

# 252® Groups

*Group Experiences for K-5<sup>th</sup> Grades*

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## Statement of Faith

### ABOUT GOD

God is the one and only true God, yet He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, so everything belongs to Him and is under His control. God is holy, so He is righteous, majestic, and loving. God is all knowing and purposeful, so He’s at work to bring about His will. No person, thing, or idea compares to God.

### ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

God reveals Himself to us through the Bible, and it is 100% accurate, reliable, and authoritative.

### ABOUT PEOPLE

People are made in God’s image and for His pleasure. But everybody falls short of God’s intention, or ideal, for people. In other words, everyone has sinned. As a result, we are all separated from Him, even though He wants an intimate relationship with each of us.

### ABOUT SALVATION

That’s why Jesus—God’s Son—came and lived on this earth, died, and rose again. God offers His free gift of salvation to all who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior—the only way to be forgiven and reconciled to God. Anyone who accepts this gift is adopted as a son or daughter into God’s family and will live with Him forever in heaven.

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# Never Gonna Give You Up

**Bible Story:** Never Gonna Give You Up (Love Your Enemies) • *Matthew 5:43-47*

**Bottom Line:** Love others because they matter to God.

**Memory Verse:** *Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.* 1 John 4:10 (NIRV)

**Life App:** Love—Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## **Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)**

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

### GETTING READY

#### 1. Opener/Closer

##### **What You Need:**

- Host
- Table
- One box for each small group; each filled with five different costume pieces or clothing items (jackets, socks, headbands, hats, sunglasses, wigs, beards, etc.)
- Masking tape
- Craft paper/fishing line Bible timeline and Today’s Story Image (*optional*)

##### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun music for the game
- Song clips for each small group (see “What You Do”)

##### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Theme Slide
- Love Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- “Jam It Relay” Slide
- Timeline (*optional*)—CG or printed
- Today’s Story Image (*optional*)—CG or printed

##### *Optional Videos (available for purchase through the 252 Media Package):*

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Life App
- Life App Transition to Theme

**What You Do:**

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. These graphic motion loops are included in the package. For more information, visit [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com).
- Tape a starting line and a finish line on opposite sides of the room, parallel to each other. These two tape lines should be far enough apart that each small group of kids can stand in a line BETWEEN the two tape lines while tossing the items to each other to move them all the way across to their Leader.
- Gather five costume or clothing items for each group, and place them in a box (one box per group). These items can be anything you have on hand; they don't have to match. The sillier, the better!
- Place the boxes for each small group behind the starting line.
- Choose a "theme song" for each small group, and cue each one to start at the chorus or other recognizable part of the song. (You can set the start time in iTunes by going to Edit / Song Info / Options).

**2. Bible Story****What You Need:**

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Cue cards for the Host:
  - "Hey, football face. Why would I ever pass the ball in YOUR direction? I would NEVER play ANYTHING with you."
  - "Ew. You want to put your smelly lunch near me? No thanks."
  - "Hey, PlayStation® face, why would I let you do that? You're not even good at this game anyway!"
- Darth Vader mask
- Soccer ball
- Small, portable soccer goal
- Chair
- Lunch tray
- Bean bag
- Video game controller
- Spotlight (if possible)
- Flip chart
- Thick marker

**Music and Sound Effects (SFX):**

- "The Imperial March" from *Star Wars* (starting at 0:09)
- Soccer Game Sounds SFX (included)
- Lunchroom Sounds SFX (included)
- Video Game Sounds SFX (included)

**Large Group Visuals:**

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

**What You Do:**

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the weekly SFX and have them ready to use.
- The One Big Story Intro Video is available with the monthly download. You can find it in the "Prelude" folder under "Monthly Planning."
- Create an area on stage for your scenarios. If possible, use a spotlight to define the scene more dramatically (but keep the main stage lights on as well).

**3. Worship****What You Need:**

- Worship Leader(s)

**Music and Sound Effects (SFX):**

- "Love One Another" from *Every Beat*
- "Know You More" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*
- "What A Beautiful Name" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 6*

**Optional Videos (available for purchase):**

- "Love One Another" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video (available through OrangeKidsMusic.com)
- "Know You More" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music (available through OrangeKidsMusic.com)
- "What A Beautiful Name" Live Lyrics Video (available through OrangeKidsMusic.com)

**What You Do:**

- Download all songs (available through Store.OrangeKidsMusic.com) and have them ready to use.
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. The *Live Loud* faith skills video and the Dance Moves Music Video for the monthly worship song are included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.

**Additional Resources for Large Group**

**FEATURE PRESENTATION:** Everything you need to pull off a dynamic weekly Large Group experience, including video Bible presentations to complement 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum. *Available for purchase through Store.ThinkOrange.com.*

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

For 252 Kids (kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade):

- 252 Story brings you the Bible story in a simple and direct way through a professional Storyteller accompanied by engaging visuals.

- *Also included:* Intro and Outro videos with a character Host. The Intros set up the Bible story, while the Outros connect the story to the weekly Bottom Line. These videos are interchangeable with the live Opener and Closer, so you can use them to bookend either a live Storyteller or *252 Story*.

For 252 Preteen (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade):

- In *The So & So Show*, two Hosts walk you through a contemporary and comedic presentation of the Bible story. This YouTube-style show sets up the story and also connects it to the weekly Key Question for preteens. It's interchangeable with the live Opener, Story, and Closer in our 252 Kids scripts. Consider using if you'd like to create a separate Preteen environment, or if you have a majority of older kids in your K-5<sup>th</sup> grade room.

# Never Gonna Give You Up

**Bible Story:** Never Gonna Give You Up (Love Your Enemies) • *Matthew 5:43-47*

**Bottom Line:** Love others because they matter to God.

**Memory Verse:** *Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.* 1 John 4:10 (NIRV)

**Life App:** Love—Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## **Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)**

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX:** *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

**(Media Package):** *Theme Loop*

*Host is on stage, nodding to the music.*

**(Media Package):** *Countdown (30- or 60-second version)*

**(Media Package):** *Theme*

### **Opener**

**HOST:** “Hey, [name of your environment]. What’s shaking? All month long we’re putting together the best playlist ever. But I’m not just talking about beats and tunes. We’re putting LOVE in the mix!”

**(Media Package):** *Theme Transition to Life App*

**“Love is choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated.**

**(Media Package):** *Life App Transition to Theme*

“It’s not always easy to show love. It can be tough to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated**—especially when they’ve done something that frustrated you or hurt your feelings. But here’s the good news: God is the One who came up with love in the first place. He can help us! He can show us how to treat people in a way that makes them feel important. He can help us give others a chance. He can help us find ways to show people that they matter.

“Let’s kick things off today with a game, shall we? EVERYONE gets to play today. We’ll jam to some of our favorite songs, and you’ll work together with your small group to give your Leader a brand-new outfit. It’s the ‘Jam It Relay’!”

**CG:** *“Jam It Relay” Slide*

“First of all, I’ve chosen a theme song for each group.

*Quickly go from group to group, playing the song clip that you’ve chosen to correspond with each numbered group.*

*(The groups don't get to choose their song; just quickly tell them which song is theirs.)*

**SFX: Song clips for each group**

"Leaders, you can go ahead and stand behind the finish line over here.

*Guide the Leaders to stand behind the finish line.*

"Each small group will form a line, leading from the starting line all the way over to your Leader . . . like this.

*Use the first group as your example. Show them how to form an evenly spaced line, all the way from the starting line over to their Leader.*

"All right—everyone go ahead and form a line with your group. Do it quickly, and then listen up for what's next!

*Give the kids a few seconds to get in line.*

"Good job! Now . . . *(hold up the first group's box)* in each group's box, you have five costume pieces. When I say, 'Go,' the first person in line will reach inside the box, pull out one item, and toss it to the next person in line. That person will toss it to the next person, and so on. When you eventually toss the item to your Leader, your Leader must put on the item and then jump in the air like this.

*Do a crazy jump.*

"One important note—you cannot start tossing the NEXT item until your Leader has completed the jump for your current item. Also—Leaders, help me keep count by holding up the number of items you've already completed. *(Hold up your hand with a couple of fingers to demonstrate.)* The first team that completes all five items wins!

"I'll be watching carefully to see which groups are really rocking it. If that's you, you'll hear your theme song. You never know; you may hear a few different songs on the playlist as we go.

"All right—I think you're ready for the 'Jam It Relay.' Ready, set, Jam It!

**SFX: Fun music**

*Comment on the action. Every now and then, call out the number of a group that you see doing a great job ("Wow—nice tossing, Group Two! You're rocking it!"). That way the tech team can switch to that group's theme song. Try to play each group's theme song at some point during the game.*

**SFX: Song clips for each group** *(follow the Host's commentary)*

**7 – Lunchroom Sounds**

**8 – Soccer Stadium Sounds**

**9 – Video Game Sounds**

*When one group finishes the final item, call out that group's number and declare them the winner.*

**SFX:** Song clip for the winning group

*Let all groups finish. Take a minute to point out the Leaders' great outfits before you collect their costume pieces.*

"That was fun, everyone! [Winning group] may have won, but I know I heard ALL of your songs on our playlist. Way to work together. You can all head back to your seats—but don't sit down, because it's time for us to sing and worship God!"

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

## ----- **Worship** -----

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hi, everyone! We were made to celebrate the great things God has done. When we're kind and show love to the people around us, we bring *glory* to God. This song reminds us that we can honor Him when we love one another. Let's sing it!"

**(Media Package):** "I Trust In You" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video

"As we learn more about God, we realize that He is worthy of all of our praise. We start to feel like the people did in Luke 5:26, after they had seen one of Jesus' miracles: '*Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with wonder.*' (NirV) Today, let's give praise to God and tell Him that we want to know Him more and more.

**(Media Package):** "John 3:16" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video

"There is no other name like the name of Jesus. Today, give Him your attention as we sing. Show Him the honor and praise that He deserves. He showed us the ultimate example of love. Let's sing to Him together."

**Worship Team:**

## ----- **END Worship** -----

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

**CG:** Blank Bottom Line Slide

### **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** "That's right—we're looking at a really important part of God's Big Story. We're looking at the way Jesus lived, the things He taught, and the way He showed love to the people around Him.



“One time Jesus was teaching a crowd of people on a mountainside. He was talking about a lot of different topics, and the people were absolutely AMAZED at His words. The things He was saying were mind-blowing! (*Hold up the Bible.*) We can read them today and it’s like . . . WHOA. (*Do the ‘mind blown’ gesture.*)

“There was one thing that Jesus talked about that must have been especially mind-blowing for everyone who was listening that day. Jesus said this:

*Open the Bible to Matthew 5:43-45 (NirV) and read.*

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor. Hate your enemy.’ But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven.”*

“Whoa. Love your enemies? Really? (*Pause.*) I mean, it makes sense to love your FRIENDS. It makes sense to treat your friends the way you want to be treated. But your enemies? The people who have been mean to you? You’re supposed to love THEM?

“I think we need to see what this might look like. [Host’s name] has generously offered to help me out. Come on out, [Host’s name]!”

*Host enters, wearing the Darth Vader mask.*

**SFX:** “*The Imperial March*” from Star Wars (*starting at 0:09*)

## **MEAN SCENARIOS**

**STORYTELLER:** “Wow, [Host’s name]. That was quite an entrance.”

*Host takes off the mask.*

**HOST:** “Thank you, thank you. You DID say you needed me to play an enemy.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Right. But most of us don’t have full-on enemies like you’d see in a movie . . . like Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader . . . Batman and the Joker . . . or Aladdin and Jafar.”

**HOST:** “Oh. I knew that.”

**STORYTELLER:** (*To audience*) “We might not have the kind of enemies that are out to get us, like movie villains. But all of us know what it’s like when someone is mean to us. We’ve all had times when people hurt our feelings on purpose. And when someone is mean to YOU, that makes you want to be mean back.

“Let me show you what I mean with some scenarios. Now, you know that [Host’s name] is a great friend. He would never say or do anything mean.

*Storyteller hands the cue cards to Host.*

(*To Host*) “But [Host’s name], I need you to read these cards out loud and do some acting so we can demonstrate. Cool? Cool.

*Storyteller sets the soccer goal in the area you've designated for your scenarios.*

*(To audience)* "Let's say you're playing soccer."

**LIGHTS:** *Spotlight (if possible)*

**SFX:** *Soccer Game Sounds*

*Storyteller tosses the soccer ball to Host, who starts kicking the ball around.*

**STORYTELLER:** *(To Host)* "Hey, [Host's name]! What are you up to? Are you playing with a soccer ball? Dude, I LOVE soccer. Can I play with you?"

**HOST:** *(Monotone, reading the cue card)* "Hey, football face. Why would I ever pass the ball in YOUR direction? I would NEVER play ANYTHING with you."

**STORYTELLER:** "FREEZE!"

**SFX:** *Cut SFX*

*Host freezes in place while Storyteller steps out of the scene.*

*(To audience)* "That was crazy! Have any of you ever been in a situation like that? I'm glad [Host's name] would never really say anything that mean."

*Storyteller moves the soccer goal out of the way and sets the chair behind Host.*

*(To audience)* "What if you were trying to find a place to sit at lunch?"

**SFX:** *Lunchroom Sounds*

*Host sits down in the chair. Storyteller picks up the lunch tray and steps back into the scene, walking up to Host.*

**STORYTELLER:** *(To Host)* "Hey, [Host's name]. There aren't any tables left. I was wondering if I could sit here with you?"

**HOST:** *(Still monotone, reading the cue card)* "Ew. You want to put your smelly lunch near me? No thanks."

**STORYTELLER:** "FREEZE!"

**SFX:** *Cut SFX*

*Host freezes in place while Storyteller steps out of the scene.*

*(To audience)* "Ouch! That never feels good."

*Storyteller moves the chair out of the way and sets the beanbag chair behind Host.*

“How about a situation like this?”

**SFX: Video Game Sounds**

*Storyteller hands the video game controller to Host. Host sits down in the beanbag chair with the controller and pretends to play a video game.*

**STORYTELLER:** *(To Host)* “Hey, [Host’s name]. You’ve been playing that game for four hours straight. Do you think I could have a turn?”

**HOST:** *(Still monotone, reading the cue card)* “Hey, PlayStation face, why would I let you do that? You’re not even good at this game anyway!”

**STORYTELLER:** “FREEZE!”

**SFX: Cut SFX**

*Host freezes in place while Storyteller steps out of the scene.*

*(To audience)* “Wow. That was really mean. If anyone actually treated you that way, you’d probably want to be mean back. Am I right? Well, Jesus said there’s a different way—a BETTER way.”

*Host “unfreezes” and sets out the flip chart.*

**LIGHTS: Cut spotlight**

## **CHOOSE LOVE**

**STORYTELLER:** “What did Jesus say we should do when someone is mean to us? *(Pause for response.)* Right. We should LOVE our enemies . . . instead of trying to get even.

“So how do we do that? What are some choices we can make to show love? How can we choose to be kind instead of being mean back?”

“Well, for one thing, we can stop and talk to God about it.

*Host writes “Talk to God” on the flip chart and then places a check mark next to it.*

“It’s not easy when we find ourselves in those situations, but we’re never really alone. God has given us His Holy Spirit to help us. We can ask God for the strength to be kind.

“If someone says or does mean things to us, we might be tempted to say mean things about THEM behind their back.

*Host writes “Say only kind things” on the flip chart and then places a check mark next to it.*

“But instead, we can make the choice to say only KIND things about them. We can believe that there must be a reason why they’re acting the way they do.

“We can try to understand them . . .

*Host writes “Try to understand” on the flip chart and then places a check mark next to it.*

“. . . and figure out what might be going on in their life that could make them act out in such a mean way. Maybe it’s something we never even thought about . . . because we couldn’t see it.”

### **BUT WHY?**

**STORYTELLER:** “Here’s why this is so important.

*Storyteller walks over near Host. Host picks up the soccer ball.*

*(Referencing the Host)* “If someone is being mean to you, it might be because they’re hurting somehow. They might be acting like that because they had a bad day. They could be acting out because they have something serious happening with their family. YOU could be the only person who’s brave enough to show them kindness.

*Host sets down the soccer ball and picks up the lunch tray.*

*(Referencing the Host)* “Remember, every single person you meet matters to God. God loves EVERYONE. When Jesus came to the world, He didn’t just die for the people who were super nice and never did anything wrong. He did it for everyone.

*Host sets down the lunch tray and picks up the video game controller.*

*(Referencing the Host)* “It’s not normal to love your enemies. If it was, Jesus wouldn’t have to talk about it from a mountainside. It’s a lot more natural for us to want to get back at someone who’s wronged us. But when we choose to show kindness instead, we show God’s love in a very clear way.”

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “I’m not saying that you’ll end up being best friends with someone who’s been mean to you. You may never get that kind of perfect happy ending. But you’ll ALWAYS be glad that you chose love over anger. You never know how God can use you in the life of someone else when you choose to show love. You might just remind them how much they matter to God.

*Do a quick handshake or high-five with the Host.*

“Remember this:

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “Love others because they matter to God.

“That definitely isn’t easy—but it’s ALWAYS the wise choice. Let’s ask God to help us love our enemies.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### Pray

**STORYTELLER:** “God, thank You so much for this great challenge that we have from Jesus: to love our enemies. Please give us the power to show love instead of doing something mean back to them. Help us to show Your love to people who may be hard to love. We know that EVERYONE matters to You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Storyteller exits. Host stays on the stage.*

### Closer

**HOST:** “Wow. That’s one of the hardest things that we could ever do—to love our enemies. It can be really tough when someone says something bad TO you or ABOUT you. It can be really hurtful when someone pushes or shoves you, or if they do something that hurts your feelings.

**CG: Today’s Story Image**

*Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.*

“But instead of getting even, Jesus said that we should love everyone—even our enemies. That might seem impossible. But we can do it if we remember that God is always there to help us.

“Remember, we don’t show love because people deserve it. We show love because we’re following God’s example. He loves everyone . . . so we should, too.

**CG: Timeline**

“We can see that all the way from the very beginning. God created a good world, but people started hurting each other because sin entered the world. It was very normal for people to be mean to others who were mean to them. Jesus changed all that. He showed love to countless people who had turned away from God. In fact, He loved us SO much that He died on the cross for our sins—even though we didn’t deserve it. He gave us a way to be friends with God forever. He LOVES us. He loves our enemies, too. All of us matter to Him.

“That’s why it’s so important for us to do this:

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “Love others because they matter to God.**

“You never know what someone might be going through that makes them act the way they do. But when you choose to show love instead of getting even, you show them that they matter. It’s like you’re a light shining in a dark world . . . because God’s love is shining through you.

**CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide**

“That’s what our memory verse this month is about. It’s 1 John 4:10. Say it with me.

**CG: Memory Verse Slide**

*"Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins, 1 John 4:10 (NirV).*

"Let's head back to Small Group and talk about ways we can show love to people—even when it's not easy. I'll see you later!"

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.**

**Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**