pencils (for the opening challenge), 10 for each Large Group
- ☐ Timer or stopwatch (for the opening challenge), one for each Large Group

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

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

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).
- As the script prompts, add a line of red tape onto the ground.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

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.

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

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

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jonah

Jonah 1-3

Conversation Starter

What keeps people from doing what's best?

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 Welcome

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

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everyone! Welcome to Bedrock—where we're building confidence, block by block. I'm so glad you're here. We've got a ton planned, so make sure you're ready to jump in and have some fun.

"If you're new, today's a perfect day to check us out—we've got music, a wild story, and a game that's all about meeting new people and getting to know each other.

"Before we go any further, let's kick things off with a game. And trust me, you don't have to be athletic or know any random Bible facts—this one is for everyone. It's called Human Bingo!

"Here's how it works. Each of you will get a bingo card filled with random descriptions—like 'has been to another state,' 'has a pet,' or 'likes pizza.' Your mission? Move around the room, talk to as many different people as you can, and get someone's name in each square. Try to fill every space with a different person! You can use a person's back to bear down on and help you write!

"First one to get five in a row (**OR FILL THE WHOLE CARD FOR LARGER GROUPS**) yell 'Bingo!' If you finish early, keep helping other people fill up their cards. Let me give everyone a bingo card and something to write with!

→ **Give each kid a bingo card and a pen. Explain any additional rules as needed.**

"Okay, is everyone ready? (**MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS A BINGO CARD AND A PEN.**) Great! On your mark, get set ... GO!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ **Walk around with the Small Group Leaders, encouraging connections and jumping in on the fun.**

"Okay! Bring it back in. Give yourselves a round of applause—if you learned something new about somebody, let them know!"

"I love seeing all the connections and the energy in this room. You know, one of the hardest things in life isn't always what you do, but why you do it. Sometimes, even when we know what's best, we don't actually do it."

"Our story today is about a guy who ran in the exact opposite direction from what God told him to do. Let's dive into that true story from the Bible after we worship God and tell Him that we love Him!"

② Worship

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! I 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 who loves you! The strongest is always with you, so you go through everything with Him. 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, children of God! 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!"

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, our Memory Verse is Isaiah 40:31! I'll read it out loud, and then we can say it together!

SLIDE → Memory Verse

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: "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 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

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!"

③ Bible Story (Communicator Script)

SLIDE → Theme Background

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

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everyone! Today I have a big story to talk about, but before that, I want to talk to you about one thing—are you ready?"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: Alright, everyone. Take a seat, breathe, and let's lock in for a second. I want to start with a big question—a real one, not just for today, but for life!

"Think about it: Why is it so hard to actually do what you know is right?

"Sometimes it's fear—we don't do what's right because we're afraid of what people will think, or afraid it'll cost us something.

"Sometimes it's just ... not wanting to give up being comfortable. Maybe we don't trust that doing what's best will actually work out. And sometimes, honestly? We don't want to. We want to do our own thing.

"Hold that thought, because today's story is about a guy who literally ran in the exact opposite direction from what God asked. His name was Jonah. Maybe you've heard the story, but today, let's look at it like it's brand new.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Let's see what we can learn about God—the One who does the impossible—even when we're not at our best.

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

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

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

COMMUNICATOR: "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!

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. 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."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: ""So Jonah—a real person, living during the time the nation of God's people was split in two, the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Israel.

"Jonah lived in the northern kingdom of Israel. All of the kings of the northern kingdom were evil, so it was not a great era for God's people. And Jonah wasn't exactly a model prophet. A prophet was supposed to deliver God's messages. And, well, let's just say Jonah was kind of bad at his job. You'll see. One day, God gave Jonah a very specific message. God said:

→ **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, pause there. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria—basically the number-one enemy of Jonah's people. And God wanted Jonah to go there and speak out? You can probably imagine how Jonah felt.

"Instead of obeying, Jonah did the complete opposite. He went down to the harbor at Joppa and bought a ticket to Tarshish—the ship's destination was pretty much as far as you could get in the other direction. It's almost like Jonah heard God say, 'Go east,' and Jonah sprinted west!

SLIDE 1 → Jonah Sleeps During Storm

"While Jonah was hiding out and literally sleeping below deck, a huge storm hit. On deck, the sailors were panicking—shouting out to the false gods they worshipped, trying to save the ship. But the storm only got worse.

"The captain finally found Jonah sleeping and said:

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

"How can you sleep? Get up and call out to your god for help!"

"Eventually, Jonah admitted to the sailors on the boat: 'I'm the reason for this storm. I'm running away from God. The only way to calm the sea is to throw me overboard.'

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE 2 → Jonah Gets Thrown Overboard

"Can you imagine? The sailors didn't want to, but the storm just kept raging. So—finally—they picked up Jonah and tossed him into the waves.

"The sea instantly grew calm. And just when Jonah probably thought it was all over—God did something totally unexpected. A gigantic fish—maybe the only one in history with a taste for runaway prophets—swallowed Jonah whole!

SLIDE 3 → Jonah Inside the Big Fish

"For three days and three nights, Jonah was inside that fish. In the absolute darkness, totally powerless, Jonah finally did what he hadn't done so far in his story—he prayed.

"Jonah cried out to God, admitting how desperate he was. This is what he prayed:

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

"When I was in trouble, I called out to the LORD.

And he answered me. ...

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—yep—spit Jonah out onto the shore! Jonah had probably never been more grateful to be covered in fish guts.

SLIDE 4 → Jonah on the Shore

"So there was Jonah. Alive, but probably smelling like fish, lying on the sand. But before he could even catch his breath—God spoke to Jonah again.

Open the Bible to Jonah 3:1 (NIRV) and read.

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

"This time, Jonah didn't run away from God. He obeyed.

"Now, Nineveh wasn't just big—it was massive. It would take three days to walk from one side to the other. As soon as Jonah arrived, he started delivering God's message, shouting as he walked through the busy streets:

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE 5 → Jonah Speaks in Nineveh

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

"In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed."

"Imagine the looks he got—this guy just showed up out of nowhere, talking about destruction and warning everyone to turn to God.

"And here's where the story took a wild turn: The people of Nineveh actually listened. Even the king was shaken. He took off his royal robes, sat in the dust, and sent out a message to everyone:

→ **Open the Bible to Jonah 3:8-9 (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 that's exactly what happened. The people of Nineveh—famous for being the bad guys—humbled themselves and turned to God. They stopped doing what was wrong and asked for mercy."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "When God saw their hearts had changed, He showed them mercy. God did not destroy Nineveh.

"You'd think Jonah would be thrilled, right? But instead ... Jonah sulked. He was angry that God would show love to people Jonah thought didn't deserve it.

"Jonah missed something huge: God's love is for everyone—even our enemies. God always knows what's best, even when it doesn't make sense to us.

"Even when Jonah thought it wasn't worth it. God knew what was best. And because of that, thousands of people chose to follow God."

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 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!'

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

Sadly, the northern kingdom of Israel that Jonah lived in never came back to God. 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 2 → 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!"**

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "The story of Jonah isn't just a story about running away or about giant fish and ancient cities. It's about what happens when we let fear, anger, or pride make us forget who God is and what He can do. Jonah knew all about God, but he struggled to believe that God's ways were really best—especially when they felt impossible or unfair. And honestly, that's something we all wrestle with. It's easy to want to do our own thing, to run from what's hard, or to believe that some people just aren't worth our effort or God's love. But God keeps inviting us back. He's patient, and He's always ready to give second chances—not just to 'them,' but to us too.

"This week, maybe you'll face something that feels impossible. Maybe it's a challenge at home, at school, or inside your own heart. Maybe you'll feel like running the other way or giving up. When that moment comes, remember Jonah. Remember that God's love is bigger than your biggest mistake, and His power is greater than whatever stands in your way. You can have confidence—not because you have all the answers, but because God is with you and for you. The question we're left with is the same one Jonah had to face:

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "What keeps people from doing what's best?"

SLIDE → Theme Background

"Let's chew on that question as we head to our Small Groups. Now, let's pray together."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, sometimes it's easier to run away than to trust You—especially when things feel impossible or when we don't want to do what's right. Thank You that You never give up on us, even when we mess up or when we're afraid. Give us courage to follow You. Help us believe that Your ways are best, so we always follow them. 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: Welcome/Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ "Bingo Cards" Activity Page (printable), one bingo card for each kid
- ☐ Pens, one for each kid

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Countdown
- ☐ Theme Intro

What You Do:

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

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

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store. thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

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

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.

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What You Need:

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- ☐ Communicator
- ☐ Bible

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Conversation Starter Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Bible Story Images, containing:
 - "1 Jonah Sleeps During Storm" Slide
 - "2 Jonah Gets Thrown Overboard" Slide
 - "3 Jonah Inside the Big Fish" Slide
 - "4 Jonah on the Shore" Slide
 - "5 Jonah Speaks in Nineveh" Slide

What You Do:

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- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- As the script prompts, add a line of red tape onto the ground.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

Optional for God's Big Story

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- 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, "I Can Do All Things" from At the Top of My Lungs)
- 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. Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel 6

Conversation Starter

When have you felt alone?

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 Welcome

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

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everybody! Welcome to Bedrock—where we're building confidence, block by block! I'm so glad you're here. Give me your best big wave! (WAIT AND WAVE BACK.)"

"Today, we're going to have a lot of fun together! We'll play, sing, hear a Bible Story, and find out something amazing about God. If it's your first time here—welcome! You're already part of the crew."

"Let's get things started with a game called ... Bedrock Build. Now, I don't know about you, but when I'm playing a building video game like in our theme, you have to really know the right way to build things. Who would say that they're pretty good at building? (WAIT FOR RESPONSES.)"

"Well, today you'll get to test how much you can trust those building skills. This is how you play!"

→ **Point to the two sets of blocks on stage.**

"In just a second, I'm going to choose two pairs of builders to build a strong tower. I'll give you 2 minutes to create the tallest and strongest tower out of your team's blocks. After that timer is over, we're going to test the tower's strength together."

→ **Point to the bin of ball pit balls.**

"Then, once we've got those towers built, I'm going to give [NUMBER OF KIDS, OR EVERYONE] a chance to try to knock down these two towers."

"Whichever tower is still standing in 30 seconds will be the winner!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Do you think you can trust your building skills? Let's choose our two builders. If you want a chance to build, raise your hands!"

- **Choose two sets of two volunteers from the kids who are raising their hands. Set each pair down by a set of 25-30 wood blocks. Start the timer and let the two teams build for two minutes. Comment on their building abilities.**

"Oh, wow! These are some pretty great towers! Let's see if they can stand up to the challenge."

- **Distribute the ball pit balls as you'd like. (Or give a few kids access to the bin of ball pit balls.)**

"Is everyone ready who is going to test the towers' strength? Let me get my timer ready! Alright, ready, set, throw!"

- **Start the timer for 30 seconds and see which tower is standing after. (Or none! Or both!) Congratulate the winning team(s) and dismiss the volunteers to their seat.**

"Those were some pretty great towers—those builders really needed to trust that their skills would keep their tower up!"

"Today, we're going to learn about Someone even better whom we can trust. But before that, it's time to worship God! So let's stand up and sing together!"

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 something is valuable to you, so there are a lot of ways to worship God! You can worship God by growing your friendship with Him—that's showing that you value Him. You can follow His ways and care for people like He does—that's showing that you value Him too!"

"But right now, we're going to worship Him and show we value Him through music! This first song is about how we are children of a Father who loves us. We get to go through life loved by God! Let's sing about it in this first 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

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Great worshipping! It's true that God has asked us to live out His ways in our world, and that's a lot to do sometimes! But He promises that He will give us the strength to do it! That's what our Memory Verse this month promises. It's Isaiah 40:31! I will read it out loud, and then we can all say our Memory Verse together.

SLIDE → Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "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 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

"That's such a great truth to get into your heads and hearts!

"Let's keep worshipping through music! This next song sings a truth straight from the Bible—it's called 'I Can Do All Things.' When a man named Paul wrote in the Bible that he could do all things in Jesus, he was writing that he could face all things with Jesus, because Jesus lived in him and went through life with him. The same is true with you! You can face anything in life because Jesus goes with you! 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

"Great job, everyone! Today we're going to look at the true story from the Bible of a man who was able to face something huge because he knew God was with him. 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 (Communicator Script)

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

→ Set a table out for the Communicator to place their Bible on to read from.

COMMUNICATOR: "What is UP, [NAME OF ENVIRONMENT]?! Who's feeling awesome today?"

"Oh, come on, I KNOW you can be louder! Let's shake the roof—how are you feeling this morning?"

"YES! That's more like it. Welcome to [NAME OF ENVIRONMENT], where we laugh, play, and discover just how awesome God really is. I'm pumped to be here with you—are you ready for an epic adventure today?"

TENSION

First, I have a question for you. Have you ever felt like you were all alone?

"Turn to your neighbor and tell a story about a time when you felt alone but God helped you through it. (PAUSE AND GIVE THE KIDS A MINUTE OR SO TO TALK.)

"Well, today, we're going to hear a story about a guy named Daniel who had the same feeling. He really was all by himself, but even though it looked like he was alone, he knew he wasn't really alone. He knew God was with him.

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

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

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

COMMUNICATOR: "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.)

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"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."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Today, we're going right along through the Bible in the book of Daniel, chapter 6. This isn't just some old legend—it's a true

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

story about real people, facing real challenges, and discovering real confidence. Not the kind you get from being the fastest or the strongest, but the kind that comes from knowing, deep down, that God is always with you—no matter what.

"Unfortunately, Daniel was one of the people who was taken from Judah to live in Babylon. Daniel was taken from the Promised Land!

"He was a stranger in a strange land. Everything—clothes, music, even the smells—was strange and overwhelming. But Daniel and his friends were smart, trustworthy, and—most importantly—faithful to God.

"Because of his character, the king of Babylon chose Daniel and his friends to serve in the royal palace. Every day, Daniel faced decisions: Should he blend in or stand out by following God, even when it means risking everything?

SLIDE 1 → Daniel Before the King of Babylon

"Time after time, Daniel and his friends chose God. They refused to eat food God said was wrong for them. They refused to bow down to the golden idols everyone else worshipped. They kept praying, kept trusting, and kept doing what was right. And God honored their faithfulness. The king was so impressed with Daniel's wisdom and integrity that he made Daniel his advisor. Through the years, Daniel earned a reputation for honesty, courage, and unwavering faith. Three times a day, Daniel knelt by his window, facing Jerusalem, praying to the one true God."

COMMUNICATOR: "But the story really heated up when Daniel was much older! Another empire had taken over, and a new king was on the throne: King Darius. Darius was so impressed with Daniel's character and work that he planned to put Daniel in charge of the entire kingdom. Imagine if you were about to be promoted over everyone else—what would you feel? Excited? Nervous? Maybe a little worried about jealous coworkers?

"Well, the other officials—the king's advisors—were NOT happy. They were green with envy. They wanted Daniel OUT. But Daniel's record was squeaky clean. No cheating. No stealing. Not a single mistake. So, they came up with a sneaky plan. They knew the only way to trap Daniel was by using his faith against him.

SLIDE 2 → The Advisors Present Their Plan to the King

COMMUNICATOR: "The advisors slithered up to King Darius, all smiles and fake compliments. This was the plan they presented:

→ **Open the Bible to Daniel 6:7 (NirV) and read.**

"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."

"King Darius said, 'That sounds fantastic!' He signed the order. In the law

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

of the Medes and Persians, once the king wrote an order, not even he could change it. It was permanent—like words carved in stone.

"Daniel heard about the law. He knew exactly what it meant. If he kept praying to God, he would be thrown to the lions. If you were Daniel, what would you do? Would you hide? Would you stop praying for a month, just to stay safe?"

"But Daniel didn't panic. He didn't hide. He didn't even try to sneak around. He went straight to his room, opened his windows wide toward Jerusalem, knelt down, and prayed—just like he always had. He thanked God. He asked for help. He trusted that God is bigger than any order, any king, or any lion.

SLIDE 3 → Daniel Prays with His Window Open

COMMUNICATOR: "Maybe Daniel prayed something like this: 'Thank You, Lord, for loving me. Give me strength and courage to trust You, no matter what happens.'

"Meanwhile, the jealous officials were spying on Daniel. The moment he started to pray, they rushed off to tattle to the king."

SLIDE 4 → The Advisors Tattle on Daniel to the King

- **Open the Bible to Daniel 6:13 (NIRV) and read.**
- **"Daniel is one of the prisoners of 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."**

COMMUNICATOR: "King Darius was devastated. He liked Daniel—a lot. He didn't want Daniel to be harmed in any way. He did everything he could to find a loophole, but the order couldn't be changed. Reluctantly, Darius gave the order: Daniel must be thrown into the lions' den.

"Imagine: Daniel, gray-haired and steady, was led to a huge pit. The air was thick and dusty. Down below, deep, rumbling growls traveled up. Golden eyes glinted in the shadows. The lions prowl, their muscles rippling under their fur, jaws snapping, hungry for their next meal."

SLIDE 5 → Daniel Being Put in the Lions' Den

COMMUNICATOR: "With a heavy heart, the king watched as Daniel was taken and thrown into the den. King Darius said to Daniel:

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

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

"A giant stone grinded across the opening, sealing Daniel in darkness.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"That night, King Darius couldn't eat. He couldn't sleep. He paced back and forth, wringing his hands, haunted by the thought of Daniel surrounded by lions. He kept replaying the day's events, wishing he could undo them.

"And Daniel? He was alone in the pitch-black den, the air thick with the smell of wild animals, the sound of padded paws circling closer and closer. Can you imagine how that would feel? Your heart would probably pound in your chest, your breath would probably be quick and shallow, and every muscle would probably be tensed for what might happen next. Have you ever felt alone—like nobody was there to help?"

COMMUNICATOR: "But here was the twist—Daniel wasn't alone. Not for a single second. God even gave Daniel a physical example of His presence. God sent an angel—brilliant, powerful, and real—to stand with Daniel in the darkness. The angel shut the lions' jaws. Not one roar, not one claw, not even a single whisker touched Daniel. The lions, fierce and wild, left Daniel alone, as peaceful as housecats. Can you imagine what it must have been like to have an angel in that den?"

"All night long, Daniel was safe. The angel stood guard. The lions did nothing. God was there, right in the middle of the scariest place Daniel had ever been.

SLIDE 6 → King Darius Comes to the Lions' Den

COMMUNICATOR: "As soon as the first rays of sunlight went across the sky, King Darius hurried to the lions' den. He called out, his voice trembling with hope and fear:

Open the Bible to Daniel 6:20 (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?"

"A moment of silence. Then, from deep inside the den, Daniel's voice rang out, strong and steady:

Open the Bible to Daniel 6:22 (NIRV) and read.

"My God sent his angel. And the angel shut the mouths of the lions. 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."

"King Darius was overwhelmed with joy! He ordered Daniel to be lifted out. Daniel stood in the sunlight—not a scratch, not a bruise. And the king? He sent a proclamation to every corner of his vast kingdom.

SLIDE 7 → The Decree of King Darius

→ "Open the Bible to Daniel 6:26-27 (NirV) and read

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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

"He is the living God.

He will live forever.

His kingdom will not be destroyed.

His rule will never end.

He sets people free and saves them.

He does miraculous signs and wonders.

He does them in the heavens and on the earth.

He has saved Daniel

from the power of the lions."

"Daniel went on serving King Darius, and he kept trusting God, year after year. He saw with his own eyes that God is always with him—when he was young and when he was old, when he was celebrated and when he was all alone. God never left Daniel's side.

"And here's what's amazing: The God who was with Daniel in the lions' den—the God who sent an angel to shut the mouths of hungry lions—is the same God who promises to be with YOU. It's not that you'll never face tough times, but you will never, ever face them alone. God goes with you everywhere—in your classroom, on your soccer field, at home, when you feel left out, when you're scared, when you're celebrating, and when you're hurting. That's real confidence. Not because of who you are, but because God is with you.

"God is always with you. Say it with me—on the count of three! One, two, three—"

COMMUNICATOR and KIDS: "GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU!"

COMMUNICATOR: "That's what gave Daniel confidence—knowing, deep in his heart, that God was with him. And that's what gives you confidence too. Even if you feel alone, you're never truly alone. God is with you. Always."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Daniel made it a habit to talk with God every single day. He developed his friendship with God every single day. That's what gave him courage, even when the world turned against him. Praying isn't just something you do before bed or meals—it's a way to connect with the God who loves you, who listens, who promises to never leave you.

"And here's something incredible: When you choose to follow Jesus, God's Spirit actually comes to live inside you. When you're worried about a test, facing something scary, or when someone hurts your feelings—God is right there. Even when you don't FEEL it, God is with you. His presence is stronger than fear, brighter than darkness, and closer than your very breath. You can talk to Him about anything because He is right there!

"That's the kind of confidence Daniel had. That's the confidence you can have too! Not because you're perfect, but because GOD is perfect, and He's promised to be with you. So, the next time you feel alone or scared

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

or unsure, remember that the same God that was with Daniel in the lions' den is with you. 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!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: ""Wow! What an incredible adventure we just heard! Imagine Daniel, surrounded by the deep, echoing roars of lions, the darkness pressing in all around him. He must have felt scared, right? But Daniel wasn't alone for even a second. Why? Because the God who created the universe—the God who made the stars and knows your name—was right there with him in that lions' den!

"Let's shout our Bottom Line together, with all the confidence of Daniel: 'God is always with you!' Ready? 1, 2, 3—"

COMMUNICATOR and KIDS: "God is always with you.

"That's awesome! And guess what? That truth isn't just for Daniel—it's for you. Whether you're laughing with friends at recess, sitting alone on the bus, facing a tough moment at home, or even lying awake at night feeling worried, God is right there. He promises that He'll never leave you or abandon you. He's always present, giving you strength and courage, just like He did for Daniel!

"Let's think about our Conversation Starter for a second."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "When have you felt alone?"

"Maybe it was your first day at a new school. Maybe you were sick, or someone let you down. Maybe your heart was pounding before a big test, or you moved to a new school and didn't know anyone. Take a quiet second and remember how that felt.

"Daniel knew what it was like to feel alone, surrounded by people who didn't believe what he believed. But Daniel knew he could talk to God anytime, anywhere. And so can you.

"No matter how alone you might feel, God is right there. You can talk to Him anytime—He's always listening. Let's chew on that Conversation Starter as we head to our Small Groups. And let's pray together now."

③ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, thank You that You are always with us. When life feels scary or overwhelming, help us trust You, just like Daniel did. Help us remember that You go with us in everything we face, and may that give us confidence. 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: Welcome/Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ 50-60 wood blocks
- ☐ Bin of around 100 ball pit balls
- ☐ Timer (smartphone or watch)

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

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store. thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

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

Optional for God's Big Story

- ☐ Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- ☐ God's Big Story Slide
- ☐ Week 3 Timeline Image Slide
- ☐ We recommend that you create a timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed timeline images in order, week by week. We'll provide a timeline image for each week of 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.

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

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."

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

- ☐ Communicator
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Table (to hold Bible)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Conversation Starter Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide
- "1 Daniel Before the King of Babylon" Slide
- "2 The Advisors Present Their Plan to the King" Slide
- "3 Daniel Prays with His Window Open" Slide
- "4 The Advisors Tattle on Daniel to the King" Slide
- "5 Daniel Being Put in the Lions' Den" Slide
- "6 King Darius Comes to the Lions' Den" Slide
- "7 The Decree of King Darius" Slide

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).
- As the script prompts, add a line of red tape onto the ground.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

Optional for God's Big Story

- ☐ Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- ☐ God's Big Story Slide
- ☐ Week 3 Timeline Image Slide
- ☐ We recommend that you create a timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed timeline images in order, week by week. We'll provide a timeline image for each week of 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.

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

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 about God's Big Story are included as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

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

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Esther

Esther

Conversation Starter

When has someone stood up for you?

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 Welcome

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

Opener

HOST: "Hey, hey, hey! What's up, [NAME OF ENVIRONMENT]? I'm absolutely pumped to see you! Let's make some noise for the awesome people around you—give your neighbor a confidence-powered high five or a big 'You're awesome!'"

"Whoa! You guys brought EPIC energy! All month, we've been diving deep into something super-important. Confidence!"

"But the kind of confidence is not just feeling good about ourselves. We're talking about the kind of confidence that comes straight from God. It's confidence that comes from knowing and living in the reality that God is with us! And when we know God is with us, we can have confidence to try what seems impossible, confidence to do what's right and follow God's ways, and as we'll see this week in our Bible Story, confidence to stand up for others.

"But before we dive into our story today, it's game time! Who's ready for a game called 'Stand Up for Me'?"

→ **Set up two chairs on the stage. On each chair, place a clipboard with several sheets of paper and a marker.**

"To play this game, I need two volunteers who know each other really well—either siblings or friends. If you want to play, raise your hand!"

→ **Choose a pair of kids with their hands raised. Instruct the kids to sit in the chairs, holding the clipboards and markers.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ **(NOTE: If it's a better fit for your group, this game can be played with adult volunteers.)**

"Okay! Now that we're set up, we're going to play a game where I ask you questions about the other person. I want you to write down how you think the other person would answer this question I ask. The kid with the most correct answers at the end wins!

"I'll go through each of these questions one at a time, but before we start the game, let me read through all our questions first so you know what's coming. These are the questions I'm going to ask you to answer about the other person!

Read through the following questions:

- What's their favorite color?
- What's their favorite song?
- What's their favorite food?
- What's their pet's name?
- What city were they born in?
- Without looking at their face, what color are their eyes?
- What is their favorite hobby or sport?

→ **React to wild answers, and ask a few kids to explain their choices.**

"Now that we know what questions are coming, let's start our first round! Kid 1, one at a time, I will ask you those questions about Kid 2 first.

"For each question, you'll write down what you think the other kid will answer. Once you are done writing the answer to that question, turn the clipboard around and show us the answer.

"Kid 2, if your partner answered the question correctly about you, stand up!

→ **Read back through the questions one at a time, with Kid 1 answering for Kid 2 and Kid 2 standing up when the answer is correct.**

→ **Repeat the game so Kid 2 answers all of the questions about Kid 1. Keep track of which kid gets the most correct answers. Declare them the winner, but celebrate both kids for being a friend.**

"Wow, you guys! It's so awesome that you know so much about each other! Having people know things about us—even if they don't know everything—means a lot. It's a gift in life to have a friend!

"And you know what means even more? When someone stands up for you, when someone looks out for you. Today, we're going to talk about someone who realized God had put her exactly where she was to stand up for a whole group of people. But before we do that, let's head to worship!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

② Worship

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

WORSHIP LEADER: ““Hey, friends! This month we’ve been learning that we can have confidence because the God of all goes with us in everything. And it’s even more awesome than that! The reason God wants to be so close to you is because He loves you! You are a child of a Father, God, who loves you! Let’s sing about that in this first 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

“Great worshipping! And this is a cool thing about life—so much of what your heart lights up for, God is! He is kind. **(WE LOVE KINDNESS!)** He is fair. **(WE LOVE FAIRNESS!)** He is faithful. **(WE LOVE FAITHFULNESS!)** God is good, good, good! God is so good, let’s shout it out to Him at the top of our lungs! This song is called, ‘At the Top of My Lungs.’

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, so good!

“God is so good that even though He asks us to do a lot in our world—like show the world how good He is by following His ways—He gives us the strength to do it! That’s what our Memory Verse this month promises. It’s Isaiah 40:31. I’ll read it and then we can say it together!

SLIDE → Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: ““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 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

“Wow! What a great promise! God will give us the strength to do what He asks us to do!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Today's Bible Story is an example of exactly that. God put Esther in the exact right time and place to stand up for her people, and then He gave her the strength to do it. Let's sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

BIBLE STORY (COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT)

SLIDE → Theme Background

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

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, what's up, everybody? Let's make some noise if you're excited to be here! Come on, I know you can be louder than that—let's fill this room with energy!"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's kick things off with a question: When has someone stood up for you? Maybe it was a friend who included you when you felt left out, or someone who spoke up when you were treated unfairly. Maybe a teacher noticed you were struggling and encouraged you to keep going. Think about it—how did that make you feel? Did it fill you up with courage, or help you believe you mattered?"

→ **Pause for a few moments to let the question settle and for kids to think of a time when someone stood up for them.**

"Today we're going to look at the story of someone who stood up for someone else—a lot of people, actually. It's the true story of a girl named Esther. And she learned that God had placed her exactly where she was to do something.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

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

"But are we going through the Bible just so we'll become really smart Bible people? Not exactly! One of the reasons God gave us the Bible is so that we can get to know Him! He wants us to be His friends! So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is that we learn about Him!

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER:

"We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible to learn about 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 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—Abraham's family! Many years after God first spoke to Abraham, 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. 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."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "This week we're continuing on right through the Bible.

"And you might need to buckle up! Because today we're diving into one of the most jaw-dropping, plot-twisty, underdog adventures in the entire Bible. I want you to imagine putting on a glittering crown, straightening your new royal robes, and stepping into a palace where you can change the world. Because today we're talking about Esther—a young girl who seemed ordinary, but God used her to stand up for an entire nation. Ready to step into the story?"

"Our story begins right in the heart of ancient Persia, under the rule of a king named Xerxes.

"King Xerxes—talk about extra! If you think celebrities today like to show off, this guy would have put them all to shame. He threw a party that lasted 180 days—can you even imagine? Six months of feasting, music, dancing, golden goblets clinking, the smell of roasted meats and honey cakes filling the air. When that party ended, he threw another week-long bash to show off his wealth and remind everyone just how important he was.

→ **Mimic sipping from an imaginary cup, pinky up, then roll eyes playfully.**

"But then, in the middle of all the glitz, Xerxes made a huge poor choice. He demanded that his queen, Vashti, come out and show off her beauty to his guests. But Queen Vashti was having nothing of it. She said, 'No way,' and stood her ground. Xerxes was embarrassed and furious—so, just like that, he banished her. No more queen. Gone from the palace. Pretty harsh, right?"

"Some time later, the king realized how foolish he'd been and that he needed a new queen. So his advisors suggested this: to bring the beautiful girls from the kingdom to see who the king liked.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Enter Esther. Esther was Jewish, a member of God's people. She was also an orphan, raised by her older cousin Mordecai, who loved her like his own daughter. Mordecai told Esther, 'Keep your identity secret. Don't tell anyone you're Jewish.' So Esther did.

"Esther didn't have a choice about being in the contest. She couldn't escape. But when she was brought before King Xerxes, he chose her. He placed the royal crown on her head and declared, 'You will be my new queen.' Just like that, Esther went from orphan to queen of the most powerful empire in the world. But God had a much bigger purpose for her than just wearing a crown.

SLIDE 1 → Esther Is Crowned Queen

COMMUNICATOR: "Mordecai was close by, at the palace gates. One day, he overheard two guards whispering about a plot to kill King Xerxes! Mordecai sent word to Esther, who warned the king. Xerxes's life was saved. The king's record-keepers jotted it down in the royal history books, but Mordecai didn't get any reward. Not yet, anyway ...

"Enter Haman—cue the villain music! Haman was the king's top official. Xerxes had promoted Haman above all the other nobles and ordered everyone to bow low when Haman strutted by. Everyone obeyed ... except Mordecai. Mordecai stood tall, refusing to bow.

SLIDE 2 → Mordecai Refuses to Bow to Haman

COMMUNICATOR: "Haman was furious—like, steam-coming-out-of-his-ears, can't-sleep-at-night, angry. When he found out Mordecai was Jewish, his anger exploded into evil. It wasn't enough to punish Mordecai; Haman wanted to wipe out every Jewish person in the Persian Empire. Imagine hating someone so much that you want to destroy their entire people. That's next-level villainy.

SLIDE 3 → Haman Tells the King His Plan

COMMUNICATOR: "So Haman went to King Xerxes and twisted the truth: 'There's a group of people who don't follow your laws. Let's get rid of them.' King Xerxes, not realizing what Haman was really planning, handed over his royal ring. The orders were sent to every territory in the Persian Empire.

"On a certain day, all Jews in the empire were to be destroyed—men, women, children, all because of Haman's grudge. The news spread like wildfire. Across Persia, Jewish people wept, tore their clothes, and wore scratchy sackcloth, pouring out their hearts to God in prayer and grief.

"Esther heard that Mordecai was in grieving clothes too, so a messenger travelled back and forth between the two to help Esther find out what was going on and figure out a plan.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE 4 → Esther Finds Out about the Orders

"Mordecai explained Haman's evil plan and begged Esther to help. But Esther explained through a messenger that there was a huge catch: No one—not even the queen—could go up to King Xerxes without being summoned. If you did, and the king didn't extend his royal scepter to you, you could be executed.

"What would you do if you were Esther? The lives of your family, your friends, your entire people depended on you—but one wrong move could cost you everything. Let's pause for a second. If you were Esther, would you risk your life to stand up for others? Raise your hand if you think you'd be brave enough. Raise your hand if you're not sure. Yeah, it's tough. Sometimes, doing the right thing is the scariest thing of all.

"Mordecai sent back a message:

→ **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 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."

"In other words, maybe God had placed Esther exactly where she was, at exactly the right moment, to be part of His plan to rescue His people. God puts us in specific places, not by accident, but on purpose. Even if it's a place we wouldn't have chosen or want to be.

"That truth, that God had put her as a queen for that exact time, gave Esther the confidence to act. She said:

→ **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."

"After three days, Esther put on her royal robes. Her heart pounded as she walked to the inner courtyard of the palace in front of the king's hall. The king saw her. Would the king welcome her—or have her punished?

SLIDE 5 → Esther Approaches the King

COMMUNICATOR: "For a moment, time seemed to stop. Then—the king reached out his golden scepter, the sign of mercy. Esther exhaled. She approached, gently touching the tip of the scepter. She was safe. For now.

SLIDE 6 → The King Extends His Scepter to Esther

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

COMMUNICATOR: "The king asked:

→ **Open the Bible to Esther 5:3 (NirV) and read.**

"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 didn't blurt out her request. Instead, she invited Xerxes and Haman to a special banquet she'd prepared—golden plates, the aroma of spices and sweet fruit later that day. The king agreed to attend.

SLIDE 7 → Esther, King Xerxes, and Haman Feast

COMMUNICATOR: "As the king and Haman feasted, Xerxes asked again, 'What is your request?' Esther invited them to another banquet the next day. Haman strutted out, feeling like the VIP of the universe, but still burning with hatred for Mordecai.

"That night, Haman built a giant gallows—tall enough to be seen for blocks—planning to hang Mordecai the next morning."

"But that night, something strange happened. The king couldn't sleep. Maybe it was the food from the feast, maybe it was God at work. He called for the royal records—basically, the world's most boring bedtime story. As the attendant read aloud, Xerxes heard about how Mordecai had saved him some time before. 'Did we ever reward him?' the king asked. No.

"So, the next morning, just as Haman arrived to ask for Mordecai's death, Xerxes asked Haman, 'What should I do if I want to honor someone?' Haman, thinking, 'He must mean me!' suggested a royal parade, with fancy robes and a royal horse. Xerxes loved the idea: 'Great! Go do all that for Mordecai!'

"Haman had to lead the parade, shouting Mordecai's praises through the streets. He was humiliated. But the real showdown was still coming. At Esther's second banquet, with the king and Haman there, Xerxes asked again, 'What is your request, Queen Esther?' Esther took a deep breath, her voice steady and clear:

→ **Open the Bible to Esther 7:3-4 (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. We've been sold to be killed and wiped out."

"Xerxes was stunned. Then this happened:

→ **Open the Bible to Esther 7:5-6 (NirV) and read.**

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!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE 7 → Esther Points Out the Evil Haman

COMMUNICATOR: "The king was furious. He ordered Haman to be punished on the very gallows he had built for Mordecai. Xerxes oversaw as a new decree was issued: the Jewish people could defend themselves. When the day of danger came, God's people stood together and were saved. Not because Esther was fearless or perfect, but because she knew that God had put her exactly where she was, and she had to stand up for her people.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "So, what about you? Esther didn't have superpowers. She didn't always know what to do. She was scared. But God gave her the confidence to stand up for others, even when the outcome wasn't certain. God gave her the strength to risk her own comfort to do what was right. And God can do the same for you.

"You probably won't have to face a king or stop an evil plot. But you are placed exactly where you are to show God's love and stand up for others. So there will be moments—at school, on your team, in your neighborhood—when someone needs you to stand up for them. Maybe it's a classmate being teased, someone sitting alone at lunch, or a friend too nervous to speak up. In those moments, you don't need to be the loudest or the bravest. You just need to trust that God is with you. God can help you stand up for others. Not because you're perfect, but because He goes with you every step of the way.

"You can even do like Esther and ask your friends to pray for you for wisdom and strength to stand up."

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

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

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in on the path past the picture of Daniel. Esther lived after Daniel! We're on the path of God's Big Story! **(GESTURE TO IMAGE OF GOD'S BIG STORY.)**

"This week we talked about Esther! Esther's family stayed in a foreign land when God's people were allowed to go home to Judah. But God used Esther, right where she was, for His good plan. Because when Esther stood up for her people, she stood up for all of God's people in the Persian Kingdom! And the Persian Kingdom was so big, it included God's people who were back home in Judah too. God used Esther's bravery to preserve His people! And many, many years later, from that remnant of people whom God protected, God would send Jesus! And Jesus would rescue us all!

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

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE → Week 4 Timeline Image

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

"This week we talked about Esther!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Wow—what an epic story we explored today! Esther was an ordinary person, but she showed extraordinary confidence—not because she was the biggest or the bravest, but because she realized that God had put her right where she was to stand up for people!"

"God has put you right where you are so you can show your world His love too. God has put you right where you are to stand up for people!"

"God was with Esther every step of the way, and He is with you every step of the way too.
Let's give God a thunderous round of applause and a cheer so loud the roof shakes!"

→ **Pause as the kids clap and cheer.**

"Here's the big thing I want you to take home: God can help you stand up for others. Let's shout it out together—on the count of three! One, two, three!"

COMMUNICATOR and KIDS: "God can help you stand up for others!"

COMMUNICATOR: "Fantastic! Let's be real—standing up for others isn't always simple. Sometimes your heart pounds, your palms get sweaty, and you feel butterflies in your stomach. But God promises to be with you, in you, giving you the strength and courage you need."

"Sometimes, standing up means using your voice when you see someone being teased or left out. Other times, it's as simple as noticing someone sitting alone at lunch and inviting them to join you, or speaking up to a trusted adult if someone needs help. These moments might look small, but they shine brightly—like little sparks of God's love in a dark world. You don't have to do something huge. Just care enough to take a step, even when it feels scary."

"When you stand up for others, you're living out God's love in a real, powerful way. You're being a leader, just like Esther. Next time you see someone who needs a friend, or you notice something unfair, ask God for confidence. You might be the answer to someone's prayer!"

"As you head to your Small Groups, really think about this Conversation Starter:

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "When has someone stood up for you?"

"How did it feel when someone stood up for you? You can make someone feel the same way by standing up for them!"

"Let's pray and ask God to help us stand up for others."

③ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, thank You for giving Esther the confidence to stand up for her people. Thank You for being with us, giving us what we need to stand up for others too. Help us trust You and reflect Your love, even when it's tough. 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: Welcome/ Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ Two chairs
- ☐ Two clipboards
- ☐ Two markers
- ☐ Several sheets of paper (at least seven for each clipboard)

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.
- Before group time, set two chairs in the middle of the stage. Put a clipboard with blank sheets of paper and a marker on both chairs.

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)

What You Do:

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

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store. thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

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

Optional for God's Big Story

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

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

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."

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

- ☐ Communicator
- ☐ Bible

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Conversation Starter Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Bible Story Images, containing:
 - "1 Esther Is Crowned Queen" Slide
 - "2 Mordecai Refuses to Bow to Haman" Slide
 - "3 Haman Tells the King His Plan" Slide
 - "4 Esther Finds Out about the Orders" Slide
 - "5 Esther Approaches the King" Slide
 - "6 The King Extends His Scepter to Esther" Slide
 - "7 Esther, King Xerxes, and Haman Feast" Slide
 - "8 Esther Points Out the Evil Haman" Slide

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).
- As the script prompts, add a line of red tape onto the ground.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

Optional for God's Big Story

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

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

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 about God's Big Story are included as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

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

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Nehemiah

Nehemiah 1-4, 6:1-15

Conversation Starter

What do you need help with?

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 Welcome

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

Opener

HOST: "Welcome to [NAME OF ENVIRONMENT], where we bring the energy, the fun, and—most importantly—each other! Who's ready for a day that's going to be totally EPIC? If you're feeling that power, let me hear you make some NOISE!"

→ **Cup a hand dramatically to their ear, egging on the crowd.**

"Whoa, that's pretty good ... but I know you've got even more in you! On the count of three, give me your loudest, boldest, most unstoppable cheer. Ready? ONE ... TWO ... THREE!"

→ **Pause for loud cheer.**

"YES! There we go! This month we've been learning about confidence. Confidence is our theme this month. Everybody shout it out with me: 'CONFIDENCE!'"

→ **Join the kids as they shout: "Confidence!"**

"What we've learned is that true confidence isn't just about being the loudest in the room, or never feeling nervous. It's about living like you believe God is with you—right now, right here. Whether you're crushing it on the soccer field, facing a tough test, or standing up for what's right, confidence means knowing that God, the Creator of the universe, goes with you through every step of life. That's pretty awesome, right?"

"But let's be real—sometimes, even the bravest people feel scared or unsure. Have you ever stood at the edge of something big, like trying something new, singing in front of your class, or even just telling the

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

truth when it's hard? Maybe your hands started to shake, or your heart pounded like a drum. Anyone ever felt that way?

"Today, we're going to dive into an incredible story from the Bible about a guy named Nehemiah. Nehemiah faced a challenge that seemed impossible—like, 'build-a-wall-around-a-whole-city' impossible. But he believed that God was with him, he asked for help every step of the way, and he did something no one thought could be done.

"But before we get to Nehemiah's story, let's warm up with a game!

"Today, we're going to play a game I like to call 'Group Rock Paper Scissors.'

"Here's how it works: In just a second, I'm going to have you all find a partner, and you are going to play rock-paper-scissors against each other.

"But here's the twist. One person in each pair is going to lose. The person who loses will now team up with their partner, the winner will decide what the two will show in the next round (**EITHER ROCK, PAPER, OR SCISSORS**), and the two partners will join together to go against another pair of kids, and play with what they decided to show.

"A pair will lose that round. They will join the pair that wins. The winning pair will decide what to show in the next game, all four kids will join a new team, and will show what the winning pair decided to show.

"That goes on and on until we have our final two teams, which will be huge! Do you think you are up for the challenge? Let's play!

→ **Guide your kids in the game. You may need to ensure that they're working together and help direct the game.**

"Good job! We're about to jump into Nehemiah's story, but before we do that, let's get ready for worship and praise the God who goes with us every step of our lives. Who's ready for an amazing day?"

② Worship

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! It's so great to worship with you today!

"Did you know that the God of the universe loves you so, so much? He does! He invented everything about you—you are His idea! And He is a big fan of you. You are a child of a Father who loves you! Let's sing about that in our first 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

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Great worshiping! This next song is about a truth straight from the Bible! It's Philippians 4:13. The man who wrote this truth, Paul, was a Jesus-follower just like us. He had faced good things in his life, and hard things too. And God's strength had gotten him through all things. The same God lives in you, and He can help you do all things! 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! If something happens in your life, and you need to follow God and His ways, He will give you the strength to do it."

"That's exactly what God promises in our Memory Verse this month. It's Isaiah 40:31. I'll read it and then we can say it together!"

SLIDE → Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "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 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

"What a great promise we can ask God to help us remember. God will give us strength every step of our lives, no matter what we face."

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

BIBLE STORY (COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT)

SLIDE → Theme Background

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

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

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!

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

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

INTRODUCTION

- **Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read it from it.**

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everybody! Welcome back! Who's pumped for another incredible day here at **[NAME OF ENVIRONMENT]**?!"

"As we head into today's story, think about something big in your life—maybe something at school, at home, or with friends—where you need God's help. Hold onto that thought, because we're going to see how God gives us confidence to do big things for Him."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Let me ask you something: Have you ever faced something that looked totally impossible? Maybe a giant school project, a sports tryout, or a problem that made you think, 'There's no way I can do this!?' Well, today, we're diving into the true story of Nehemiah—a man who stared down a challenge so huge, so overwhelming, that most people thought it was a lost cause. But here's the big idea I want you to remember: God can help you do big things."

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

"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 as we go through the key stories in the Bible, our hope is that we learn about Him!"

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER:

"We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible to learn about Him! **(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. 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.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"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!"

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Nehemiah's story is what we're going to look at today!"

"Before we zoom in on Nehemiah, let's rewind and give a little backstory! When God's people were captured, their homeland was destroyed. When the people were allowed to come back from exile, the people who did choose to come home came back to ruins.

SLIDE 1 → Nehemiah Serves the King

COMMUNICATOR: ""This is where Nehemiah's story starts. Nehemiah lived in the capital of the Persian empire, about a thousand miles from Jerusalem. He had an important job—he was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, tasting the king's wine to make sure it was safe, and not poisoned. It was a job of trust! But even though Nehemiah had a fancy job for a foreign king, his heart belonged to God and to God's people.

"One day, Nehemiah's brother Hanani and some other men arrived from Jerusalem, dusty and tired from their long journey. Nehemiah rushed to meet him. 'Hanani! How are things back home?' Hanani's eyes filled with sadness. He and the men reported:

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

"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."

COMMUNICATOR: "Now, you might think, 'It's just a wall. What's the big deal?' But in Bible times, a city without walls was like a house with no doors or locks—open to danger, enemies, wild animals, and thieves. For God's people, Jerusalem's walls meant safety, hope, and a future. Nehemiah was crushed. He sat down and wept. For days, he mourned, fasted, and prayed to God with all his heart. He confessed his own sins and the sins of his people. And then, he did something even bigger—he asked God for help to do what seemed impossible.

SLIDE 2 → Nehemiah Prays

COMMUNICATOR: "Nehemiah prayed:

→ **Open the Bible to Nehemiah 1:5-11 (NIRV) and read.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"LORD, you are the God of heaven. You are a great and wonderful God. ... Please pay careful attention to my prayer. See how your people are suffering. ... We Israelites have committed sins against you. ...

"Remember what you told him. You said, 'If you people are not faithful, I will scatter you among the nations. But if you return to me, I will bring you back. If you obey my commands, I will gather you together again. ...

"LORD, they are your people. ... LORD, please pay careful attention to my prayer. ... Give me success today when I bring my request to King Artaxerxes."

COMMUNICATOR: "Nehemiah knew what he had to do—but it was big! But Nehemiah trusted God. When he served the king, the king noticed he was sad.

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

"Why are you looking so sad? You're not sick. You must be feeling very sad."

"Nehemiah's heart hammered in his chest. He whispered a lightning-fast prayer in his heart, then he bravely said:

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

"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."

COMMUNICATOR: "And you know what? God answered Nehemiah's prayer! The king said YES! Not only did he give Nehemiah permission, but he sent army officers to protect him and gave him letters for building supplies. Nehemiah packed up, gathered a team, and started the long, dusty journey to Jerusalem. Imagine the wind whipping past, the sun blazing overhead, and the miles stretching out in front of him. But Nehemiah kept going!

SLIDE 3 → Nehemiah Checks Out the Walls

COMMUNICATOR: "When Nehemiah arrived, he didn't announce his plans right away. For three days, he rested and prayed. Then, late at night, when the city was quiet and shadows danced along the ruined streets, he slipped out to inspect the walls. He saw splintered gates, piles of blackened stones, and weeds growing where there should have been strength. Have you ever looked at a mess so big you wanted to give up? Nehemiah saw all the brokenness—but he didn't lose confidence. He knew God was with him."

SLIDE 4 → Nehemiah Speaks to the People

COMMUNICATOR: "Nehemiah gathered the people. He said to them:

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ **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.

"Nehemiah's faith was contagious. 'Let's start rebuilding!' the people shouted. They got to work building!

SLIDE 5 → Everyone Rebuilds

COMMUNICATOR: "The people got to work, even though no one was a professional wall-builder. There were priests and goldsmiths, perfume makers and merchants, moms and dads, kids and grandparents. Everyone pitched in—lifting heavy stones, mixing mortar, sweating under the sun. The sounds of building echoed through the city, and hope began to rise with every new stone."

SLIDE 6 → Sanballat and Tobiah Mock

COMMUNICATOR: "Trouble was not far away from their hard work. Sanballat and Tobiah—bullies from neighboring lands—mocked God's people. Sanballat sneered:

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

"What are those Jews trying to do? Can they make their city wall like new again? Will they offer sacrifices? Can they finish everything in a single day? 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!"

"But Nehemiah didn't let the teasing stop him. He turned right to God and prayed for help: 'God, help us!'

SLIDE 7 → The People Keep Building Despite Their Enemies

COMMUNICATOR: "Pretty soon, the wall was halfway up! The people were tired, muscles aching, hands blistered—but they were making progress. That's when the enemies of God's people even planned secret attacks to stop the work. Some people got scared. Others wanted to quit.

"But Nehemiah didn't let fear win. He remembered God was with them, and he reminded other people of that too! He said this to them:

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

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"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."

COMMUNICATOR: "God was with them every step. Day and night, the work continued. Can you picture it? Weeks of hard labor. Sore arms and scraped knees, sweat dripping down faces, dirt under fingernails. No fancy machines. Just faith, determination, and God's help."

"And finally—after just fifty-two days, less than two months—the entire wall of Jerusalem stood strong and tall! The people stared in amazement, hearts pounding with joy. God had helped them do a big, huge thing!"

SLIDE 8 → The Wall Is Finished with God's Help!

COMMUNICATOR: ""Let's give a massive cheer for Nehemiah and the people! They trusted God and did something that looked impossible!"

"But here's the real truth: the real hero isn't Nehemiah or the builders. The real hero is God. Every single step, God gave Nehemiah every single thing he needed—including courage, wisdom, and strength. God united the people, protected them, and helped them do something that mattered for generations."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "You might not be building city walls or fighting off bullies, but you face big things too. Maybe you're trying out for a team, helping a friend, starting something new, or standing up for what's right. Maybe you're facing a challenge nobody else knows about—a worry, a hope, a dream that feels way too big. Guess what? God can help you do big things. Not because you're perfect or fearless, but because God is with you—right here, right now."

"So, what's your 'big thing' right now? Is it something scary, something exciting, or something you can't even talk about yet? Nehemiah's story shows us it's okay to ask for God's help for every single thing."

"When you feel overwhelmed, remember: you're not alone. God is with you, and He's ready to give you whatever you need—strength, wisdom, and confidence—not so you can show off, but so you can show the world what God can do through you."

"When you're up against something that feels impossible—when you're

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

tired, scared, or ready to quit—remember Nehemiah. Remember that God is right there with you, helping you every step of the way. You can pray, even if it's just, 'God, help me.' And you can trust that God will come through. He's done it before, and He'll do it again.

SLIDE → Bottom Line

→ **Point to the screen.**

"That's our Bottom Line for the week: 'God can help you do big things.'"

"Let's say that together, as loud as we can!"

COMMUNICATOR and KIDS: "God can help you do big things!"

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

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

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"This week, we're 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 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!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Wow, you all were incredible today! Give yourself a round of applause—go ahead, make some noise! You showed so much energy and heart as we learned about Nehemiah and his gigantic challenge."

Pump fist and encourage kids to cheer loudly, maybe even stomp your feet or clap.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Nehemiah faced a wall that seemed impossible to rebuild. But Nehemiah didn't give up. He asked God for help, and God came through in powerful ways! Nehemiah gathered his people, trusted God, and together they did something amazing.

"Maybe there's something in your life that feels huge—like a mountain you have to climb. It could be making a new friend, standing up for what's right, or asking for help with something that scares you. Take a second and think: What's one big thing you need God's help with right now?

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "What do you need help with?

"Whatever you thought of, remember—God is right there with you, just like He was with Nehemiah. God never leaves you on your own. He is strong, wise, and He cares about every part of your life.

"Right now, silently think of one big thing you want God's help with this week. If you want, whisper it to God. He hears every word—even the quiet ones.

→ **Pause for a moment and let kids pray to themselves.**

"Let's talk to God about what we need.

③ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, thank You for being with us, just like You were with Nehemiah. When we face things that feel impossible, remind us that nothing is too big for You. Please help each person with what they need this week. You know what is on our hearts, and we need Your help. 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: Welcome/ 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
- ☐ "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 below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store. thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

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

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 the curriculum. There are two versions of each Timeline Image—a slide and a print version. A digital God's Big Story poster is available as well in the Orange Store.

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

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."

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

- ☐ Communicator
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Table

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Conversation Starter Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Bible Story Images, containing:
 - "1 Nehemiah Serves the King" Slide
 - "2 Nehemiah Prays" Slide
 - "3 Nehemiah Checks Out the Walls" Slide
 - "4 Nehemiah Speaks to the People" Slide
 - "5 Everyone Rebuilds" Slide
 - "6 Sanballat and Tobiah Mock" Slide
 - "7 The People Keep Building Despite Their Enemies" Slide
 - "8 The Wall Is Finished with God's Help" Slide

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

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 the curriculum. There are two versions of each Timeline Image—a slide and a print version. A digital God's Big Story poster is available as well in the Orange Store.

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

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.