

Today's Suggested Schedule—August 2021, Week 1

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: Grow as We Go (Jesus Grows in Wisdom) • Luke 2:41-52

Today's Bottom Line: Wisdom is worth searching for.

Monthly Memory Verse: *If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault.* James 1:5 (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

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 ("I Run to You" from *I Run to You* single and "Trust You with My Heart" from *This Love*)

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Postcards from Jerusalem

Application Activity: Finding Wisdom Part 1

Memory Verse Activity: Finding Wisdom Part 2

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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Monthly Life App: Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

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

Leader enters, wearing an archaeologist hat and carrying a shovel.

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

KARA: "Hello, everyone! I'm really glad you're all here today, because we're about to dig up some major fun! That's why I'm dressed and ready for the search—because this month is all about digging deep to discover what matters most. In other words, we're searching for wisdom!"

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

"Wisdom is finding out what you should do and doing it.

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

"We need God's help to **[Basic Truth]** make the wise choice and discover what we should do. And God is always there to help us!"

Scavenger Hunt: We will explain to children that wisdom is something that we can search for and that we will start our lesson by doing an exercise searching for items throughout the room.

WORSHIP KARA:

“It’s so important for us to ‘dig deep’ and search for wisdom. And remember—we aren’t in it alone! We can turn to God whenever we need help. That’s what we find in our memory verse for this month, James 1:5.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn’t find fault, James 1:5. (NIRV)

“Let’s learn this new song that reminds us that God is all we need.

Video (Media Package): “I Run to You” Dance Moves Music Video

“I know that I can run to God because **[Basic Truth] I can trust Him no matter what.** He is always there to lead us through anything we’re facing in life. Let’s sing this song to tell Him that we will trust Him!

Video: “Trust You with My Heart”

“That’s right! We can trust God and depend on Him. He is the source of ALL wisdom! You can all have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: Theme Background

SETTING UP THE STORY

KERRI: “If I asked you to tell me what you know about Jesus, you might tell me about how He came to Earth as a baby and was born in Bethlehem. You might talk about how He grew up to teach crowds of people . . . perform amazing miracles . . . and eventually, die on the cross for our sins.

“We don’t know as much about the time between Jesus’ birth and His adult years. But we do have one story from Jesus’ childhood that shows us what was important to Him.

“Luke shared this story in the book he wrote that’s part of the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) The name of his book is—you guessed it—Luke.”

KERRI: “Every year, Jesus and His parents went to the city of Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. When Jesus was 12, they went to the feast as usual. The trip from their home in Nazareth to Jerusalem would have taken several days. Families and friends traveled together.

“Actually, I could use your help with this. Let’s act it out together. We’ll start over here in Nazareth.

Stand under the Nazareth sign.

“[Kid’s name], you’ll play the part of Jesus.

Hand the cue card to the boy you pre-selected to play Jesus.

“Who wants to play Mary and Joseph?

Choose an older girl and older boy, and hand them their cue cards.

“The rest of us will be Jesus’ family and friends, traveling to Jerusalem together. Everyone on your feet. I’ve got some bags and supplies for you to carry.

Hand out the bags, suitcases, and other props.

“As you can see, we need to get over there to Jerusalem. (*Point to the Jerusalem sign.*) It’s not too far in this room; but remember, for Jesus and His family, it was a long trip. Let’s go!

Do a slow-motion walk as you lead the caravan across the room to the Jerusalem sign. Ad-lib as you go (“Are we there yet?”) As you get close to Jerusalem, continue with the script.

“Jesus likely the spent the days of travel with His cousins and friends . . . maybe finding His parents at dinner time. We don’t know what Jesus thought or felt when He finally saw the city of Jerusalem perched on the rocky hillside ahead. Years later, He would enter the city to the shouts of cheering

crowds. But for now, He was here to celebrate the important Passover Feast with His family.”

CELEBRATION AND RETURN

KARA: “And that’s just what He did. All week, Jesus’ family celebrated the Passover Feast with their relatives in Jerusalem.

*Guide everyone to sit down at the table or around it.
Encourage them to pass around the plates, clink their
cups, etc.*

“The people remembered how God had rescued their ancestors from Egypt, long ago. When the feast was over, Mary and Joseph began the long trip home with their family and friends.

“Okay, you heard me. Party’s over. Time to pack up and go home.

*Guide the kids in grabbing what they brought over and
slowly walking back to the Nazareth side of the room.*

*At this point, the boy playing Jesus should quietly slip away
from the crowd and head to the place in the room where
the adult volunteers have gathered—under the temple
sign. They should surround the boy so no one can see
him. (Alternately, you could have him hide behind a screen
or pipe-and-drape panel.)*

“The roads were surely crowded with everyone else returning home as well. Mary and Joseph, and the rest of their companions traveled for a full day before Jesus’ parents realized something important: Jesus wasn’t with them!

“His parents frantically searched for Jesus among their relatives and friends. *(to the kids playing Mary and Joseph)* Mary and Joseph, you heard me—it’s time to search for Jesus among this crowd!

*Allow the kids to search for a few seconds. If they figure
out where the boy is, just downplay it and move on with the
story.*

“But Jesus was nowhere to be found.”

SEARCHING FOR JESUS

KARA: “Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus.

Cue Mary and Joseph to head back to the Passover table under the Jerusalem sign.

“They probably retraced their steps over and over again.

Cue them to walk back and forth.

“They searched for three days! Finally though, they found Jesus.

Adult volunteers part, revealing the boy playing Jesus.

“He was in the temple courtyard. He sat there with the teachers, listening to them teach and asking questions. Everyone who heard Jesus speak was amazed at how much He seemed to understand and at the answers He gave. And as Jesus’ parents looked on, they, too, were amazed at their Son.

Look at Mary and Joseph to cue them to make an “amazed” face.

“They were amazed, but they were also His parents, so they were understandably frustrated with Him. Listen to what Mary said.”

Prompt Mary to read from her cue card.

GIRL (as MARY): “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been worried about you. We have been looking for you everywhere.” (Luke 2:48, NIV)

KARA: “Jesus replied . . .”

Prompt the boy playing Jesus to read from his cue card.

BOY (as JESUS) “Why were you looking for me? . . . Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49, NIV)

LEADER: “Jesus’ parents didn’t quite understand what He meant, but we can bet they were extremely relieved to have found their son.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

KARA: “Mary, Joseph, and Jesus returned to Nazareth.

Cue Mary, Joseph, and Jesus to walk toward the Nazareth side of the room and rejoin the rest of the kids.

“Jesus obeyed everything His parents asked of Him. And as He grew . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 2:52 (NIRV) and read.

“Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.

“Thank you to our actors (reference the rest of the kids) and the rest of our traveling group as well. You can all have a seat.

Have the kids sit down as you wrap up.

“Jesus is the perfect example for us of what it looks like to search for wisdom. He went to the temple, where He knew He could find wisdom. He talked to the teachers who taught the laws of God. And as Jesus grew up, He continued to grow in wisdom.

“That’s something we can do, too. We can search for God’s wisdom, just like Jesus did. Here’s why.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Wisdom is worth searching for.

“Let’s ask God to help us ‘dig deep’ and search for wisdom.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

VIDEO: BIBLE STORY

PRAY

KERRI: “Dear God, thank You for being the source of all wisdom. Thank You for the example we have from Jesus of how important it is to SEARCH for wisdom. If Your very own Son thought it was important to find wisdom, surely it’s something we should look for, too. This week, help each of us be wise—to find out what we should do and do it. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

KARA: “Wisdom really IS worth searching for. It’s more valuable than any treasure! I mean, think about all the choices we have to make in our lives, every single day. Wisdom can help us know what to do and when to do it . . . what to say and how to say it . . . where to go . . . or even who we should spend our time with.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Wisdom is worth searching for. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Wisdom is worth searching for.”

KERRI: “Even Jesus searched for wisdom. He went to the temple and spent time asking questions and listening to wisdom from the teachers. If finding wisdom was important to Jesus, it should definitely be important to us.

“So how do we search for wisdom? Well, we can talk to God and ask Him for wisdom. We can do what Jesus did, and talk to our leaders here at church. We can tell them how we’re feeling, and ask them questions when we’re not sure of something. Or maybe we can search for wisdom from someone in our family. Your family knows you better than anyone, and they can help you make tough decisions in a way that no one else can.

“And there’s another place we can search for wisdom. (*Hold up Bible.*) The Bible is full of God’s wisdom! Maybe you have one that looks like this. Or maybe you can find a Bible app on your device or on someone’s phone. Take time to read it or have someone read it to you.

“Let’s head to Small Group and discover how we can search for wisdom!”

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
- Archaeologist hat, such as this: <https://bit.ly/3fPLSba>
- Shovel
- Two kid volunteers
- Tarp
- Two large buckets (big enough that kids can stand inside)
- Crispy rice cereal (enough to put some in both buckets)
- Two marbles
- Plastic pitcher of water
- Paper towels and wipes
- Bible

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun, adventurous music (like from a movie soundtrack)

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. *Note: Legally a song belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. Usually, but not always, PROs give general permission for performances in worship services. We recommend you obtain permission from the PRO representing the song or the publisher of the song you wish to play. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. For a list of PROs in your part of the world: www.iamusic.com. Look at the copyright on the CD or sheet music to discover the PRO or publisher of the song. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song.*

- 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 tarp out on the floor on the stage, and place the buckets on the tarp. Pour the cereal into the buckets. Bury a marble in each bucket. Have the water pitcher, paper towels, and wipes nearby.
- *Note:* You'll use these supplies again for a relay race at the end of the month, so hold on to anything you can (except the soggy cereal, of course!).

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "I Run to You" from *I Run to You* single
- "Trust You with My Heart" from *This Love*

Large Group Visuals:

- Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- "I Run to You" Dance Moves Music Video (available through the 252 Media Package)

What You Do:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use. *Note: Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:*
"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe
©2000 Good Music Co.
CCLI License # 0000
- Dance Moves 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
- Pre-selected boy to play Jesus (see "What You Do")
- Several adult or student volunteers (no speaking required), OR something for the boy to hide behind such as screen or pipe-and-drape panel
- Three large signs: "Jerusalem," "Nazareth," and "The temple"
- Two cue cards with Mary and Jesus' lines from the script written on them
- Various bags, suitcases, and other travel props
- Table and several chairs

- Plates and cups

Music and Sound Effects:

- Traveling music (suggestion: “The Road” by Itai Armon)
- Celebratory music (suggestion: “Hevenu Shalom Alechem” by Adagio Music)
- Suspenseful music (suggestion: “Cuando el Rey Nimrod (Séferade)” by Yair Dalal)

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.
- Choose the boy ahead of time, and explain what he needs to do. When you bring everyone back from Jerusalem to Nazareth, he needs to stay behind, go under the temple sign, and hide behind the adult volunteers (or the screen/panel).
- Set up the room with the Nazareth and Jerusalem signs in the corners that are farthest apart. Place the temple sign near the Jerusalem sign, but far enough away that the adults can gather around Jesus inconspicuously.
- Set the table with the plates and cups, under the Jerusalem sign.

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

Supplemental Resources

Available for additional purchase at Store.ThinkOrange.com.

MONTHLY WIDGET*: Dig Deep Bandana

Each month, we offer a unique item that helps kids and families apply what they're learning at home. Available at Store.ThinkOrange.com.

When kids put on this cool topo map bandana, they'll remember that it's worth searching high and low to find God's wisdom. Families can use it to play some fun games at home—like having their kids wear it while they search for hidden items, reciting the included memory verse (James 1:5) with each step. They can also discuss key questions about why it's important to put wisdom into action: to find out what we should do and do it!

***widg·et [wij-it]** –noun

1. Something unspecific whose name is either forgotten or not known.
2. A device that is very useful for a particular job

Origin: 1925–30; perhaps an alternative form of gadget