

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2021, Week 2

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: One Step at a Time (Peter Walks on Water) • *Matthew 14:22-33*

Today's Bottom Line: Stay focused on Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* Philippians 1:6 (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 "Jesus I Will Trust You" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Wave Drop
Application Activity: Funnel Focus
Memory Verse Activity: Lake View
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
GodTime Devotional for Kids
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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Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

Leader enters, carrying the stack of buckets.

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

KERRI: "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad to see all of you, because we have a lot of fun planned for our time together. In fact, I'm CONFIDENT that you'll love it."

"We've been talking about confidence all summer. What is confidence?"

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

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

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

"When you're confident, you don't hold back. You're willing to 'press play' on everything life throws your way. You're ready to 'get in the mix' of what God has planned!"

"For our game today, you'll get a chance to get in the mix—literally. You get to play these, as part of our bucket band!"

Begin handing out the buckets as you talk.

"As soon as you get a bucket, flip it over and pull it close to your chair. I'll 'press play' on a fun song, and we'll play along. Just play whatever rhythm comes naturally to you. I can't wait to hear what we come up with! Ready? Here we go!"

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Play one of the buckets while the kids play, too. Play for about 15 to 30 seconds.

AUDIO: Fade out music

“That was pretty good! You’re really excellent drummers. It was fun to do our own thing. But I wonder if we might be able to learn an actual drum pattern—you know, something we can all do together. If only we had a professional who could show us how . . . *(Get an idea.)* I know! Everyone, help me welcome our special guest, [drummer’s name].

Introduce the drummer, especially if the kids don’t already know him/her.

Have the drummer teach the kids four or five different beats, starting with something simple and progressing to more and more complicated rhythms. The drummer can hold up numbers on his/her fingers to cue each part of the pattern.

“I love it! Now that we’ve got an actual drum pattern under our belts, let’s see if we can put it all together and play along with the music. *(to the drummer)* We’ll follow your lead, [drummer’s name]!

AUDIO: Upbeat music—starting about halfway through the song

Allow the drummer to lead the kids through the pattern, playing along with the music. (Start the song halfway through so you can play it all the way to the end for a dramatic finish.)

“Wow! That was SO much better when we had [drummer’s name] to focus on, wasn’t it? That was really fun! *(to the drummer)* Thank you, [drummer’s name]. Can you stick around and play the drums for us during worship?”

Depending on the age and behavior of your kids, you can keep the buckets out for Worship and allow everyone to play along, or you can gather the buckets before Worship begins.

RELAY RACE:

Then we are going to ask students to find a partner. If there is an uneven amount we can group them. Then we will bring them to the side of the room and show them the relay race we have setup. We will explain to children that this race is going to take a lot of trust and that their partner will guide them through the course by talking to them. Children will have their eyes closed. This will involve them either taking a few steps forward or sideways and navigating around or over small objects. The helpers can watch and assist if needed. Then once we have all done the race we will ask them to return back to their seats for worship.

WORSHIP

KERRI: “We know that Jesus is with us wherever we go. He gives us the confidence to get in the mix. Let’s press play and praise Him together. Here we go!

VIDEO: “Press Play” / track 1 from Press Play: Get in the Mix

“It’s so good to know that we’re never on our own. We can trust God to lead us through anything that comes our way. He is always helping us and working in our lives. In fact, our memory verse for this month, Philippians 1:6, helps us remember that. Say it with me.”

SLIDE: Memory Verse

KIDS and LEADER: “*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* Philippians 1:6 (NIV)”

LEADER: “Nice job! It’s true—**[Basic Truth]** we can trust God no matter what. We can trust Him to keep leading us and working through us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior and our friend forever. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life! Let’s lift our voices and worship Him now.

VIDEO: “Jesus I Will Trust You” / track 2 from This Love

“Great singing, everyone! You can have a seat.”

Drummer exits.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Bible Story: Kara and Kerri

SETTING UP THE STORY [HTTPS://WWW.INTERITY.CHURCH/ORANGE](https://www.integrity.church/orange)

KARA: *(Hold up Bible.)* “Today’s story is something that happened between Jesus and His closest friends, the disciples. They had received some terrible news: Jesus’ cousin, John the Baptist, had been killed by King Herod.

“Jesus and His friends took a boat across the lake to find a quiet place . . . but the crowds followed them. There, Jesus fed more than 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish.

We suggest reading the story from the script at this point, so that you can clearly cue the person who’s playing the music. Still, look up at the kids as much as possible, and deliver the story with lots of drama and energy.

(reading from the script) “Jesus told the disciples to get in the boat and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. So they climbed into the boat, ready for a peaceful sail.

“The disciples set off across the Sea of Galilee, rocked by a gentle wind. The crowds on the shore slowly dispersed and went home.

“At last, Jesus was alone. He climbed high on the mountainside to pray. He poured out His heart as He talked to God.”

A STORM

KARA: “While Jesus prayed, evening turned to night . . . and night stretched toward morning.

“Meanwhile, the wind across the lake grew wild! Instead of reaching land, the disciples were tossed back and forth on the rising waves. Their boat took on water!

“The wind and waves continued to pound the small boat. The disciples could barely see through the spray!”

A GHOSTLY FIGURE

KERRI: “Just before dawn, the disciples suddenly saw something on the water.

“It was . . . a shape? A person? Everyone stared into the gloom, trying to make out the murky figure that approached on the stormy sea. Was it a ghost?

“But then the figure called out. It was Jesus! He said, *‘Be brave! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’* (Matthew 14:27, NIV)

“Peter fixed his gaze on the figure. *‘Lord, is it you?’* Peter asked. *‘If it is, tell me to come to you on the water.’* (Matthew 14:28, NIV)

“Jesus told Peter, *‘Come.’*” (Matthew 14:29, NIV)

WALKING ON THE WAVES

KERRI: “Peter grabbed the edge of the boat and threw his legs over the side. Then . . . impossibly. . .

he stood . . . on the water!

“Peter locked his eyes on Jesus. (*Step in place, along with the music.*) He took one step. Another step. A third one!

“But then, Peter took his eyes off Jesus. He looked at the waves that raged around him . . . and he was terrified!

“Peter lost his footing. The water sucked him down, and he began to sink. He cried out to Jesus, ‘*Lord! Save me!*’ (*Matthew 14:30, NIRV*)

“Immediately, Jesus reached out and caught Peter’s hand. ‘*Your faith is so small!*’ [*Jesus*] said. ‘*Why did you doubt me?*’ (*Matthew 14:31, NIRV*)

“Jesus helped Peter over the side and into the boat. Then Jesus got in, too.

“The wind died down. The water became still and smooth as glass. Jesus’ friends stared at Him in awe. They worshipped Jesus, saying, ‘*You really are the Son of God!*’” (*Matthew 14:33, NIRV*)

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

KARA: “Free of the storm, the boat sailed smoothly across the water. As day broke, Jesus and His friends landed at Gennesaret . . . after a night they would never forget.

“Peter and the disciples had seen for themselves how important it is to **[Bottom Line] stay focused on Jesus**. Jesus was with them in the storm. He was with Peter when Peter stepped out onto the water. And when Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he was able to do the impossible and walk on top of the waves!

VIDEO: BIBLE STORY

“Let’s remember to do this . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Stay focused on Jesus.

“We need God’s help to do that. Let’s pray and ask God to help us now.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for this amazing story that reminds us how we should always **[Bottom Line] stay focused on Jesus**. There are lots of things that can make us take our eyes off Jesus; but when we do, those things can sink us. Help us stay focused on Jesus no matter what comes our way. Help us remember how much He loves us, and how He’s always there to help us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “Jesus is amazing! He can actually walk on water! And He helped Peter walk on water, too. Think of how much confidence Peter had to have in Jesus to step out of that boat. He must have really believed that Jesus would help him walk without sinking, even though it seemed impossible!

“But then something happened to Peter that also happens to us sometimes. He got distracted. He took his focus off Jesus, and he focused on his problems instead.

“Peter’s problems were the wind . . . the waves . . . the storm. But our problems might be something we really wanted to do getting canceled, or someone you love gets really sick, or you have friends or family who can’t get along. There could be any number of things that might not go the way you expected them to. And if you want to have strength, peace, and confidence when storms like that happen, you’ve got to focus on Jesus.

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Stay focused on Jesus. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Stay focused on Jesus.”

LEADER: “Even when things in life are really difficult and you don’t know what to do, **[Bottom Line]** stay focused on Jesus. Remember that He loves you, and He’s always with you. Then you’ll find the confidence to weather any storm!

“Let’s head to Small Group now and talk about different ways that we can keep our focus on Jesus.”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

Video (Media Package): 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
- Guest drummer (see "What You Do")
- Five-gallon buckets (one for each kid)

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat music that you can drum along to—possibly the drummer's suggestion (see "What You Do")

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.
- Recruit a drummer to come in and teach the kids a few drum patterns. It might be your church drummer, a local band member, or even a high school student. You can also ask them to select an age-appropriate song for the kids to play their newly learned patterns. Explain to the drummer that they'll need to teach four or five different rhythms, getting progressively more complicated and that they can cue the kids with which rhythm to play by holding up numbers on their fingers. Also, it would be great if they plan to end with a "big finish" as the song ends.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)
- Guest drummer (from the Opener)

Music and Sound Effects:

- “Press Play” from *Press Play: Get in the Mix*
- “Jesus I Will Trust You” from *This Love*

Large Group Visuals:

- Memory Verse Slide

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
- Printed script in a black binder
- Music device (if you don’t have a sound system)
- Sound volunteer (if possible)

Music and Sound Effects:

- Selected movements from Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons* (see “What You Do”)

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.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- There are lots of different recordings of *The Four Seasons*, but it’s helpful to know that it’s a collection of four different concertos: RV 269 (“La primavera”), RV 315 (“L’estate”), RV 293 (“L’autunno”), and RV 297 (“L’inverno”). Each concerto has three movements within it, labeled I, II, and III. Please look closely at the track names, and make sure you use the exact movements that are referenced in the script, in the correct order. (We suggest making a playlist.) For the “grand finale,” we suggest pre-setting the start time to the final 10-15 seconds of the final movement, which you can do in iTunes by going to Edit / Song Info / Options.
- We recommend having someone run sound if at all possible.
- The Leader will want to read this story dramatically and slowly, allowing the music to drive the narrative. Schedule a rehearsal with your Leader and sound volunteer if possible.

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