

Today's Suggested Schedule—June 2021, Week 3

Note: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

Today's Bible Story: Use Somebody (Gideon) • *Judges 6–8*

Today's Bottom Line: God can use you no matter what.

Monthly Memory Verse: *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.* Psalm 27:13 (NIV)

Monthly Life App: Confidence—learning to see yourself the way God sees you

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

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

Early Arriver

Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship ("Press Play" from *Press Play: Get in the Mix* and "I Can Always Trust You" from *Can't Stop Won't Stop*)

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Gideon, This Is Your Life!

Application Activity: Gideon and Gladys

Memory Verse Activity: Sneak and Smash

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

GodTime Devotional for Kids

Studio252.tv

Parent Cue App

LARGE GROUP: Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)

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

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Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Video: *Countdown (30-second version)*

Leader enters, dancing and singing to the music.

Video: *Theme*

OPENER

AUDIO: *"Main Titles" by John Ottman from Superman Returns*

KARA: (*ad-libbing as the music builds*) "Oh, yeah! Now THIS is a great song. Do you know what it's from?"

(*When the main theme comes in at 0:27*) "YES! Doesn't this music make you feel so strong and brave? Doesn't it make you feel like a hero! Doesn't it make you feel CONFIDENT?"

"When we have confidence, we can make the world a better place every day."

Video: *Theme Transition to Life App*

"Confidence is learning to see yourself the way God sees you."

Video: *Life App Transition to Theme*

"When you know how much God loves you, you start to see how He can use you to be a hero. You can 'get in the mix' and share His love, everywhere you go!"

AUDIO: *Fade out music*

"It seems like there's a hero in just about every good story. There's someone who saves the day. Maybe it's someone you least expect! And whether it's a cartoon, a musical, or just a regular superhero flick, the hero often has a theme song—something they sing or something that plays in the background when they show up on screen. Kind of like the song we just played, which is the theme music for . . .
(*Pause for response.*) Yes! Superman!"

“I thought we could have some fun today by guessing some heroes by hearing their theme songs. First, let’s divide into two teams. Each team should pick a captain.

Divide the kids into two teams. Try to make them as evenly matched as possible. Make sure each team picks a captain.

“All right! I’ll play some song clips. When your team thinks you know who the hero is, send your captain to grab your team’s hero cape. The first captain to put on their cape like this . . . *(show how to clip the cape in front of your neck with the clothespin)* . . . gets to answer the question. If you get it right, you get the point. If you don’t, the other team gets one guess to try to win the point instead. Remember, you’re naming the HERO, not the movie. Any questions? *(Pause for response.)* Okay, let’s play!

“Let’s start with a super-easy one. Remember, talk to your team and send your captain as soon as you know!

AUDIO: “Spider-Man” by Paul Francis Webster and Bob Harris, theme to Spider-Man cartoon

“Talk to your team and send your captain as soon as you know!

Award a point on the dry erase board to the team that gets the answer first.

“Okay, that was a little bit TOO easy. But let’s see if you know this one!

AUDIO: “What’s Up Danger” by Blackway and Black Caviar, from Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse

“Yes, that was another Spider-Man song! Good job! How about one more?

AUDIO: “Batman”

“Nice job, everyone! You all know your heroes!

KARA: “Before we sing to our amazing God in worship, check this out.”

Video: Live Loud Video from Get Reel

“If there were a theme song for confidence, it would probably be this one. It’s called ‘Press Play.’ It reminds us that Jesus loves us and He’s with us, wherever we go. Everyone on your feet!” Let’s sing it out loud!

Video: “Press Play” Dance Moves Music Video

“Listen to these words from God to His people, written down by the prophet Isaiah. *‘I am about to do something new. It is beginning to happen even now. Don’t you see it coming? I am going to make a way for you to go through the desert. I will make streams of water in the dry and empty land.’* (Isaiah 43:19, NIV)

“There are times in life when things seem hopeless, and we just can’t imagine a way out of it. In those times, it’s so important for us to remember that God goes before us and makes a way for us. We can ALWAYS trust Him. Let’s sing and thank God for being so faithful.

Video: Trust You With My Heart”

“Great singing, everyone! It’s true. **[Basic Truth] We can trust God no matter what.** You can have a seat.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

BIBLE STORY

Video: Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Background

SETTING UP THE STORY

KERRI: *(Hold up the Bible.)* “As we pick up our story today, we’re looking at a time when God’s people, the Israelites, had turned away from God. God allowed another group of people, the Midianites, to take over the Israelites’ land.

“God’s people were afraid of the Midianites, so they hid out in caves. Whenever they planted fields or tried to tend flocks, the Midianites showed up to destroy their crops and livestock. At last, the Israelites cried out to God for help. And God heard them! In fact, God sent the angel of the Lord to a man named Gideon. This happened while Gideon was threshing wheat.

Hold up the stalk of wheat.

“In other words, Gideon was separating out the part of the grain you could eat. He was doing this inside a winepress, so that he could hide the grain from the Midianites.”

GOD CALLS GIDEON

KERRI: “The angel spoke to Gideon and said . . .

Open the Bible to Judges 6:12 (NIRV) and read.

“Mighty warrior, the Lord is with you.

“Whoa—mighty warrior? Gideon didn’t exactly SEEM like a mighty warrior. I mean, there he was, hiding from the Midianites and hoping they wouldn’t find him and take his grain! Gideon got up the courage to speak to the angel.

Open the Bible to Judges 6:13 (NIRV) and read.

“‘Pardon me, sir,’ Gideon replied, ‘you say the LORD is with us. Then why has all this happened to us? Where are all the wonderful things he has done? Our people of long ago told us about them. They said, ‘Didn’t the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has deserted us. He has handed us over to Midian.’

“Listen to what the angel said to Gideon next.

Open the Bible to Judges 6:14 (NIRV) and read.

“You are strong. Go and save Israel from the power of Midian. I am sending you.

“God had a special plan for Gideon. He wanted Gideon to lead His people to defeat the Midianites! Still, Gideon didn’t see how he could do it.

Open the Bible to Judges 6:15 (NIRV) and read.

“Pardon me, sir,” Gideon replied, ‘but how can I possibly save Israel? My family group is the weakest in the tribe of Manasseh. And I’m the least important member of my family.’

“Once again, the angel reminded Gideon that God would be with him. Still, even with a direct message from God, Gideon was nervous about the whole thing. So he asked God for a special sign to help him know he wasn’t alone.

“God did as Gideon requested and sent a special sign. He sent fire to burn up some meat and bread.

Hold up the lunch meat package and the bread.

“Okay, it probably didn’t look like that. But you get the idea.

“When the Midianites and Amalekites gathered to attack, Gideon sounded a trumpet for the Israelites to follow him. But even as the army gathered, Gideon pleaded with God for another sign. He asked God to cause the dew to fall only on a wool fleece . . .

Hold up the bath mat, then lay it on the floor.

“. . . but not on the ground around it. Then he asked God to do the opposite: for the dew to be on the ground around the fleece but for the fleece to stay dry. Sure enough, God came through for Gideon. At last, Gideon was convinced that God wanted to use him!”

TROOP REDUCTION

KARA: “Some time later, Gideon camped together with 32,000 men at the spring of Harod, and they prepared for battle.

Take the box off the table to reveal the army men.

“It was here that God spoke to Gideon again. Listen to what He said.

Open the Bible to Judges 7:2-3 (NirV) and read.

“I want to hand Midian over to you. But you have too many men for me to do that. Then Israel might brag, ‘My own strength has saved me.’ So here is what I want you to announce to the army. Tell them, ‘Those who tremble with fear can turn back. They can leave Mount Gilead.’

“Did you catch that?

Hold up one of the army men.

“God told Gideon that he had TOO MANY men to fight the battle! God wanted the Israelites to remember that HE was the real reason they could win. He told Gideon to send home those who were fearful. Gideon did as God instructed, and 22,000 men went home—leaving 10,000 left to fight.

Swipe about 70 percent of the army men off the table and into the box.

“But God said there were still too many! He told Gideon to take the men down to the water and dismiss those who got down on their knees to drink. Even though it must have worried Gideon to lose still more

of his army, he did as God said. Only about 300 men brought the water to their mouths to drink. The others all got down on their knees to get to the water.

“God said to Gideon . . .

Open the Bible to Judges 7:7 (NIRV) and read.

“With the help of the 300 men who lapped up the water I will save you. I will hand the Midianites over to you. Let all the other men go home.

“This must have been a bit shocking for Gideon, but once again, he obeyed God. He sent home the men who drank on their knees . . . leaving just 300 soldiers to fight the Midianites.”

Swipe all but a small handful of army men into the box.

THE BATTLE

KERRI: “That night, God spoke to Gideon again.

Put on the sunglasses.

“He told Gideon to go down to the camp of the Midianites and listen to them as they talked to each other. God assured Gideon that once he heard what the Midianites were saying, he wouldn’t be afraid anymore.

“Gideon obeyed God and headed down to the camp. Listen to what he heard.

Take off the sunglasses. Open the Bible to Judges 7:13-14 (NIRV) and read.

“Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend about his dream. ‘I had a dream,’ he was saying. ‘A round loaf of barley bread came rolling into the camp of Midian. It hit a tent with great force. The tent turned over and fell down flat.’ His friend replied, ‘That can only be the sword of Gideon, the son of Joash. Gideon is from Israel. God has handed the Midianites over to him. He has given him the whole camp.’

“Wow! In other words, Gideon overheard the soldiers say they’d had dreams that showed them that the Israelites would defeat them. Gideon bowed down and worshiped God, and then he headed back to the Israelite camp.

“Gideon called out, waking his soldiers. He told them the good news that God had already given them the victory over the Midianites. Quickly, Gideon divided the 300 men into three groups.

On the tabletop, quickly divide the remaining army men into three groups.

“He gave each man a trumpet and a clay jar with a torch inside.

Hold up the horn and the clay flowerpot with a flashlight inside (switched on).

“He gave them instructions to follow his lead.

Open the Bible to Judges 7:17-18 (NirV) and read.

“Watch me,’ he told them. ‘Do what I do. I’ll go to the edge of the enemy camp. Then do exactly as I do. I and everyone with me will blow our trumpets. Then blow your trumpets from your positions all around the camp. And shout the battle cry, “For the LORD and for Gideon!””

“The Israelites surrounded the camp. As soon as Gideon sounded his trumpet, he smashed his jar so that the torch flamed brightly.

Pick up the flashlight from inside the flowerpot and hold it high in the air.

“The other 300 men did the same. The Israelites held their ground. But the Midianites panicked! They didn’t know what to make of the trumpets and the bright lights that pierced the dark night. They were so confused that they fought each other . . . then they fled in fear. Gideon and the Israelites had won the battle!

Hold up a few of the army men and make them dance with joy.

“The Israelites begged Gideon to rule over them, but Gideon refused. He said that God was their ruler.”

Put the props down and walk in front of the table to wrap up the story.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

KERRI: “Gideon was an underdog—to say the least. He didn’t really see himself as a hero. He didn’t think he was strong enough, brave enough, or important enough to do what God had asked him to do. But in the end, Gideon chose to follow God . . . and God used him to save the Israelites!

“Gideon’s story shows us that God can use ANYONE. He can use me . . . and He can use each of you.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “God can use you no matter what.

“You just need to trust God and put your confidence in Him. Let’s pray and ask God to help us be willing like Gideon, so that God can use us, too!”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for the story of Gideon. Gideon certainly didn’t expect to do something so big; but he was able to do it because he trusted You. We want to be heroes, just like Gideon. We want to be people who **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and stand up for what’s right. Please help us see ourselves the way You do so that You can use us to make a difference in the world around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “Gideon was just a normal, regular guy. He wasn’t someone people expected to save the day. But when you think about it, that’s often how God works in the lives of people. All through His Story (*hold up the Bible*), we see how God used ordinary people to do great things.

“I mean, think about how Jesus chose regular people to be His closest friends, the disciples. The disciples went on to change the world. They bravely told everyone, everywhere about Jesus!

“Remember, God can do big things through YOU, too. You might not always feel ready. You might not feel strong enough, big enough, brave enough, or talented enough. In those times, you can stop and remind yourself that God is with you. You can choose to trust Him, and believe that He can work in your life in amazing ways.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “God can use you no matter what. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “God can use you no matter what.”

LEADER: “Maybe that means you’ll stand up for the kid who everyone else is picking on. Or maybe you’ll take on a project at home that helps your family. Maybe you’ll come up with a creative solution for something that’s wrong here in our city. There’s no limit to what God can do through you when you put your confidence in Him.

“We’ll talk some more in Small Group about what that might look like. So let’s head on out!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

Video: Theme Loop with music

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (25 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Leader
- Two superhero capes (or towels)
- Clothespins to secure the capes
- Hooks to display the capes on stage
- Dry erase board and marker
- Hero or movie images to match the songs (optional)
- Bible

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- "Main Titles" by John Ottman from *Superman Returns*
- "Spider-Man" by Paul Francis Webster and Bob Harris, theme to *Spider-Man* cartoon
- "What's Up Danger" by Blackway and Black Caviar from *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*
- Other hero theme songs such as "Main Title" by John Williams from *Star Wars*; "The Batman Theme" by Danny Elfman from *Batman* (1989), starting at 0:46; "The Glory Days" by Michael Giacchino from *The Incredibles*; "The Raiders' March (aka Indiana Jones Theme)" by John Williams from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*; "The Avengers" by Alan Silvestri from *The Avengers*; "Captain America" by Alan Silvestri from *Captain America: The First Avenger*

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Life App Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

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 or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music 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.

- Set the hero theme songs to play at the most recognizable part of the song, as noted above. (You can set the start time in iTunes® by going to Edit / Song Info / Options.)
- If you feel like the songs may be hard for your kids to guess, consider grabbing photos from the movie or of the heroes themselves, and flashing them on the screen if the kids have trouble guessing.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- “Press Play” from *Press Play: Get in the Mix*
- “I Can Always Trust You” from *Can’t Stop Won’t Stop*

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- “Press Play” Dance Moves Music Video (available through the 252 Media Package)

What You Do:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.
- Dance Moves Music Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- 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.

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Leader
- Bible
- Table
- Prop box, including:
 - Stalk of artificial wheat
 - Package of lunch meat (can be empty)
 - Bread
 - Bath mat, ideally off-white (to resemble wool)
 - Sunglasses
 - Stadium horn (vuvuzela)
 - Plain clay flower pot
 - Flashlight, switched on and small enough to fit inside the flower pot
- At least 100 army men (available in bulk online), pre-set on the table (see “What You Do”)
- Another large box to cover the army men

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange’s permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.

- Set up the army men so that they're standing on the table. Place the large box over them to conceal them until the moment you reveal them in the script.

Video Enhancements for Your Environment

Available for additional purchase at Store.ThinkOrange.com.

FEATURE PRESENTATION: Everything you need to pull off a dynamic video storytelling experience, including video Bible presentations to complement 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum. Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- *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 (4th and 5th 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.

GET REEL: Videos and graphics to enhance your 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum environments. Four videos each month will help kids learn basic faith skills. Use them in your FX, Large Group, or as a promotional piece to show in your adult services:

Discovery—Listen to God's words (HEAR)
Dear God—Dialogue with God (PRAY)
One Thing—Articulate your faith (TALK)
Live Loud—Worship with your life (LIVE)

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Graphic motion loops
- Themed audio transitions
- Life App and monthly widget promo videos (M.C. Haggis)
- Countdown videos (30 and 60 seconds)
- Music videos for original songs that highlight each Life App
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday