

Today's Suggested Schedule—September 2021, Week 2

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.

Today's Bible Story: Help! (Nehemiah Helps the Poor) • *Nehemiah 5*

Today's Bottom Line: Look for ways to make things right.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.* Colossians 3:23a (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

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

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

Leader enters.

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

KARA: “Hello, my fellow earthlings! Welcome back to the outer space version of [your environment's name]. We're ‘ready for launch’ this month, because we're finding out what it means to take initiative.

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

“Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

“It takes initiative to boldly go where no one has gone before. It takes initiative to solve problems that no one else is taking on. It takes initiative to see things that need to be done then do something about them. God can help us live that way, every single day!

“Can you imagine the initiative it took for the first astronauts to fly to space? It's truly amazing to think about. And thanks to their bravery and willingness to do what needed to be done, we know so much more about our whole solar system! Today, we'll have some fun putting together our version of our solar system with a Solar System Scavenger Hunt!

“First, let's divide into teams.

Divide the kids into teams according to how many sets of solar systems you have.

“You’ll find all the different planets scattered around the room. *(Hold up one of the cutouts/balloons/beach balls.)* There are enough planets out there for each group to have a full solar system, IF you can find one of each planet!

SLIDE: Solar System *(if you’re using the paper cutouts), or a picture of your “planets” (if you’re using balloons or beach balls)*

Note: If you use balloons or beach balls instead of the cutouts, take a picture of them ahead of time that you can show here. That way the kids can see the exact colors that represent each planet. Or you could show them a complete set of the actual balloons/beach balls instead.

“As you can see, we have the Sun, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

“When I say, ‘Go,’ your team needs to find one of each planet and bring them back to your home galaxy, which is where you are right now. *(Explain what you need them to do. For example, tape the planets to their group’s posterboard.)* The first team to finish the entire solar system, wins!

“All right, let’s see your initiative in action. Let the Solar System Scavenger Hunt begin! On your mark, get set, GO!

AUDIO: Fun instrumental music

Comment on the action. Watch the kids to make sure they don’t take extra “planets.” If they end up with more than they need, have them hide the extra planets so the other groups can find them.

Congratulate the first group to finish. If possible, let all groups complete their solar systems before you move on. Get the kids to help you put the supplies away before you move on to Worship.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“Nice job, everyone! You worked really hard to get your solar systems right. Let’s sing and celebrate our amazing and creative God who made the whole solar system in the first place. Everyone on your feet!”

WORSHIP

KARA: “It’s not always easy to take initiative and do what needs to be done, but we don’t have to do it alone. We know that Jesus is always with us—and His love makes us want to love others, too. Let’s sing to Jesus and praise Him together.

Video: “You’re the Reason”

“God is so kind to us! He is our safe place. As we read in Psalm 46:1 (*NIV*), ‘*God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.*’ Every day, we can take the initiative to share God’s kindness with others. We can choose to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated** and give a little love away. Sing this with me.

Video: “Give a Little Kindness”

SLIDE: Theme Background

“That was awesome! I’m determined to give some kindness away, and today’s story will inspire us to do that even more. You can have a seat.”

Video: BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: Theme Background

BIBLE STORY: KARA AND KERRI

SETTING UP THE STORY

KARA: “Last week, we learned about Nehemiah (*hold up Bible*)—a Jewish man who was living away from his homeland, Jerusalem. Nehemiah had heard that Jerusalem was badly damaged and that the city walls were broken-down and burned.

“This news made Nehemiah very sad. But he didn’t just wait around or hope that someone else would do something to help. He took initiative! He asked the king of Persia to let him travel to Jerusalem so he could see the city for himself. Then, with God’s help, Nehemiah rallied the people to repair the city wall.

“Each family or group took a different part of the wall to work on. (*looking around*) Let’s see . . . I need to divide everyone up so we can get this work done. First, I need a few of you to be the officials in charge and help me oversee the work.

Pull out three older kids and give them clipboards.

“The rest of you can divide into groups of three or four people. (*to the ‘officials’*) Officials, please help me distribute these bags of supplies to each group.

Have the “officials” hand out a bag to each group. Each bag should have pretend money, bricks, and play food or food boxes/containers.

“Everyone, you can pull out your money and food and set those on the ground next to you. Then please get to work building your section of the wall.

If needed, cue the kids to start stacking the bricks in their bags.

“Good work. You can take a break for now.

“At first, the work went well. Nehemiah and the people even managed to ignore the threats from the nations around them who didn’t want Jerusalem to be rebuilt. It seemed like nothing could stop the project . . . until new trouble showed up from INSIDE the walls.”

I’VE BEEN CHEATED

KARA: “A group of people came to find Nehemiah. They told Nehemiah that there wasn’t enough food for everyone and they were having to sell their fields and vineyards to buy grain.

(to the officials) “Officials, you heard that. Take some of the food from each family.

Give an empty bag to each official. Cue the officials to collect some food from each group and put it in their bags.

“The people told Nehemiah that they also had to borrow money to pay taxes to the king.

(to the officials) “Officials, please collect half of everyone’s money for taxes.

Cue the officials to collect some money from each group.

“But that’s not all! The officials charged the people interest—which means the people had to pay extra, in addition to paying back the money they borrowed.

(to the officials) “Officials, I’m sorry to say this, but . . . go ahead and take the rest of their money, too.

Cue the officials to collect the rest of the money from each group.

“And it got even worse! The people told Nehemiah that they were forced to send their children to work for the officials since they owed them so much money. I need one person from each group to go with the officials.”

Cue each group to send one person to stand with the officials.

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU’VE DONE

KERRI: “Nehemiah couldn’t believe what he was hearing! He knew he had to do something to help the people. He took the problem so seriously that he stopped work on the wall to call the officials together.

Call the officials over and have them stand with you.

“Nehemiah reminded the officials how the Jewish people had been taken away as captives in the past. Now, they were doing it again—to their own people! He told the officials . . .

Open the Bible to Nehemiah 5:9-11 (NIRV) and read.

“What you are doing isn’t right. . . I’m lending the people money and grain. So are my relatives and my men. But we must stop charging interest! Give the people’s fields back to them. Give them back their vineyards, olive groves and houses. Do it right away. Give everything back to them. Also give them

back the one percent on the money, grain, fresh wine and olive oil you have charged them.

“Nehemiah demanded that the officials give back anything they had taken from their fellow citizens, including the extra money they had charged. And guess what—the officials agreed! They agreed to stop charging the people, and to give everything back that they had taken.”

THE RESTORATION

KERRI: *(to the officials)* “You heard me, officials. Please return the things you took—and while you’re at it, read these for us—nice and loud.

Hand the cue cards to the officials. Cue them to say their lines out loud as they return the food, money, and people.

“Official Number One?”

KID (as OFFICIAL #1): *(reading from the cue card)* “We’re really sorry.”

LEADER: “Official Number Two?”

KID (as OFFICIAL #2): *(reading from the cue card)* “These are yours.”

LEADER: “Official Number Three?”

KID (as OFFICIAL #3): *(reading from the cue card)* “Please forgive us for taking more than we had to.”

LEADER: *(to the officials)* “Nice job. I knew you could do it.

(to everyone) “Once the officials had made things right, everyone had what they needed. Work on the city walls could begin again—faster and stronger than before!

“You heard me, everyone. It’s time to get started on that wall again. In fact, let’s push all those blocks together and see how much we’ve accomplished. Officials, you help, too!

Give the kids some time to finish building and put their sections together. When they’ve finished, get them to help you collect all the props.

“Nice job, everyone! You can sit back and rest.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

KERRI: “All the other governors had made the people pay them silver and give them lots of food—and even their land. But Nehemiah didn’t want to make things difficult for the people. Instead, he made sure that everyone had what they needed. He even invited 150 people to eat the food at his own table!

“As Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, he looked for ways to treat others fairly and make things right. You and I should do that, too.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Look for ways to make things right.
“Let’s ask God to help us do that.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

“Dear God, it’s so cool to hear how You helped Nehemiah make things right. He could have ignored what was happening, but he took the first step to make sure the people were treated fairly. We can learn a lot from what he did. Help us look around and see where things aren’t going right . . . where people are in trouble . . . or where they might need our help. Help us speak up and make things right for the people around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

KARA: “The people were trying to rebuild the broken-down walls of Jerusalem; but it wasn’t just the walls that were broken. The way that the people treated each other was also broken. So when Nehemiah saw that some of his people were treated unfairly because they were poor, he did something about it. He stood up for them, and he worked to make things fairer.

“Initiative starts with SEEING what needs to be done. And more often than not, that starts with seeing who needs to be helped and what needs to be made right.

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Look for ways to make things right. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Look for ways to make things right.”

LEADER: “Think about how Jesus treated people. Jesus really SAW people. He saw what they needed. He showed people how valuable they were by loving them, no matter what. And He inspired people to love like He did—to make things right for those around them.

“We should stand up for people who are being treated unfairly because of the way they look, where they’re from, how much money they have, or what they believe. If you’ve ever been treated unfairly, then you know how it feels. It’s not good. But maybe you also know how it feels when someone stands up for you.

“When we **[Bottom Line]** look for ways to make things right, we can show God’s love in a powerful way. It’s like Paul wrote in Colossians 3:23, our memory verse for this month.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord. (Colossians 3:23a, NIV)”

“In Small Group, we’ll talk some more about how we can make things right for others. Let’s head that way now!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SLIDE: Theme Background 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
- Planet Cutouts (printed from the LG Assets PDF and cut out) taped to the walls; you'll need one complete set of cutouts per team
- Posterboards (one per team)
- Tape (for each team)
- *Optional:* Balloons or beach balls to represent the planets, if you'd like to use them instead of the paper cutouts
- *Optional:* Picture of a complete set of your "planets" (if you're using balloons or beach balls)

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun instrumental music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Life App Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Solar System Slide
- Planet Cutouts (printable)

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.
- Decide how you want to create the solar system. You'll need to have a full set of planets for the number of groups that will play the game, plus extras. Options include:
 - Printing and cutting out the planets from the provided sheets and providing a posterboard for each group to tape their planets to.
 - Inflating balloons or beach balls of various colors to represent the planets. (You may also want to label them with the names of the planets.)

- Hide the “planets” around the room, scattered, mixed up, and in no particular order. If you’re using the paper cutouts, tape them to the walls. If you only have two teams, you’ll want to hide the “planets” well so it’s a fun challenge. If you have more groups than that, it will probably be challenging enough for each group to just grab what they need. Additional ways to make it more fun and challenging include dimming the lights and adding additional fake-out planets (like Pluto!).

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- “You’re the Reason” from *Press Play: Get in the Mix*
- “Give a Little Kindness” from *This Love*

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
- Prop box
- Three clipboards
- Three empty bags (for the “officials”)
- Several bags containing:
 - Play money
 - Toy bricks (can be large preschool-style or LEGO® blocks)
 - Toy food or food boxes/containers
- Three numbered cue cards with the following phrases:
 - I’m sorry.
 - These are yours.
 - Please forgive us for taking more than we had to.

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.
- Create several bags with the play money, bricks, and food. You’ll want one bag for every three or four kids in your environment. Place all of the bags, clipboards, and the cue cards in the prop box. Set it somewhere on the stage, but out of the way for the Opener and Worship.

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