

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

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship ("Follow You" from Ready, Set, Move!, "You're Right There" from You're Right There single, and "Ready, Set, Move!" from Ready, Set, Move!)
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Conversation Starter
- 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 & 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

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org



Today's Bible Story

Creation and the Fall Genesis 1–2:3, 3 Romans 5:8

Conversation Starter

How do you know you can trust God?

Bottom Line

You can trust God no matter what.

Monthly Memory Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (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/Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE → Theme

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

→ Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Countdown

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Intro

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

→ *Host 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.*

HOST: "Hey! Welcome to [name of environment.] All this month we're taking about what it means to have an origin story. An origin story is the beginning of something—like your favorite superhero. Does anyone know some cool superhero origin stories?"

→ *Pause for time and let a few kids answer.*

"Wow, you did a great job knowing so much about superheroes. Let's test this with a game I like to call 'Super-moji.'"

SLIDE: Super-Moji

"So here is how you play, I'm going to have a slide that has some emojis on it representing the name of a superhero. I need you to raise your hand if you know the answer. Are you ready?"

→ *As you show the slides, make comments with kids about your favorite superheroes. You may need to give some help if kids are struggling to guess the name.*

SLIDE → Spider-Man 🕷️ + 🧐

SLIDE → Aquaman 💧 + 🦶

SLIDE → Green Lantern 🟢 + 🕯️

SLIDE → Iron Man 🛡️ + 🦾

SLIDE → Robin 🦋

"Great job! You guys really know your superheroes! Now let's go focus our attention in worship on the One who did the most heroic thing in history!"

10 MINUTES

Worship

Note

We've suggested worship songs from 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, including the featured song, "You're Right There." 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!

② Worship

→ *Worship Leaders enter as Host exits*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey friends! I'm so excited to worship with you! Worship is giving praise and honor to God by singing and dancing. We can follow God no matter what. Let's go ahead and sing about it!"

AUDIO → "Follow You" / track 7 from Ready, Set, Move!

VIDEO → "Follow You" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"Great worshipping! Sometimes, though, it can be hard to follow God, right? It can feel like sometimes, we are alone or that God isn't there with us. But God IS with you, no matter what is going on! Let's worship together."

AUDIO → "You're Right There" from You're Right There single

OPTIONAL VIDEO → "You're Right There" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"No matter what, you are right there! When we know God is with us, we have the confidence to go and tell other people about Him. Let's go ahead and sing this next song together."

AUDIO → "Ready, Set, Move" / track 1 from Ready, Set, Move

OPTIONAL VIDEO → "Ready, Set, Move!" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"Great job everyone! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our Bible Story today."

25 MINUTES

Story

③ Communicator Script (Story)

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ *Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "This month we're in the series 'Origin Story,' where we're talking about God and how His Story started. But before that, I want to ask about YOUR origin story. Are you from this state or somewhere else? Is there something that's unique about how you grew up? Take a second and ask your neighbor that question.

→ *Give kids a moment or two to chat about their origin story. As time allows, have a few kids share their story with the rest of the group. Comment on them appropriately.*

"Whoa! Thanks for sharing your story. Some of you might be sitting next to someone you knew for a while, and now you know something new about them. See, when we get to know about someone's past, we get to really understand them so much more than we did before.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "We just learned something new about each other! But let me ask you a question. It's kind of a big one: What do you know about God? Some of you might have the answer you think you're supposed to say in church, right? Some of you may not really know a lot about God. When you stop and think about it, who is God? I mean, is God this being who is outside of what we think and see every day who is just unemotionally controlling everything? Is He just some cosmic being who just 'poofed' the world here one day and left everyone to think for themselves? And can we really trust someone we can't see?

"Thankfully, God wants us to know who He is and what He is like! That's why He gave us His Word, the Bible! And we're going to do something really cool this year. Each week, we'll take a look at a story from the Bible that tells us about God. We're going to go through God's Big Story! And as we do, I hope over this next year we can start to get a better idea of who He is.

SLIDE → God's Big Story

→ *Move over to the pile of boxes. As you say each point, stack each box as you talk about it.*

25 MINUTES

Story

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “This week we’re going to start where you think we should start for a story—at the very beginning. The very first book of the Bible called Genesis tells us about the beginning of God’s Big Story.

“Genesis begins by telling the story of how the world started. The very first verses of the Bible tell us this:

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 1:1-2 (NirV) and read.*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth didn’t have any shape. And it was empty. There was darkness over the surface of the waves. At that time, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. (NirV)

→ *Pick up the Black Box and put it in the stack.*

“When God created the world, there was nothing. The Earth was this shapeless, dark, watery orb. But God brought new life into the world. Let’s keep reading.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 1:3-5 (NirV) and read.*

God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day.” He called the darkness “night.” There was evening, and there was morning. It was day one.

→ *Pick up the Yellow Box and put it in the stack.*

“There it was! God separated the light from the darkness—the light was the day and the darkness was night. Then the story went on.

→ *Pick up the Creation Cycle Box and put it in the stack. Point to each of the days on the box as you describe it.*

“On the second day of creation, God separated even more! He separated water up and water down, and sky appeared. On the third day of creation, God separated even more! He gathered the water together to make seas, and dry land appeared—He separated water from land. And on this dry ground, He created plants! Grasses and flowers and veggies! Then God started to fill what He had separated! On day four of creation, God filled those heavens He had created. He created the sun and the moon and all of the stars in the sky. On day five, He filled the sky and the waters—He spoke birds and sea creatures into life. On day six, God filled the land! He created every land animal. Then, He created something really special. God created the first people! Adam and Eve. God looked at everything He had made and saw that it was very good. After six days of creating, God rested on the seventh day.

→ *Pick up the Tree Box and put it in the stack.*

“When God created Adam, He told him this:

25 MINUTES

Story

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 2:16-17 (NirV) and read.*

"You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you will certainly die."

"Then Adam and Eve took care of the garden.

→ *Pick up the Serpent Box and put it in the stack.*

"One day, a serpent, whom the Bible says was the cleverest of all other animals, approached Eve in the garden. This is what the serpent said:

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 3:1-5 (NirV) and read.*

The serpent said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden'?"

"Now, hold up a moment! I know what you're probably thinking: Snakes don't talk! That's right, and this wasn't any ordinary snake. Later in the Bible we're told that this serpent slithering around in the Garden was none other than Satan, the devil himself. He was there to tempt Adam and Eve, to get them to doubt God. And he's still up to evil today. But in this story, we see how it all began. This is how Eve responded:

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. But God did say, 'You must not eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.'"

"You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. "God knows that when you eat fruit from that tree, you will know things you have never known before. Like God, you will be able to tell the difference between good and evil."

"Eve looked at the tree and saw that the fruit looked good, and decided to eat it. Adam, who was with her, ate it too. And all of a sudden, they experienced things they had never felt before—things like fear, shame, and blame. Adam and Eve learned other things too, what it felt like to not trust each other, and to not trust God.

→ *Pick up the Fig Leaves Box and put it in the stack.*

"After they ate the fruit, they also noticed they were naked, and felt ashamed about it. So, they took some leaves and sewed them together to make clothes. Once they'd done this, they heard the sound of walking in the distance. They knew it was God, so they hid from Him.

→ *Pick up the Garden Exit Box and put it in the stack.*

"God, knowing what Adam and Eve had done, asked them what happened. But instead of owning up to what they did wrong, they tried blaming each other.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 3:12-13 (NirV) and read.*

25 MINUTES

Story

"The man said, "It's the fault of the woman you put here with me. She gave me some fruit from the tree. And I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?"

The woman said, "The serpent tricked me. That's why I ate the fruit."

"When Adam and Eve sinned, a whole bunch of really sad stuff happened. Before sin, they walked and talked with God every day! They were super close. But sin made a wall between them and God, and that closeness was broken.

"Sin didn't just hurt their hearts—it also hurt the world! The curse of sin brought pain, sickness, sadness, and even death. That was never God's plan.

"Because Adam and Eve sinned, it broke their relationship with God. Adam and Eve no longer enjoyed the closeness with God they once did. And since every single person's heart who lived after them was affected by sin, they couldn't be close to God either.

"Because of that sin, God told them how much harder their lives would be. God still loved them despite their sin, and gave them clothes made out of animal skins. And out of His love for them, He sent them out of the Garden so they couldn't eat from the tree of life and live forever in their cursed state. He didn't want them to live forever apart from Him. He put angels and a flaming sword at the entrance to guard the way to the tree of life.

"Imagine being Adam and Eve, everything they ever knew was lost because of their choice. They left a place where they were in the presence of God and now they were out of the beautiful garden. Their relationship with Him was ruined, the world was broken. But even when everything felt dark, God had a plan to make everything right again.

→ *Pick up the Baby Jesus Box and put it in the stack.*

"God still loved the people He created, and He had a plan to rescue them. Thousands of years later, many generations after Adam and Eve, God carried out a key step in His rescue plan. God sent His very own Son, Jesus, to Earth to be born as a baby! Jesus was God made flesh. He was still God but born as a baby and grew up just like the rest of us.

"Jesus grew up just like us. He ate lunch, just like us. He helped people, and loved everyone. Jesus was a human just like you and me, except Jesus never did anything wrong. Never. Jesus showed others who God is and what God is like.

→ *Turn around the stacks of boxes and reveal the cross.*

"God loved people, all the way back from the beginning, but our sin kept us from having a close relationship with Him. So, God sent Jesus to give up His life for us. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

25 MINUTES

Story

"But in addition to that amazing news, Jesus didn't stay dead. Three days later when His friends went to His tomb, they found it EMPTY! Jesus wasn't dead anymore, He was alive!

"Jesus rose from the dead! And when He rose from the dead, Jesus proved that He really did pay for our sins. Jesus paid for all sin for all time! He broke that evil, awful curse.

"Because Jesus paid for our sins, we can be in a relationship with God again. Jesus fixed what Adam and Eve had broken. When we choose to believe in Jesus and follow Him, we get to have a relationship with God that lasts forever!

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "God loves you. He cares so much about you that He sent Jesus with the mission to die for you and pay for your sins.

"Because of God's rescue plan, through Jesus, our relationship with Him is no longer broken. And that's just the first part of God's great plan! There's more! Jesus is coming back! When He does, we will live with Him forever and there will no longer be any pain, or sickness, or death. He is going to fix everything that has been broken!

"So, back to that question that we asked in the beginning: How do you get to know God? Like the big God who rules over all?

"One of the ways you can do that is through His Word, the Bible. That's one of the reasons God gave it to us—He wants us to know Him! So we are going to spend this year going through His Great Story to learn more about who He is.

"This week, we looked at how God has been working on His great rescue plan for a long, long time. Adam and Eve broke everything. And God is going to fix everything.

"So we can trust God no matter what because even when we're not worthy of His love, He loves us anyway. Adam and Eve broke everything. We all needed rescue. And God loves us so much He did everything to fix what we broke. We saw this week how He has been working on His great rescue plan for a long, long time.

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's take a look at our timeline.

SLIDE → God's Big Story

SLIDE → Week 1 Timeline Image

"Each week this year, we'll put a new image on the timeline as we go through God's Big Story and learn about Him. Let's look at this first week.

25 MINUTES

Story

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

④ Conversation Starter

"When we see creation, we can see that God loved you for a long, long time. God cares for you and wants to have a personal relationship with you. The first step is to trust Him. On your way to small groups, think about this question:

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "How do you know you can trust God? Maybe it's looking around and seeing creation all around you or reading your favorite Bible Story. Let's go ahead and pray before we go to our groups.

SLIDE → Theme Background

⑤ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, thank You so much for today's story. As we start this year, please help us learn about who You are as we read through parts of the Bible. We want to know You! Thank You so much for doing the most amazing thing and sending Your Son, Jesus, to help fix our broken relationship with You. We broke things, and You fixed them. Please help us know and believe that we can trust You no matter what. Thank You for loving us for a long, long time. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, Amen."

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

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

SLIDE → God's Big Story

Optional Video → Theme Loop

WEEK

TWO

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

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Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship ("Sing Your Praises" from Start The Party, "At The Top of My Lungs" from At The Top of My Lungs, and "You're Right There" from You're Right There single)
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Conversation Starter
- 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

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Noah Genesis 6–9

Conversation Starter

When is it hard to trust God?

Bottom Line

You can trust God even when you don't understand.

Monthly Memory Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1 (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/Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE → Theme

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

→ Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Countdown

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Intro

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

WELCOME

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

OPENER

HOST: "Hello! Welcome to [NAME OF ENVIRONMENT] I'm so glad you came here this week. We're in our series called 'Origin Story,' talking about knowing all about our origin story with God. But before we jump into that, let's play a game!

"So, this theme has all to do with superheroes! One of the bravest superheroes is named Superman®. He is super-strong, can fly, and one of the best superheroes out there. But he has a big weakness. Does anyone know what it is?

→ *Wait for responses.*

"That's right! It's kryptonite. If he gets it near him, it zaps all of his superpowers. So today I thought we could play a game called: 'Kryptonite Catch.'

→ *Grab one of the "Kryptonite" balls and circle up the kids.*

"The way you play is take this ball and toss it to a friend. But you have to quickly toss the ball to someone else. Pretty easy, right? But as you pass, I'll keep adding more and more in. Let's see if we can do it without dropping a ball for three minutes. Are you ready? Let's go!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ *Start the game by passing the ball and starting the timer. As the game progresses you may need to hold some balls back. Keep play over and over as long as time allows.*

"Good job, heroes! Those were some pretty great skills, but I wonder what your worship skills look like? Let's keep standing and worship God!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

Note

We've suggested worship songs below from 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, including the featured song, "You're Right There." 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!

② Worship

→ *Worship Leaders enter as Host exits*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey! I'm excited to worship with you today! Worship is giving honor to God through singing and dancing. Let's go ahead and worship together.

AUDIO → "Sing Your Praises" / track 3 from Start The Party

VIDEO → "Sing Your Praises" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"We can always sing about the amazing things God has done for us. Let's keep on worshipping at the top of our lungs!

AUDIO → "At The Top of My Lungs" / track 1 from At The Top of My Lungs

OPTIONAL VIDEO → "At The Top of My Lungs" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"That was great! We know we can trust God because He is always with us. Let's go ahead and sing this song together!

AUDIO → "You're Right There" / from You're Right There single

OPTIONAL VIDEO → "You're Right There" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"Great job everyone! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our Bible Story today.

25 MINUTES

Story

③ Communicator Script (Story)

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ *Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, friends! Quick question: Have you ever thought you saw something, but you weren't really sure? Like, really not sure?"

"Maybe your eyes were playing tricks on you, or you had to blink a few times. Or, you might wear glasses (like me) and needed to give them a quick cleaning!"

"Let's try something fun together. Take a look at these ..."

SLIDE → Kid-friendly Optical Illusions (not provided)

"Whoa, that was wild, right? Sometimes our eyes see one thing but our brain is like, "Wait, what?"

That's kind of how it feels when something happens in life we didn't expect. When we're not really sure what's really going on ... or we don't know what's coming next.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Have you ever felt that way? Maybe something has happened in your life and you just don't trust it will ever end. It's hard to trust when you don't understand what's going to happen at the end.

"This month we're talking all about faith, which is trusting in something you can't see because of what you can see. This year we're going through the Bible from cover to cover! As we do, we'll learn about God and how we can have faith in Him because of what He has done. We are going through God's Big Story! **(GESTURE TO SLIDE)**

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"In today's true story we'll look at a man named Noah, who was facing something he didn't understand.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "This week we're still in the first book of the Bible

25 MINUTES

Story

called Genesis. **(HOLD UP BIBLE.)** So last week, we talked about how God made everything, right? From the air to all the creatures in the sea. But when it came to people, people were the highest creation of all! People were made in the image of God, which means we were created to show each other what God is like!

"God is loving, so we can love others like He does! God is kind, so we can be kind! God is fair, so we can be fair! And He made us to be His friends.

"In the beginning, God made two people, Adam and Eve, and they chose to go their own way instead of trusting God. They sinned.

"Sin is anything that goes against God's way—who He is and what He said. When Adam and Eve sinned, it broke their friendship with God and the curse of sin made everything more difficult.

"After that, people kept choosing their own way instead of God's way. One person who was still faithful to God was a man named Noah. Noah and his true story is the one we're going to look more closely at today!

SLIDE → Alone Meme

"God loves everyone, and He was so sad that people chose to do what they wanted instead of following Him and His ways. God said this to Noah.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 6:13-17 (NirV) and read.*

So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to everyone. They have filled the earth with their harmful acts. I am certainly going to destroy them and the earth. So make yourself an ark out of cypress wood. Make rooms in it. Cover it with tar inside and out. Here is how I want you to build it. The ark has to be 450 feet long. It has to be 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Make a roof for it. Leave below the roof an opening all the way around that is a foot and a half high. Put a door in one side of the ark. Make lower, middle and upper decks. I am going to bring a flood on the earth. It will destroy all life under the sky. It will destroy every living creature that breathes. Everything on earth will die. "

"The world was in a really bad place. Even though God loved everyone, He was saddened by what was happening. But God loved people so much that He didn't give up on them. He went to work on a plan, a plan that involved Noah. Let's keep reading.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 6:18-20 (NirV) and read.*

"But I will make my covenant with you. You will go into the ark. Your sons and your wife and your sons' wives will enter it with you. Bring a male and a female of every living thing into the ark. They will be kept alive with you. Two of every kind of bird will come to you. Two of every kind of animal will also come to you. And so will two of every kind of creature that moves along the ground. All of them will be kept alive with you."

25 MINUTES

Story

"Noah had a big job to do, and even though God told Noah what to do, it was a task that could make you feel like this.

SLIDE → Big Job Meme

"Noah and his family got to work immediately building the ark! But this job wasn't easy. It took Noah and his family decades and decades to build because they didn't have things like power tools. But Noah was faithful to continue—even though he had no idea when God would flood the whole Earth. Finally, after YEARS and YEARS, the ark was finally finished! God sent pairs of every animal to Noah to load on the ark.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 7:1, 4a (NirV)*

Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark with your whole family. I know that you are a godly man among the people of today. . . . Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth. It will rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

"So Noah boarded the ark with his three sons Shem, Ham and Japheth, and each of their wives and all of the animals. God sealed the giant door tightly. The rain came down for 40 days and 40 nights, just like God said. The water on the Earth's surface rose higher and higher until even the tallest mountains were covered.

SLIDE → Flood Meme

"Even after the rain had stopped, the flood covered the earth for 150 days."

"God eventually sent a great wind that caused the floodwaters to recede. The ark finally came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. However, Noah and his family had to wait several more months for the waters to go down enough for them to safely leave the ark.

"Noah sent out a bird, but eventually it would come back because there was no place to land, so he'd wait and send out another.

SLIDE → Waiting Meme

"Finally, the bird he sent out never came back. That meant there was dry land for it to land on! God said to Noah:

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 8:16-17 (NirV) and read.*

"Come out of the ark. Bring your wife and your sons and their wives with you. Bring out every kind of living thing that is with you. Bring the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground. Then they can multiply on the earth. They can have little ones and the number of them can increase."

25 MINUTES

Story

"At last, over a year after the first rain began, Noah and his family walked out onto dry land. Noah and his family were so thankful that they built an altar to God and offered a sacrifice to honor Him. God made a promise to never flood the whole Earth again.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 9:9, 11, 12b-13 (NIRV) and read.*

"I am now making my covenant with you and with all your children who will be born after you. . . . Here is my covenant I am making with you. The waters of a flood will never again destroy all life. A flood will never again destroy the earth. . . .

"Here is the sign of the covenant I am making. I have put my rainbow in the clouds. It will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Even though Noah didn't really understand what was happening, he trusted God. We can trust God just like Noah did because we have His Word, the Bible! When we read the Bible, we can learn more about who God is and how He keeps His promises. In the Bible, there is story after story after story of how God kept His promises. He has always kept every single one.

"And in the story we read today, God actually made a physical demonstration of the truth that He would never break His promise to flood the Earth again—God made the rainbow. And, just like He said He would, God has never flooded the Earth again. Every time you see a rainbow in the sky, you can remember that once again, God has kept His promise.

"Another promise God has made is that He promises to always be with us. So when we face things that are scary and it's hard to understand, we can trust that God is with us through it all. He has never broken a promise, and He won't break that one either.

"And we can trust another one of God's promises—that He has a plan. But what is God's big plan? To fix what got broken back in the Garden. That means taking care of the curse of sin.

"God accomplished part of His big plan when Jesus gave His life to pay for our sins. He paid for sins and broke the curse! Now we can be in a relationship with God that starts now and goes on forever!

"We can trust God is going to carry out His big plan."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "In fact, God's big plan is what we are looking at all year! Let's take a look at the timeline."

SLIDE → God's Big Story

25 MINUTES

Story

"From the beginning, God knew that we would need rescue. As we saw last week, Adam and Eve ushered in a curse of sin that affected everything. No one could be close to God anymore! But God wasn't going to leave things that way. So as we'll see over the next year, God faithfully worked and worked and worked on His rescue plan. Today's story is one more part of that rescue plan.

"Let's hang up the picture of today's story on our timeline and talk about what we learned in this part of God's rescue plan.

SLIDE → God's Big Story

SLIDE → Week 2 Timeline Image

"When we think of Noah, we can remember that even though we might not know exactly what God is doing, we can have faith or trust in what we can't see because of what we can see. We can see that through this timeline, God has been faithful to us!

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

④ Conversation Starter

"As you go to your small groups, think about this question:

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "When is it hard to trust God? Maybe it's when you feel stressed about something that you have been working on for a long time. Or when you have to go and present a project at school. No matter the situation, God is always with you. Let's talk to God right now.

SLIDE → Theme Background

⑤ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, thank You so much for this story. Please help us to be like Noah and trust You, even when we don't understand how things are going to turn out. When life gets hard or we feel confused, please help us ask for help and trust that You will do what You say You will do. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

→ *Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.*

Preteen

Large Group

August — Week 2

25 MINUTES

Story

→ After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

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

SLIDE → Theme

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

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)

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship ("Follow You" from Ready, Set, Move!, "You're Right There" from You're Right There single, and "Ready, Set, Move!" from Ready, Set, Move!)
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Conversation Starter
- 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

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

God Chooses Abram Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6

Conversation Starter

What does it look like to trust God?

Bottom Line

You can trust that God has a plan.

Monthly Memory Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (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/Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE → Theme

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

→ Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Countdown

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Intro

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

WELCOME

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

OPENER

HOST: "What's up? We are here with week three of 'Origin Story,' where we're learning about more about our origin story with God! But before that, let's play a game!

"This month our theme has been all about superheroes. this week the game is themed around a web-shooting wonder! Who do you think it is?
(PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)

"Right! It's Spider-Man™! For this week's game, we'll need three volunteers and one leader!

→ *Choose three kid volunteers and one prechosen adult volunteer. Adult leader will put on safety goggles as the game is explained.*

"The Origin Story of Spider-Man is that he was bitten by a radioactive spider and now has the skills to climb on the walls! Some versions of Spider-Man can even shoot webs without any other tech. Today, we're going to see if our volunteers have the skills to be Spider-Man.

"In just a second, I'll hand out this can of Silly String to each kid. When I say 'Go!' you have 60 seconds to completely cover the [name of volunteer] from head to toe with spiderwebs. Do you think you are up to the challenge? Let's make sure every Spider-Man has their webshooter.

→ *Hand out a can of Silly String to each kid.*

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Okay, are we ready? 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . . Go!

→ *Start the countdown. Give comments as kids are covering the leader from head to toe.*

"Okay! We're all done! I think our leader is all webbed up! Let's give a hand for our leader and volunteers as they go back to their seat. But don't sit down, because it's time to stand up and worship and tell God we love Him!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

Note

We've suggested worship songs below from 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, including the featured song, "You're Right There." 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!

② Worship

→ *Worship Leaders enter as Host exits*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey friends! I'm so excited to worship with you! Worship is giving praise and honor to God by singing and dancing. Let's worship together!"

AUDIO → "Follow You" / track 7 from Ready, Set, Move!

VIDEO → "Follow You" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"Great worshipping! No matter where we are or what is happening, we can trust that God is always with us. Let's go ahead and sing this next song together.

AUDIO → "You're Right There" / from You're Right There single

OPTIONAL VIDEO → "You're Right There" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"No matter what, you are right there! When we know God is with us, we have the confidence to go and tell other people about Him. Let's go ahead and sing this next song together.

AUDIO → "Ready, Set, Move!" / track 1 from Ready, Set, Move!

OPTIONAL VIDEO → "Ready, Set, Move!" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"Great job everyone! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our Bible Story today.

25 MINUTES

Story

③ Communicator Script (Story)

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ *Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey! Today before we jump in, I want to see if you can do this challenge. I need a volunteer to come up here.

→ *Choose a kid volunteer and have them sit in the chair against the wall.*

"Okay, so you have an easy challenge today. I'm going to put two fingers on your forehead, and all you need to do is stand up. Are you ready? Go ahead!

→ *Put two fingers on their forehead and they will try to stand up. They won't be able to do it.*

"See, it seems like something easy that you should do, but it's pretty difficult to stand up, right? It's because your center of gravity in the chair is at an angle where you can't stand straight up.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "That assignment was harder than it looked! It was really hard to do!

"Have you ever been asked to do something really hard in your life? Have you ever been asked to do something you didn't know you could handle?

→ *(Tell an age-appropriate personal story about a time when you were asked to do something harder than you thought you could handle.)*

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "This week, we're going to look at the story of a couple who was asked to do something really hard! When they first got the assignment, they might have wondered if they could do it too.

"But before we take a closer look at their story, let me give you a little background about where that story fits.

"This year we're going through God's Big Story! **(GESTURE TO SLIDE.)** Each week, we'll talk about an important story from the Bible as we go through it from cover to cover. At the end of each week, we'll put a picture that represents that week on the timeline. And at the end of the year, our goal is to have learned more about God. After all, He wants us to know Him! That's one of the big reasons He gave us the Bible in the first place!

25 MINUTES

Story

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"This week, we're still in the very first book of the Bible, Genesis, which tells about the beginning. In the beginning, there was nothing. Then God created everything—the heavens, the Earth, and every living thing on the Earth: animals, plants, oceans, and finally us!

"God made us in His image. That means that we were created to show each other what God is like. God is loving, so we can love others like He does! God is kind, so we can be kind! God is fair, so we can be fair!

"But Adam and Eve, the first people God created, sinned. Sin is anything that goes against God and His ways—who He is or what He has said. When Adam and Eve sinned, they ushered in a curse of sin that affected them and everyone who would live after them.

"For generations, people continued to sin against God. But God never gave up on us. He always had a plan to break that curse of sin and bring us back into relationship with Him through Jesus!

"Last week we talked about one man who did choose to follow God in a world of evil—a man named Noah. When God asked him to, Noah built a huge ark. God was going to bring a huge flood to destroy all of the evil that was happening. But God saved Noah, his family, and all of the animals who God kept safe on the ark.

"After the flood, Noah and his family quickly spread throughout the Earth. But sadly, just like before the flood, most people chose not to follow God. Even then, God had a plan to save everyone.

"God's plan began with a couple, Abram and his wife Sarai. Abram and Sarai didn't know it, but a key part of God's plan to rescue everyone was going to start with them! We're going to look at their story today!

"And that story begins when Abram and Sarai traveled really far with Abram's father and Abram's nephew Lot.

→ *Take out the box with props and hold out the action figure for Abram and Sarai.*

"Together, Abram's father, his nephew, and all of their flocks and herds, settled in a place called Harran. They lived in Harran a very long time, and while they did, their flocks of sheep and herds of livestock grew and grew and grew through God's blessings.

"But they still didn't have one thing they longed to have as well—a child.

→ *Make the Abram and Sarai action figures sad.*

"But God had a plan for them! When Abram was 75 years old, God told him this.

→ *Open the Bible to 12:1-3 (NIRV) and read.*

25 MINUTES

Story

"Go from your country, your people and your father's family. Go to the land I will show you.

"I will make you into a great nation.

And I will bless you.

I will make your name great.

You will be a blessing to others.

I will bless those who bless you.

I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you.

All nations on earth

will be blessed because of you."

"Amazing, right? God told Abram that the entire EARTH would be blessed by him. But they had to leave his father's family and travel to a different country! Abram and Sarai could have thought that it was a lot or too much to go travel all the way there, but Abram followed God. He did what God asked.

"So Abram packed up, he took his wife and his nephew Lot with them, and all their sheep and herds, and they headed toward the land of Canaan.

→ *Take out the smaller box that says "caravan" and put Abram, Sarai, Lot, and Lot's wife action figures in the box. Then, move it across the table. You can make it dramatic and walk around the room to show how long it took to get to Canaan.*

"Finally, they arrived in the land of Canaan. They set up their tents near a tree called Moreh in the land of Shechem. Again, God spoke to Abram.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 12:7 (NIRV) and read.*

The LORD appeared to Abram at Shechem. He said, "I will give this land to your family who comes after you." So Abram built an altar there to honor the LORD, who had appeared to him .

"Abram was encouraged to know he was on the right path. He wanted to honor God, so he set up an altar at Shechem to honor the One True God.

→ *Take half of the rocks out of the box and put them down on the table.*

"Abram and Sarai continued to travel. This time they went east to the hills east of Bethel. It was a long way to keep traveling, but they still trusted God. When they arrived in Bethel, Abram built another altar to honor God there.

→ *Put the "caravan" box down. Grab the other half of the rocks and put them on a different spot of the table.*

"Abram and Sarai traveled around for a long time. Years! Yet they still had no children! Abram was already 75 years old when God first appeared to him and told him to go to a new country, so he was much older now, and so was Sarai.

25 MINUTES

Story

"Even though Abram and Sarai trusted God, sometimes they struggled. Sometimes they made bad decisions. That's called sin. But even though they sinned against God, God was still faithful. He still kept His promise and His plan to bless the world through their family.

"One night, God appeared to Abram again. He told Abram to go outside and to look up at the stars.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 15:5-6 (NirV) and read.*

The LORD took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can." Then he said to him, "That's how many children will be born into your family."

Abram believed the LORD. The LORD was pleased with Abram because he believed. So Abram's faith made him right with the LORD.

"Despite how old Abram and Sarai had become, they chose to trust God again and put their faith in Him. And because of Abram's faith, the Bible says it made him right with God, no matter what.

"As a sign of His promise, God changed their names to AbrahAM, and SarAH. Though they still were not perfect, finally when Sarah was 90 years old and Abraham was 100 years old, God gave them a son, and they named him Isaac."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Abraham and Sarah had to wait for a long, long, LONG time for God to do what He said He would do. But even though it took years and years, and Abraham and Sarah made wrong choices along the way, God was still faithful and gave them a child. God was still faithful even though Abraham and Sarah sometimes were not.

"And that child would be crucial in God's great rescue plan. After many generations, the family started by Abraham and Sarah became known as the Israelite people. These were God's people. And God was going to bring His great rescue plan through that family!

"You know what the really cool part of this is? God had a plan many, many, many years later. When God sent Jesus to Earth, He was born into Abraham and Sarah's family.

"And Jesus would break that horrible curse, pay for sin, and make a way for us to be in a relationship with God again. The entire world would be blessed because of what He did!

"Sometimes in our own life, it's hard for us to wait, right? But God is faithful all of the time. Faith means trusting what you can't see because of what you can see. And even though we can't see God every day with our own eyes, we can see these stories from the Bible that show how He is faithful. He has ALWAYS been faithful. We can trust who God is because of who we have seen Him be in the past.

25 MINUTES

Story

"One of the greatest ways God showed us His faithfulness was when He sent His Son, Jesus. We had been infected by the curse of sin. It pulled us away from God. But even though we turned our back on God, He rescued us. Jesus died, and broke the curse of sin—forever! He paid the price of sin, and now we can have a relationship with God!

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's take a look at the timeline."

SLIDE → God's Big Story

SLIDE → Week 3 Timeline Image

"From the very beginning of this timeline, you can see time and time again that God's has done what He said He would do. Even when people choose to turn their backs on God, God was still faithful to us. Let's put this week's story on the timeline."

"This week, we looked at the story of Abraham and Sarah. God had made some big promises to them, including one where they would have a child. They had to wait a long, long time for God to make that promise come true. Sometimes Abraham and Sarah acted faithfully, sometimes they didn't. But as we see, God was faithful. He did just what He said He was going to do, because He always does. And He ushered in a key step in our rescue in the process."

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

④ Conversation Starter

"As you go to your small groups, think about this question."

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "What does it look like to trust God? Maybe it's just walking in faith when you know you are supposed to do something. It could even be if you have a big problem happening in your life, you can trust that God will do what He says He will do. Another way is to pray, you can trust that when we talk to God and ask for help that He will help us. Let's go ahead and pray together now!"

SLIDE → Theme Background

25 MINUTES

Story

⑤ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, thank You so much for this story about Abraham and Sarah. Even when we are in situations where we're nervous about doing what You ask us to do, please give us peace. Thank You so much for your perfect plan to send Jesus for us. Thank You for being faithful a long time to rescue us so we could be in a relationship with You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

→ *Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.*

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

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

SLIDE → Theme

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

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)

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship ("Sing Your Praises" from Start The Party, "At The Top of My Lungs" from At The Top of My Lungs, and "You're Right There" from You're Right There single)
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Conversation Starter
- 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

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jacob's Dream Genesis 28:10-22

Supporting: Genesis 25:19-34; 27

Conversation Starter

What helps you remember that God is with you?

Bottom Line

You can trust that God is with you.

Monthly Memory Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (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/Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE → Theme

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

→ *Host enters . . .*

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Countdown

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Intro

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

WELCOME

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

OPENER

HOST: "Hey! I'm so glad that you're here today! This month we're in our series 'Origin Story,' where we're talking about how we can have faith in God because of what He has done. But before we get started, I wanted to play a game!

"So our theme is all about superheroes and I thought I would test to see how super your senses are.

"On this side of the room I have a bucket, and the other side I have these ball pit balls. All you need to do is just throw the ball pit balls into the bucket. Pretty simple, right? Well, here is the twist. The person catching is going to be blindfolded! Don't worry, we'll have someone who can tell you where to go to catch the balls.

So I need three volunteers for today's game.

→ *Choose three kids and bring them onto the stage. Two kids will stand on one side with the empty bucket and one kid will stand on the other side. Blindfold one of the kids that holds the bucket.*

"Okay, are you ready? You will have 60 seconds to play! are you ready? 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . . Go!

Preteen

Large Group

August — Week 4

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ *Start the countdown. Make comments as the kids are playing. You may need to help direct some kids around the space.*

"Great job! You can go ahead back to your seat, but don't sit down! It's time to get on your feet and tell God that we love Him in worship together!"

10 MINUTES

Worship

Note

We've suggested worship songs below from 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, including the featured song, "You're Right There." 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!

② Worship

→ *Worship Leaders enter as Host exits*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey! I'm excited to worship with you today! Worship is giving honor to God through singing and dancing. Let's go ahead and worship together.

AUDIO → "Sing Your Praises" / track 3 from Start The Party

VIDEO → "Sing Your Praises" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"We can always praise God! When we are happy, we can praise God; when we are sad, we can praise God. And we can ALWAYS praise God at the top of our lungs!

AUDIO → "At The Top of My Lungs" / track 1 from At The Top of My Lungs

OPTIONAL VIDEO → "At The Top of My Lungs" Dance Moves Video (Media Package) or Live Lyrics Video

"That was great! We know we can trust God because He is always with us. Let's go ahead and sing this song together!

AUDIO → "You're Right There" / from You're Right There single

OPTIONAL VIDEO → "You're Right There" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"Great job everyone! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our Bible Story today.

25 MINUTES

Story

③ Communicator Script (Story)

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ *Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everyone! Today I wanted you to think about things that are with you all the time. See if you can make a list with your neighbor. I’ll give you sixty seconds to brainstorm and talk about it.

→ *Take a few seconds and let kids talk to their neighbor about the how many things they have with them. You may need to help give some ideas of things. (your shadow, your shoes, etc.)*

“Wow! That was a lot of things. It’s amazing to think of things you could forget that are with you all of the time.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “But did you know that there is SOMEONE who is with you all the time? Yes! God! God is with you all the time? We’ll talk about this more later this week, but after Jesus went to heaven, He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of His followers! So when you became a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the very Spirit of Jesus, came to live inside of you. So if you want to list someone else who is with you all the time—God is!

“That is such amazing news! But before we dive into that, let me give you a little background information! This year we’re going through God’s Big Story! **(GESTURE TO SLIDE.)**

“Each week, we’ll talk about an important story from the Bible as we go through it from cover to cover. At the end of each week, we’ll put a picture that represents that week on the timeline. And at the end of the year, our goal is to have learned more about God. After all, He wants us to know Him! That’s one of the big reasons He gave us the Bible in the first place!

SLIDE → God’s Big Story

25 MINUTES

Story

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “So for the last few weeks, we’ve been in the book of Genesis, which is in the beginning of the Bible. Genesis talks about the beginnings! It talks about how, in the beginning, God made the heavens and Earth, and everything on it—including people! God made people in His image. That means that we were created to show each other what God is like. God is loving, so we can love others like He does! God is kind, so we can be kind! God is fair, so we can be fair!

“God really, really wants to have a relationship with us, He walked in the Garden with the very first people, but they sinned. Sin is anything that goes against God and His ways. When the first people sinned, they ushered in a curse of sin. This curse infected everyone’s heart and pulled them away from God. Anyone who was born after Adam and Eve had an infected heart too that pulled them away from God. It broke everyone’s relationship with God.

“Sin also did something else terrible. It brought sickness, pain, suffering, and death into the world. We all know how it hurts to live in a broken world.

“But God didn’t leave things there though! He never wanted us to live apart from Him, so He already had a rescue plan in mind to break the curse so we could be close to Him again.

“God chose Abraham and his wife Sarah to continue that plan. God told Abraham the entire world would be blessed through their family. Abraham and Sarah grew very old, but eventually they had a son named Isaac—just like God had promised. When Isaac grew up, he married a woman named Rebekah, and together they had twins, Jacob and Esau. That’s where our story starts today!

“Today as we look at that story, we’re going to play a game called: ‘What Happened Next?’

SLIDE → What Happened Next?

“Here’s how to play! As we go through our story, we’ll get to some points where we can choose, ‘What Happened Next?’ from a couple of options.

“If you want to choose the first option, hold up your pointer finger. If you want to choose the second option, put up two fingers! If you want to

25 MINUTES

Story

choose the third option, hold up three fingers. So you'll hold up fingers to designate your choice.

"Does that make sense? (FIELD ANY QUESTIONS.) Great! Our first 'What Happened Next?' question happens to come at the beginning of our story. So let's get started on our story, and on our first question!

"So, like we mentioned, God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son! They did have that son! His name was Isaac. And Isaac had twins with his wife Rebekah. The first son born was named Esau and the second son born was named Jacob.

"The Bible tells us a special detail about what Esau, the son who was born first, was like when he was born. Let's figure it out with our first 'What Happened Next?' question. Here it is!

SLIDE → Question 1 Slide

"When Esau was born, did he:

1. Smell like boysenberry toast?
2. Appear red and was very hairy?
3. Like to eat tacos?

→ *Wait for kids to respond. The correct answer is number 2. Show the Answer 1 Slide.*

SLIDE → Answer 1 Slide

"That's right! The answer is number 2. The Bible says that Esau was red and was hairy all over his body. When Esau grew up, he loved to hunt.

"Jacob, his younger twin brother, was very different. When he grew up, Jacob preferred to stay at home.

'Now at this time, it was customary that the oldest son would get the blessing, which was the wealth of the family after the father had passed away.

"One day, when Isaac was very old and could not see very well, he brought both Esau and Jacob together and told them this:

→ *Open the Bible to 27:2-4 (NirV) and read.*

25 MINUTES

Story

Isaac said, "I'm an old man now. And I don't know when I'll die. Now then, get your weapons. Get your bow and arrows. Go out to the open country. Hunt some wild animals for me. Prepare for me the kind of tasty food I like. Bring it to me to eat. Then I'll give you my blessing before I die."

"Now Rebekah, his wife, overheard what he had said, and when Esau went out to go hunting, she said this to Jacob.

→ *Open the Bible to 27:6-10 (NirV) and read.*

"Look, I heard your father speaking to your brother Esau. He said, 'Bring me a wild animal. Prepare some tasty food for me to eat. Then I'll give you my blessing before I die. The LORD will be my witness.'" Rebekah continued, "My son, listen carefully. Do what I tell you. Go out to the flock. Bring me two of the finest young goats. I will prepare tasty food for your father. I'll make it just the way he likes it. I want you to take it to your father to eat. Then he'll give you his blessing before he dies."

"So just to recap what just happened, Esau was supposed to get the blessing, but Rebekah came up with a plan for Jacob to get the blessing. Now Jacob was worried because he wasn't as hairy as his brother. So what did he do to try to make himself appear hairy like his brother was? Let's see on our next question in our game of 'What Happened Next?' So, what happened next?

SLIDE → Question 2 Slide

Did Jacob:

4. put on some goat skins?
5. roll around in cat hair?
6. find lint under the couch and put it on his arms?

→ *Wait for kids to respond. The correct answer is number 1. Show the Answer 2 Slide.*

SLIDE → Answer 2 Slide

"The answer is number 1—he put on some goat skins!

"So Jacob did as Rebekah asked and wore the goat's skin. She also dressed him in some of Esau's clothing to really disguise Jacob as Esau.

25 MINUTES

Story

"When Jacob approached Isaac, he handed him the food and the bread and Isaac gave him the blessing. So Jacob got the family blessing instead of Esau.

"A little while later, Esau came back and saw what had happened. How do you think he felt? Let's see with our third and final 'What Happened Next?' question.

SLIDE → Question 3 Slide

Did he feel:

7. so happy?
8. a little frustrated, but he'd be okay?
9. so mad that he wanted to kill his brother?

→ *The answer is number three, but don't reveal it yet.*

"Let's see what the answer is!

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 27:41 (NIRV) and read.*

Esau was angry with Jacob. He was angry because of the blessing his father had given to Jacob. He said to himself, "The days of sorrow over my father's death are near. Then I'll kill my brother Jacob."

SLIDE → Answer 3 Slide

"So yeah, he was pretty mad, the answer is number 3. So because she feared for his life, Rebekah told Jacob to run away to her brother Laban in Harran and stay with him until Esau calmed down. So Jacob left home all alone and went on about a 500-mile journey that took weeks and weeks of walking.

"When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night to rest. He took a stone as a pillow and laid down to sleep. He then had an amazing dream. Here's what it was.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 28:12-14 (NIRV) and read.*

In a dream he saw a stairway standing on the earth. Its top reached to heaven. The angels of God were going up and coming down on it. The LORD stood beside the stairway. He said, "I am the LORD. I am the God of

25 MINUTES

Story

your grandfather Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your children after you the land you are lying on. They will be like the dust of the earth that can't be counted. They will spread out to the west and to the east. They will spread out to the north and to the south. All nations on earth will be blessed because of you and your children after you. I am with you. I will watch over you everywhere you go. And I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

"Jacob woke up from his sleep. He thought that God was in the place! So the next morning, he took the rock that he had been sleeping on and set it as a sacred stone. He poured oil over it as a sign that God had met with him there. He called the place Bethel or 'House of God.'

"Then Jacob made a promise to God. He said this:

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 28:20-21 (NIRV) and read.*

"May God be with me. May he watch over me on this journey I'm taking. May he give me food to eat and clothes to wear. May he do as he has promised so I can return safely to my father's home. Then you, LORD, will be my God."

"Jacob continued on his journey to Harran, where he lived for around twenty years. He got married in Harran and most of his thirteen children were born there! And eventually, Jacob did return home, just as God had promised.

"Jacob made many mistakes during his life and did not always trust God. But God was still with Jacob.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Jacob's story shows us that God can work through anyone, no matter how many bad choices they make. God will always be with them, as He is with us!

"In his dream, Jacob was reminded of the promise God had made to his grandfather Abraham, so he could see that God was still working. God also gave Jacob some new promises, about always being with him.

"God spoke great promises to Jacob personally. But we don't have to have that same experience to trust God. We can trust God because we know that He is trustworthy and He has always been trustworthy.

25 MINUTES

Story

"God gave us the Bible, and it's so wonderful to read about all of the examples we have of how God has kept His promises. God has been so faithful for so long. It's filled with so many stories of how God showed up to help His people. And as He was helping His people, He was always working to bring us the greatest rescue we needed—Jesus.

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's go take a look at our timeline.

SLIDE → God's Big Story

SLIDE → Week 4 Timeline Image

"When we look at the timeline, we can see the first part of God's Big Story. As we see in this first image, **(POINT TO THE FIRST IMAGE.)** the first people ushered in a curse of sin, it infected everyone's hearts, and it pulled them away from God. It broke everyone's relationship with God. But God had a rescue plan in mind! He didn't want to leave us that way!

"So as we see in this next image **(POINT TO THE SECOND IMAGE.)** God saved faithful Noah and then told Noah's descendent Abraham here is this third image **(POINT TO THE THIRD IMAGE.)** that He was going to bless the entire world through his family! God was going to rescue the world through a family! God gave a promise to Abraham, that was passed down through Isaac, and then to his son, Jacob.

"This week we learned more about the sneaky man Jacob who wasn't always faithful, but God always was. Even if Jacob made sinful decisions, God was faithful to keep His promise. God kept His promises to Jacob, but He also was working on His great rescue plan. Because, generations later, from Jacob's big family, would come Jesus. And Jesus would rescue us all.

"Let's put this week's image on the timeline.

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

"Even though Jacob made mistakes, God was still with him. God promised that He would always be with Jacob, and it's true for you too!

"We'll talk more about this later in God's Big Story, but after Jesus' resurrection, when He went to heaven, He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of His followers. When you become a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit

25 MINUTES

Story

came to live inside of you too! So the promise God made to Jacob, is true of all Jesus-followers too! "I am with you."

"So God is always, always, always with you! He is IN you! He is closer than close. So that is something you can trust—that God is always, always with you. That might be a brand-new idea to some of you, and that's okay! We'll chew on this idea more in our small groups."

④ Conversation Starter

"So as you go to your small groups, ask yourself this question:

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "What helps you remember that God is with you? It could be that when you talk to other people who believe in Jesus, you can remember that God is with you. Maybe it's remembering a promise God made to you in the Bible that He is with you. Take time to pause this week and ask God to help you remember that He is with you. Let's go ahead and pray to God now!

SLIDE → Theme Background

⑤ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, thank You so much for being with us. When we feel scared or we feel alone, please help us remember that You are with us. Help us learn to live aware that Your Holy Spirit lives in us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name."

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

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

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video → Theme Loop

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)

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

- Welcome/Opener
- Worship ("Follow You" from Ready, Set, Move!, "You're Right There" from You're Right There single, and "Ready, Set, Move" from Ready, Set, Move!)
- Bible Story (Communicator Script)
- Key Question
- 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

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Joseph Genesis 37, 39–45

Conversation Starter

When has something bad turned into something good?

Bottom Line

You can trust God when things get tough.

Monthly Memory Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (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/Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE → Theme

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

→ *Host enters . . .*

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Countdown

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Intro

OPTIONAL VIDEO → Theme Loop

WELCOME

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

OPENER

HOST: "Hey there! We're in the last week of our series 'Origin Story,' talking about God's one big story! But this has been a pretty great month, right? Before we get into the Bible story for this week, let's go ahead and play a game!"

"All month our theme has had to do with super heroes! Today's game is themed around the Black Panther.

"Here's how you'll play! I have two spools of yarn here, and in just a second I'm going to choose two of you to come up and try to unravel this.

"Here's the twist—you can only use one hand to do it. Do you think you can do it? Let's go ahead and pick two volunteers.

→ *Choose two kid volunteers to come to the stage.*

"All right! Thank you for volunteering! Go ahead and put one of your hands behind your back. Are you ready? Let's start in 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . . GO!"

→ *Make comments on how they're doing. You may need to help them if they get too tangled in the string!*

"Amazing job! You really showed your cat-like reflexes! You can go ahead back to your seat! Everyone else, let's get on our feet to worship God and tell Him we love Him!"

10 MINUTES

Worship

Note

We've suggested worship songs below from 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, including the featured song, "You're Right There." 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!

② Worship

→ *Worship Leaders enter as Host exits*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello everyone! I'm so excited to worship with you! Worship is giving praise and honor to God by singing and dancing. God is amazing, and we know we can trust Him with everything that we do. Let's worship together!"

AUDIO → "Follow You" / track 7 from Ready, Set, Move!

VIDEO → "Follow You" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"Great job! God is always with us, no matter how alone we can feel. Let's sing this song as a reminder that God is always with us."

AUDIO → "You're Right There" / from You're Right There single

OPTIONAL VIDEO → "You're Right There" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"He is always there no matter what! When we know this, we can go and tell others about God! Let's sing this next song together."

AUDIO → "Ready, Set, Move" / track 1 from Ready, Set, Move!

OPTIONAL VIDEO → "Ready, Set, Move!" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

"Great job everyone! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our Bible Story today."

25 MINUTES

Story

③ Communicator Script (Story)

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ *Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Have you ever tried something you didn’t like, but now you love? Like maybe it was a vegetable that you didn’t like when you were younger, but now you love it? Or maybe there’s a game you weren’t that into, but when you tried it again, it was awesome! Go ahead and ask your neighbor about a something that used to be bad, but then became good.

→ *Give time for kids to talk with each other about the question.*

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Those were great responses. I think we can all think of a time when something bad ended up being really good. But has there been a time where you were stuck feeling like you were in a bad season of life and didn’t know how to get out? Maybe you have had bad thing after bad thing happen to you, and you felt like it was never going to get better, or maybe it’s just the same thing and it’s taken forever for you to get over it? Well, today’s story we’ll hear about a man named Joseph who had bad thing after bad thing happen to him over and over again.

“But before we get to Joseph’s story, let me tell you about an awesome thing we’re doing this year! We’re going through the entire story of the Bible! We are! Each week, we’ll go through a story of the Bible that moves us along in God’s Big Story, and we’ll add a picture to our timeline as we do. **(GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)** God want us to know Him! That’s part of the reason He gave us the Bible! So we are going to read through His story this year to learn about Him. We’re going through God’s Big Story!

SLIDE → God’s Big Story

“So, let’s pick up where we left off in God’s Big Story!

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “For the last few weeks, we’ve been in the book of Genesis, which is the first book of the Bible. It tells about beginnings!

“Together we’ve learned about how in the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth, and everything on the Earth—including people!

25 MINUTES

Story

"Of all the creatures God created, He made people special. We're all made in His image, which means we were created to show each other what God is like. We are to be loving, kind, and fair—just like He is!

"But rather than listening to their friend God and obeying Him, Adam and Eve, the first people, chose to do something different. They sinned.

"When Adam and Eve sinned, they ushered in a curse that infected their hearts and the hearts of everyone who would live after them. This curse of sin pulled them away from God. And it would pull everyone else away from God too.

"Sin also did something else awful. It brought sickness, pain, suffering, and death into the world. We all know what it feels like to live in a world that's broken. It hurts so much.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way! He loves us! From the beginning, God had a plan to rescue us and bring us back into relationship with Him!

"God's had a unique rescue plan—He was going to rescue the world through a family! So, God spoke to a man who'd eventually be named Abraham. Abraham didn't have any children, but God was going to change that. He promised that He would bless the whole world through Abraham's family. To start that promise, God gave Abraham and his wife Sarah, a child, Isaac.

"And if you remember from last week, Isaac had twins—Jacob and Esau. Even though Jacob was the second born, he wheeled and dealt his way to being the head of the family. Jacob ended up having 13 children, and 12 of them were sons. Abraham's family was growing—just like God had promised it would.

"Now, I had a friend who was going to help me teach this story, but I'm not sure . . .

→ *Communicator is interrupted by a phone ring. This can either be the Host or you can use the pre-recorded voices. if you choose to use voice recording, do them in order after each line.*

"Oh, I don't really like answering the phone when I'm on stage—but it looks like it's our helper! It looks like they left me a voicemail. Let's listen.

→ *Communicator "plays the voicemail."*

AUDIO → VO_1

25 MINUTES

Story

VO: "Hey, umm. Is this Joe's Pizza? Ha! Just kidding! So, I get like you wanted me to be there, but I can't because I'm in the past. How did I get a phone? Don't think too much about it. Anyways, I'm Joseph, the son of Jacob, and one of the younger brothers of 12. Y'know, living with that many brothers can be a lot, but Dad was pretty cool! He gave me this cool robe. Oh well, got to go! My brothers gotta talk to me. Talk to you later."

COMMUNICATOR: "Well, I guess that works. But yes, that was Joseph. He was the second-to-youngest brother of Jacob, and the favorite of the group. In fact, Jacob liked him so much that he gave him a very beautiful robe. When the brothers saw this special robe that Joseph had, they weren't very happy about it. They were so mad, that they couldn't even speak a word to him.

"To add to the drama, Joseph had a couple of dreams, and when he told his brothers about the dreams, they got even more mad. Let's see what the Bible says about the dreams.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 37:6-11 (NirV) and read.*

He said to them, "Listen to the dream I had. We were tying up bundles of grain out in the field. Suddenly my bundle stood up straight. Your bundles gathered around my bundle and bowed down to it."

His brothers said to him, "Do you plan to be king over us? Will you really rule over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dream. They didn't like what he had said.

Then Joseph had another dream. He told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said. "I had another dream. This time the sun and moon and stars were bowing down to me."

He told his father as well as his brothers. Then his father rebuked him. He said, "What about this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers really do that? Will we really come and bow down to the ground in front of you?" His brothers were jealous of him. But his father kept the dreams in mind.

"So God gave Joseph two dreams. The summary of both of them was that all of the brothers and their parents would bow to Joseph. Finally, Joseph's brothers had enough.

→ *Communicator is interrupted by a phone ring.*

"Oh, looks like Joseph sent another message.

AUDIO → VO_2

25 MINUTES

Story

VO: "Hey! Is this Steve's Salmon Store? Just kidding again! It's Joseph! So sorry I couldn't come again. See, I was about to come in, but my brothers asked me if I could talk to them for a second. Long story short, I'm in this giant well. One of my brothers told me: 'Hey, what's gravity's favorite season? Fall!' then pushed me into here. It was a good joke, but now I'm stuck in here and can't get out. They even took my robe! Oh well. Get it? I'm in a well? It's hard to make jokes when you're all . . . oh wait! I think I hear some people coming to help me out! Talk to you later!"

COMMUNICATOR: "So Joseph had his fancy robe taken off, was thrown into a well, and then sold to Egypt. After this, his brothers took the robe, messed it up, and lied to Jacob about Joseph being eaten by a wild beast. But that wasn't true! Joseph was now taken to Egypt and was forced to work in the house of a man named Potiphar.

→ *Communicator is interrupted by a phone ring.*

AUDIO → VO_3

VO: "Hey, hey! Now this HAS to be Ron's Fitness Wear, right? Ha! Kidding! It's me, Joseph again. So last time I called I was in a well. Now I'm in jail. See, I was working hard and even got recognized by Potiphar! But then Potiphar's wife told a lie about me. Now I'm in this jail cell for something I didn't even do. There are a couple of other people down here though, so at least there's more people than the well. But I got to go, one of them wants to ask me about a dream that they had. See ya later!"

COMMUNICATOR: "So Joseph was in jail. But he still trusted God and knew that God was with him. So he kept working hard, and soon the jailer put him in charge of the other prisoners!

"One day, there was a baker and a drink taster (that means he tried the king's drink before the king drank it to make sure it was safe) who both had a dream the same night. They were both sad because there was no one there to interpret their dreams. Joseph, with God's power, was able to help them.

"Here's what their dreams were. First, this is what the Bible says about the cupbearer's dream.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 40:9-11 (NirV) and read.*

He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me. There were three branches on the vine. As soon as it budded, it flowered. And bunches of ripe grapes grew on it. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand. I took the grapes. I squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup. Then I put the cup in his hand."

"With God's help, Joseph was able to interpret the dream. Here's what the Bible says about what God told Joseph the drink taster's dream was about:

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 40:12-14 (NirV) and read.*

25 MINUTES

Story

Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days. In three days Pharaoh will let you out of prison. He'll give your job back to you. And you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand. That's what you used to do when you were his wine taster. But when everything is going well with you, remember me. Do me a favor. Speak to Pharaoh about me. Get me out of this prison."

"Now it was time for the baker. Here was the baker's dream.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 40:16-17 (NIRV) and read.*

"I had a dream too. There were three baskets of bread on my head. All kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh were in the top basket. But the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."

"With God's help, Joseph interpreted the baker's dream. But this time, the dream meant that the baker was going to die in three days. And as Joseph said, it happened. The drink taster was freed from prison just as Joseph had seen in the dream. Even though the drink taster said that he would tell the Pharaoh about Joseph, he forgot.

"So it wasn't until a whole two years later that something happened.

→ *Communicator is interrupted by a phone ring.*

AUDIO → VO_4

VO: "Hey! Is this Only Sandwiches? The place where you can only order sandwiches? Just kidding! But, hey! So I've been in jail for a while, and then the Pharaoh finally asked for me. He had a wild dream, and now I'm asking God to help me understand what it means. Got to go!"

COMMUNICATOR: "That's what happened! Pharaoh then told Joseph what the dream was, and Joseph was able to understand what was happening. Let's see what the Bible says the dream was.

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 41:1-7 (NIRV) and read.*

When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream. In his dream, he was standing by the Nile River. Seven cows came up out of the river. They looked healthy and fat. They were eating some of the tall grass growing along the river. After them, seven other cows came up out of the Nile. They looked ugly and skinny. They were standing beside the other cows on the riverbank. The ugly, skinny cows ate up the seven cows that looked healthy and fat. Then Pharaoh woke up.

He fell asleep again and had a second dream. In that dream, seven heads of grain were growing on one stem. They were healthy and good. After them, seven other heads of grain came up. They were thin and dried up by the east wind. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up. It had been a dream.

25 MINUTES

Story

"So the Pharaoh sent out for his own wise people who didn't follow God to help understand what the dream was, but they couldn't help him. That's when the drink taster remembered Joseph. Pharaoh called for Joseph, and with God's help, he was able to understand the meaning. Here's what Joseph told the Pharaoh:

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 41:25-32 (NIRV) and read.*

"Both of Pharaoh's dreams have the same meaning. God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years. And the seven good heads of grain are seven years. Both dreams mean the same thing. The seven thin, ugly cows that came up later are seven years. So are the seven worthless heads of grain dried up by the east wind. They are seven years when there won't be enough food.

"It's just as I said to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what he's about to do. Seven years with plenty of food are coming to the whole land of Egypt. But seven years when there won't be enough food will follow them. Then everyone will forget about all the food Egypt had. Terrible hunger will destroy the land. There won't be anything left to remind people of the years when there was plenty of food in the land. That's how bad the hunger that follows will be. God gave the dream to Pharaoh in two forms. That's because the matter has been firmly decided by God. And it's because God will do it soon."

"Joseph had told the Pharaoh the dream, and the Pharaoh was so excited. He was so excited that he had made Joseph second in command over all of the land.

→ *Communicator is interrupted by a phone ring.*

"Oh, he keeps leaving all of these voicemails . . .

AUDIO → VO_5

VO: "Yeah, I get it, it's a lot of voicemails. Well, guess what! God has done something incredible—I'm in charge now! Amazing, right? Just a couple of years ago, I was in in an empty well, and now God has put me in charge. But here's the thing. I got a problem: I have my family here looking for food from our storage. But they have NO idea who I am! Well, after some time, I just couldn't keep it a secret! God has done such a great thing, working for good in all of these hard things. I told them who I was, and now they're all coming to live here in Egypt with me. I told them not to worry, that I knew that what they had intended for evil, God had used for good. Now, because of the position I'm in, they can eat all that they want from this famine. Speaking of that, I gotta go get that all prepped. See you later!"

APPLICATION

25 MINUTES

Story

COMMUNICATOR: “Joseph told his brothers that they may have tried to harm him, but God planned it all for good. If Joseph had never been sold to those Egyptians, he realized that his family would have starved. Through this entire story, Joseph trusted God. His life was really difficult, but he trusted that God was good. And that faith helped Joseph keep going and going when life got tough.

“And God was working for good, even in the difficulties of Joseph’s life.

“The same thing is true about our lives too. Life can get really difficult, and scary, and hard, but we can trust God. We can trust God because He is always, always working for good.

“This is even something Jesus faced. The night before He was about to be put on the cross, Jesus was overwhelmed about what was coming. But He knew God had a plan. So, because of what Jesus did, He paid for sin and broke the curse. We can all now have a relationship with God again! Jesus loves us so much that He went through something awful and scary, and He trusted that His Father would help Him get through it.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s take a look at our timeline.

SLIDE → God’s Big Story

SLIDE → Week 5 Timeline Image

“This week we saw how Joseph trusted God when things got tough. From the time in a well, to slavery, to prison, to forgiving his brothers—Joseph trusted God. And it was wise trust too, because God was working for good, just like He always does. Because thousands of years later, through the family God saved in the famine, Jesus would come. And Jesus would save us all.

“Over and over in Joseph’s story, the Bible says: ‘And God was with him.’ The same is true for you. When you follow Jesus, God’s very Spirit lives in you—God is not just with you, but He’s in you! God is with you when things are tough, and you can trust Him.

“All throughout this timeline, even though we just started, we can see a lot of stories of tough things happening. But in every situation, God was faithful, and the people in the stories could trust God would do what He said He would do.

“When you’re in a hard situation too, and you don’t know what to do, the best place to start is by talking to God in prayer and asking Him to help you remember that He is with you and you can trust Him. He is working for good in the hard things in your life, because being good is all He knows how to do.

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

25 MINUTES

Story

④ Key Question

"As we go to small groups today, let's think about this question!"

SLIDE → Key Question

[KEY QUESTION] "When has something bad turned into something good?" Maybe it was a hard class at school that you hated going to, but when you think about it over the year, it taught you a lot. Or it could be if you are tired from doing basketball drills over and over again and get better at basketball. One of the best things that happened was also one of the most difficult—it was Jesus when He died. Jesus came and gave His perfect life to break the curse, pay for sin, and allow each of us to be close to God again.

But some people thought that when He died, that was it. It seemed like the story was over. But it wasn't! Three days later, Jesus rose back from the dead, talked to hundreds of people, and sometime later, He went back to heaven. His death—what was so, so difficult—saved everything. God was working in the most difficult. Let's go ahead and pray.

SLIDE → Theme Background

⑤ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, thank You so much for this month where we got to know You more. Thank You for this great story that reminds us that no matter what is happening, we can trust You because You are always good and have a good plan. Thank You for your best plan, sending Jesus to fix everything we broke—including our closeness with You. When life gets hard, teach us how to trust You. We want to live, fully trusting Your goodness. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

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

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

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video → Theme Loop