

Today's Suggested Schedule—August 2021, Week 4

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: Foolish Heart (Rehoboam Listens to Fools) • 2 Chronicles 10
(supporting: Proverbs 13:20)

Today's Bottom Line: Hang out with wise people.

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 need to make the wise choice.

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 ("Jesus I Will Trust You" from *This Love* and "Even When" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Wise Words
Application Activity: Wisdom Awards
Memory Verse Activity: Fishing for Wisdom
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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Basic truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Leader enters, again wearing an archeological hat and carrying a shovel.

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

Video (Media Package): Theme

KARA: “Hi, everyone! I’m excited to hang out with you wise people again today! *(Hold up the shovel.)* We’ve been ‘digging deep’ to find what matters most, and we’ve made a lot of discoveries along the way. That’s what wisdom is all about.

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

“ALL wisdom comes from God, so it’s important that we talk to God when we have a tough decision to make. We can stop, think, and use the wisdom God has given us so we don’t rush into doing something we might regret. We can talk to other wise people God has put in our lives, and they can help us find God’s wisdom, too.

“Sometimes you have to ‘dig deep’ to find that kind of wisdom. So I have a fun game that will help us sharpen our digging skills. First, let’s divide into two teams.

Try to divide the group into even teams according to age and availability. Line the teams up behind the start lines.

“Now, find a partner on your team and stand side-by-side. In just a minute, I’ll give you and your partner a bandana so you can tie your inside legs together—like this.

Stand beside a kid, and point to your leg that’s right next to his. Show how to tie your legs together using a bandana.

“When it’s your turn, you and your partner will need to work together to walk over to this trash can.

Walk with the kid to the trash can full of balloons.

“When you get there, you’ll reach inside and ‘dig deep’ to find a balloon that matches your team’s color—which is the color of your bandana. So, for us, that would be [color]. Once we find that [color] balloon, we put it between our bodies (*demonstrate*) and walk all the way back to the starting line—without touching the balloon with our hands! Then it’s time for the next two people on our team to go.

“If you drop the balloon, you have to pick it up and put it between you again. Then you can start walking from wherever the balloon first dropped.

“The team that has ALL of their pairs cross the finish line first, wins. However, everyone gets a chance to dig for their balloon. So the game isn’t over until everyone has crossed the finish line. Any questions? (*Pause for response.*) All right, it’s bandana time!

Hand out the bandanas—one for each pair of kids. (To simplify, you could have one color for each team so you’d just need two colors of bandanas. Or, if you’d rather use multicolored bandanas and balloons, you’ll want to have at least the same number of balloons as you do bandanas of each color.)

If there’s an odd number of kids, you can participate, too (i.e. just stay with the kid who helped you demonstrate).

Help any younger kids having trouble tying the bandanas. you can ask the older kids to help with this as well.

“All right, is everybody ready? (*Pause for response.*) Let’s do this. On your mark, get set, go!

AUDIO: Fun, adventurous music (like from a movie soundtrack)

Comment on the action and cheer for the kids as they play. If you’re not in the game, stand near the trash can and replace any balloons that fall out while the kids search for their color balloon.

Make sure each pair doesn’t start until the pair ahead of them is back over the finish line and that anyone who drops a balloon restarts their walk from where the balloon dropped.

When the first team’s players have all finished, encourage them to cheer on the other team until everyone has finished.

“Wow! That wasn’t easy, but it was a lot of fun. I loved seeing all of you work together to ‘dig deep,’ find those balloons, and finish the race. You can take off the bandanas and put them in this bin then put your balloons in the trash can. Then it’s time for us to worship!”

Collect the bandanas in the plastic bin and the balloons in the trash can.

KERRI: “It might seem overwhelming to ‘dig deep’ and find wisdom, but remember that we’re never doing it alone! God is always with us—always leading us and guiding our steps. He is always there to help us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. That’s what our memory verse for this month is about. Say it with me.”

SLIDE: Memory Verse

LEADER and KIDS: *“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, NIV)*

LEADER: “Nice job! We can find wisdom as we grow in our relationship with Jesus. Let’s sing this song to Him and tell Him that we’ll trust Him.

VIDEO: “Jesus I Will Trust You”

“Yes! We can trust Jesus ALWAYS—even when the days get harder and the sky is darker. Let’s keep worshipping Him as we thank Him for always being with us!

VIDEO: “Even When”

SLIDE: Theme Background

“What an awesome reminder that Jesus is with us always—that we’ll be together always! You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

KARA: “This month, we’ve talked a lot about King Solomon, and with good reason. He’s known as one of the wisest people who ever lived! Solomon became king of God’s people after his father, King David, died. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him he could ask for anything he wanted. The young king said that he wanted wisdom . . . so God gave it to him.

“For 40 years, King Solomon ruled over Israel. During that time, he did some amazing things, like building a breathtaking temple for the Lord and a beautiful palace for himself.

“He welcomed visitors from all over the world, and he shared the wisdom that God had given him. Much of Solomon’s wisdom is written down in the book of Proverbs—including this advice on how we can gain wisdom.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 13:20 (NIRV) and read.

“Walk with wise people and become wise. A companion of foolish people suffers harm.”

Move behind the table and stand behind the prop box with hats.

JEROBOAM APPROACHES THE KING

KARA: “Unfortunately, Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, did not pay attention to his own father’s words of wisdom. He believed his own way was best. And when Solomon died, Rehoboam became king of Israel.

Put on the crown.

(as King Rehoboam) “Wow. Check ME out! Golden crown, spiffy palace. This is the life.

Take off the crown.

“Rehoboam’s dad, Solomon, had made the people work extremely hard when he was king. Now the Israelites wanted to see how this NEW king would treat them. The people, led by a man named Jeroboam, came to see King Rehoboam.

Put on hard hat.

(as Jeroboam) “Hello, Your Highness. My name’s Jeroboam.

Take off the hard hat and put on the crown.

(as King Rehoboam) “Hey! You stole my name.

Take off the crown and put on the hard hat.

(as Jeroboam) “It’s JERoboam, not REhoboam, Your Majesty. I have come to speak to you on behalf of your people. Your father, King Solomon, made us work very hard. Let us take more breaks, and we’ll

serve you well.

Take off the hard hat and put on the crown.

(as King Rehoboam) “Sounds like you want to slack off.

Take off the crown and put on the hard hat.

(as Jeroboam) “We just need a little more vacay time. Then we’ll be ready to give it all we’ve got!

Take off the hard hat and put on the crown.

(as King Rehoboam) “Huh. Well . . . come back in three days.”

Take off the crown.

REHOBAM SEEKS ADVICE

KERRI: “This would have been a great time for Rehoboam to do what his father had done, and ask God for wisdom. But he did, at least, talk with the wise elders who had served Solomon when he was king.

Put on the crown.

(as King Rehoboam) “The people want me to give ‘em a break so they don’t have to work so hard. Whaddaya say?

Take off the crown and put on the graduate cap. As you portray the different advisors, turn your head each time and consider using different voices/accents.

(as elder #1) “Be kind to them!

(as elder #2) “Absolutely. Give them what they ask for.

(as elder #3) “You’ll win their loyalty that way. Then they will serve you well.

Take off the graduate cap.

“Unfortunately, Rehoboam didn’t listen to the advice of these wise men. Instead, he decided to ask his buddies—the guys who had grown up with him.

Put on the propeller hat. As you portray the different friends, turn your head each time and consider using different voices/accents.

(as friend #1) “Hey, Rehoboam. How’re you doing, man?

Take off the propeller hat and put on the crown.

(as King Rehoboam) “The people want me to give ‘em a break so they don’t have to work so hard. Whaddaya say?

Take off the crown and put on the propeller hat.

(as friend #2) “Oh, this is good. You get to do real king stuff now!

(as friend #1) “You gotta show ‘em who’s boss.

(as friend #2) “They think your dad was tough? Tell ‘em, ‘My PINKY FINGER is stronger than my dad’s legs!’

(as friend #1) “Yeah! And also tell ‘em, ‘My dad gave you a heavy load, but you haven’t seen NUTHIN’ yet. I am gonna LAY IT ON YOU!’

Take off the propeller hat.

“Rehoboam might have taken a second to think about it. But in the end, he decided to listen to his young, foolish friends.

Put on the crown.

(as King Rehoboam) “Wow! You guys are good. I am totally doing that!”

Take off the crown.

REHOBAM CHOOSES POORLY

KERRI: “After three days, Jeroboam and the people returned.

Put on the hard hat.

(as Jeroboam) “Your Majesty. Will you lighten the heavy workload your father gave us?

Take off the hard hat and put on the crown.

(as King Rehoboam) “My PINKY FINGER is stronger than my father’s legs! My father put a heavy load on your shoulders. But I’ll make it even heavier. My father punished stragglers. I’ll double it up!

Take off the crown.

“Rehoboam probably expected the people to tremble and bow down in fear. But . . . that’s not exactly what happened next. Check it out.

Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:16 (NIRV) and read.

“All the Israelites saw that the king refused to listen to them. So they answered the king. They said, ‘We don’t have any share in David’s royal family . . . People of Israel, let’s go back to our homes. David’s royal family, take care of your own kingdom!’”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

KARA: “And with that, Jeroboam and the men with him marched out and returned to their own homes. From that day, the nation was split into two kingdoms. Rehoboam still ruled in Judah, but Jeroboam was made king of Israel.

Walk in front of the table as you wrap up.

“Rehoboam had failed to listen to the words of his own father.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 13:20 (NirV) and read.

“Walk with wise people and become wise. A companion of foolish people suffers harm.

“Because Rehoboam listened to his foolish friends instead of the wise elders, it cost him nearly all of the kingdom! We can learn something really important from Rehoboam’s mistake. We should spend our time with people who are wise—people who can lead us toward God’s wisdom.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Hang out with wise people.

“Let’s ask God to help us do that.”

VIDEO: BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for giving us friends and family who can help us make wise choices. We know that just because we’re friends with someone, or even related to them, doesn’t mean they always have wise advice for us. Help us spend time with people who follow after You and live according to Your wisdom. Help us remember to turn to them when we need advice. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “King Rehoboam should have done what his father, King Solomon, said. He should have walked with wise people to become wise. (*Proverbs 13:20, NIV*)

“If you want to become wise, you should find someone who’s wiser than you and make sure you spend your time hanging out with them. Their wisdom will help YOU become wiser, too.

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Hang out with wise people. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Hang out with wise people.”

LEADER: “Jesus’ disciples knew how important this was. They spent three years hanging out with Jesus, listening to Him teach, and watching the wise way He lived. They saw what His relationship with His Father was like. And even after Jesus died and came back to life, His disciples spent time with each other and other followers of Jesus. They continued to learn and grow in wisdom.

“It’s important to choose wise friends. Because if you surround yourself with foolish people, you’ll end up doing something foolish, too. If you surround yourself with people who say mean things about others, you’ll say mean things about others. If you hang out with angry people, you’ll be angry, too. If you hang out with people who break the rules . . . yep, you know what will happen.

“But you’re all really smart people in here. You know that you **[Basic Truth]** need to make the wise choice. And you know the difference between someone who makes wise decisions and someone who doesn’t. So choose your friends carefully. Hang out with people you know are wise. You can even ask God to help you find those wise people in your life. After all, He can use other people to help show you His wisdom!

“We’ll talk more about that in Small Group. That’s definitely a place you can **[Bottom Line]** hang out with wise people. Let’s head that way now!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

Video (Media Package): Theme with background 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
- Shovel
- Large, clean trash can (you may need more than one, depending on how many balloons you use)
- Plastic bin
- Colorful bandanas (one bandana for every two kids; see "What You Do")
- Colorful balloons, inflated with air, in the same colors as the bandanas (see "What You Do")
- Masking tape

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.
- 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.
- To simplify, you could have one color for each team, so that you'd need just two colors of bandanas and balloons. If you'd rather use multicolored bandanas, you'll want to have at least the same number of balloons as you do bandanas of each color. Either way, make sure that you have at least as many balloons as you have bandanas of each color, so that the kids can always find a matching balloon.
- Put the bandanas in the plastic bin.

- Blow up the balloons (with air, not helium). Place them in the trash can. (Use multiple trash cans if needed.)
- Tape a starting line for the two teams. Place the trash can(s) about 10 to 15 feet away.
- *Note:* You will use many of these supplies again for a relay race next week, so hold on to anything you can.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- “Jesus I Will Trust You” from *This Love*
- “Even When” 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
- Helper (adult or older student; optional)
- Bible
- Table
- Prop box with the following hats:
 - Crown
 - Hard hat
 - Graduate cap (mortarboard)
 - Propeller hat
- Printed script (optional; 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.
- This script requires some dramatic acting, so depending on your comfort level, you may want to ask an adult or student helper to play the characters (with the hats) while you narrate.
- It may be helpful to print the script, place it in a binder, and read at least the narrator parts from the script. Highlight the narrator lines so that they stand out from the character lines.

- Practice ahead of time so you can memorize the characters' lines and get the timing down with the hats.

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