

# Today's Suggested Schedule—September 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:** I Just Want to Celebrate (The Wall Is Rebuilt) • *Nehemiah 3–4, 6:15–16, 8:1–17*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

**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 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 ("Make a Move" from *Make a Move* single and "Thank You" from *This Love*)

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

## **SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)**

### **GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

Bible Story Review: Space Celebration Part 1

Application Activity: Space Celebration Part 2

Memory Verse Activity: Space Celebration Part 3

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 can trust God no matter what.

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

*Leader enters.*

*Video (Media Package): Theme*

### **OPENER**

**LEADER:** “**FANNY** Greetings, earthlings! It's been a great month so far at [your environment's name]. We're finding out how we can boldly do what needs to be done . . . with 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*

“God can help us take initiative so we notice the things around us that aren't quite right or the people who need our help. And we don't just SEE those things. We do something about them! We lend a hand. We make things better. We show God's love in everything we do and say.

“To kick off our time today, I thought we could have some fun with our very own SPACE-celebration. See what I did there?

“We have four games to play during our space party, so we'll orbit around the room to play! First, let's divide into two teams—the [color] team and the [color] team.

*Divide the group into two teams, making sure to evenly divide among ages. Have the teams line up in two different lines, next to station #1.*

“At each station, only one person from each team can go at a time. When that person is finished, the next person in line goes, and so on.

**FANNY, LINDA, JAMES each man one station**

*Move around the room to each station. Explain how to play each game and demonstrate as you explain.*

“We’ll start here with station number one. As you’re probably aware, there’s no gravity in space. Which means you’re weightless! It’s a weird sensation, and we’ll get a taste of it with this ‘weightless race.’ First, you’ll pick up a spoon and close your eyes—no peeking! While your eyes are closed, you’ll attempt to pick up a cotton ball, carry it to your team’s bucket, and drop it in. It doesn’t SEEM hard, but when you can’t tell how much something weighs, it’s tricky! At the end of the race, we’ll see which team got the most cotton balls in their bucket.

“One you’ve tried to drop in your cotton ball, you’ll come over here to station number two—the ‘moon rock bounce.’ Here you’ll try to transport a moon rock (*hold up a balloon*) from one side of the moon—I mean room—to the other. Just grab a balloon, start at either line, and bounce your balloon all the way to the other line. You can hit your moon rock in the air, but it can’t hit the ground. If it does, bring it back to the starting line and try again. As soon as you make it across, move on to station number three.

“Station number three is the ‘Saturn ring toss,’ where you’ll pick up a ring (*hold up a hula hoop*), stand behind the line, and attempt to throw the ring around Saturn (*point to the beach ball*). Each person will get two chances to try to land a ring.

“Lastly, we’ll finish up with station number four, the ‘rocket ship portal.’ You’ll make a paper rocket like this (*hold up the completed paper airplane*), with paper in your team’s color. Then stand behind the line, launch your rocket, and try to get it through this portal (*point to the hanging hula hoop*). There’s no need to wait your turn here at station number four. Once you get here, go ahead and make your rocket and launch it. If you see someone who needs help folding, go ahead and help them.

“When all of you have finished all four stations, I’ll tally the points, and we’ll find out which team is victorious. Let’s go—starting off with [kid’s name] and [kid’s name] in the weightlessness race! (*Reference the first two kids in line.*) Three . . . two . . . one . . . blast off!

**AUDIO: Fun instrumental music**

*Comment on the action, encouraging the kids as they complete each section. Remind them of the rules if necessary.*

*When everyone has completed all four stations, add up the teams’ points. Count the number of cotton balls in each team’s bucket from station #1. Ask the kids to raise their hands if they landed a ring around Saturn at station #3, and if they got their rocket through the hoop at station #4. Add these numbers together on the dry erase board and come up with the final point totals for both teams. (Don’t worry about being too exact on this; just keep it moving.) Congratulate the winning team.*

“Amazing, everyone! That was out of this world! You saw what needed to be done at all of those stations, and you got . . . it . . . done. Talk about initiative! Stay on your feet, because now it’s time for us to sing to God and celebrate His love.”

## **WORSHIP.**

**LEADER: FANNY** “Before we worship, let’s watch this video together.

**Video (Media Package):** Live Loud Video from Get Reel

“When we take initiative, we can jump into action and do what God has called us to do. It’s like what Paul wrote in our memory verse, Colossians 3:23. Say it with me.”

**SLIDE: Memory Verse**

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

**LEADER:** “Let’s sing this song together and tell God that that’s exactly what we’re going to do—make a move and live for Him!

**Video (Media Package):** “Make a Move” Dance Moves Music Video

“As we worship God, we can celebrate all that He’s done in our lives. We have so much to thank Him for! Let’s sing this song and tell God how grateful we are for His amazing love.

**VIDEO:** “Thank You” / track 7 from This Love

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

“It’s so fun to sing and celebrate God with you You can have a seat.”

## **BIBLE STORY**

*Before you begin the story, display the large, yellow felt circle—either on the stage wall or on posterboard on an easel.*

## **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**LEADER: FANNY/LINDA.** “We’ve been talking all month about Nehemiah (*hold up Bible*). Nehemiah was a man who showed some amazing initiative to do a job that he believed God wanted him to do.

“When we first began, Nehemiah was living in Persia. He had an important job as cupbearer to the king. Things in Nehemiah’s life seemed to be going just fine.

*Add the eyes and smiling mouth to the yellow circle, to make an emoji face.*

“But then, Nehemiah got some bad news.

*Turn the mouth upside down so it's a frown.*

“He learned that the walls around the city of Jerusalem had been destroyed, and its gates had been burned. This was a big deal, because it meant that God’s people who lived in Jerusalem were in danger.

“Nehemiah took initiative. He asked the king to let him travel to Jerusalem and see the damage for himself. When he got there, he saw that there was a lot of work to do. The job must have seemed nearly impossible! But with God’s help, Nehemiah rallied all the Jewish people in the city, and they started to repair the damage together.

“The workers faced some trouble from the people in the lands around them . . .

*Take the frowning mouth off the emoji and add the grimace mouth in its place.*

“ . . . and Nehemiah had to tell the officials to stop charging the people extra for food.

“But in the end, Nehemiah and the Jewish people stayed focused on the work at hand. God helped them rebuild the entire city wall and its gates—in only 52 days!”

*Take the grimace mouth off the emoji and add the shocked open mouth in its place.*

## **GRATITUDE**

**LEADER:** “The Jewish people in Jerusalem could now live safely. Nehemiah knew the reason for their success: God had helped them finish the work!

*Take the shocked open mouth off the emoji and add the smiling mouth in its place.*

“Nehemiah wanted everyone to honor God by reading His law. He called all the people together. Everyone gathered at sunrise to hear the prophet Ezra read from God’s Word.

*Put the scroll on the emoji, covering up the mouth.*

“Everyone bowed down with their faces to the ground as they praised God for all that He had done for them. Ezra read God’s Word all the way until lunchtime. The Levites also read God’s laws to the people, and they helped the people understand what those laws meant.”

## **SADNESS**

**LEADER:** “As the people listened, they started to feel very sad.

*Take the scroll off the emoji. Turn the smiling mouth upside down so that it's a frown. Add the tear below one of the eyes.*

“They realized that they hadn’t been following God’s laws. They were upset because they realized how they had wandered far away from God. But Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites told them not to weep or be sad. They said that this was a time for the people to thank God and honor Him together.

“Nehemiah told the people . . .

*Open the Bible to Nehemiah 8:10 (NirV) and read.*

*“Go and enjoy some good food and sweet drinks. Send some of it to people who don’t have any. This day is holy to our Lord. So don’t be sad.*

*Remove the tear from the emoji and read the rest of Nehemiah 8:10 (NirV).*

*“The joy of the LORD makes you strong.*

*Flip the mouth so that it’s smiling.*

“There. That’s much better.”

## **JOY**

**LEADER: JAMES** “The people’s tears turned to joy as they learned that it was time to celebrate one of God’s feasts: Sukkot or the Feast of Booths.

*Take the mouth off of the emoji. Add the party hat and noisemaker.*

“This feast was a way to remember how God took care of His people in the wilderness after He led them out of slavery in Egypt.

“During this celebration, everyone lived in tents and booths. The people cut branches from olive, myrtle, and palm trees and brought them back to the city. There, they built shelters and lived in them for an entire week.

*Put the large “booth” over the top of the emoji face.*

“The people celebrated what God had done for His people in the past. They also celebrated what God had done right before their eyes, as He had helped them rebuild the city of Jerusalem.”

**VIDEO: BIBLE STORY Show on Leader’s cue**

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

## **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**LEADER:** “The people were filled with joy as they reconnected with the God who loved them so deeply. *(Reference the ‘celebrating’ emoji.)*

"In fact, God's people had not celebrated the Feast of Booths in this way in hundreds of years! Each day, Ezra read more of God's laws to them. And the people began to understand all that God had planned for them.

"Just like they did, we should . . .

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** "look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

"Let's talk to God right now and thank Him for being so good to us."

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

## PRAY

**LEADER: FANNY** "Dear God, thank You for all that You've done for us! First of all, You made us, and You love us. You sent Your Son to die for us so we could live with You forever. Then there are all the wonderful things You've done for each of us individually in this room. You've given us family and friends, a roof over our heads, food to eat, and clothes to wear. You've given us a purpose and a good plan for our lives. We could start celebrating all that You've done now, and never stop. We are so thankful! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

## CLOSER. FANNY

**LEADER:** "When Nehemiah and the people finished building the wall, they celebrated! They read God's Word, and they took time to think back about all the ways God had been there for His people in the past. They made sure to honor God, because they knew He was the reason they were successful.

"We should celebrate God like that, too—not just on days like Christmas and Easter, but all the time. When God answers a prayer, when He helps us do something difficult, or when He works something out in our lives that we never saw coming, we should celebrate.

"God is always there to help us make wise choices, give us strength when we need it, and help us make things right with other people. He has a good plan for our lives. **[Basic Truth] We can trust Him no matter what!**

"Remember . . .

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** "Look for ways to celebrate what God has done. Say that with me."

**LEADER and KIDS:** **[Bottom Line]** "Look for ways to celebrate what God has done."

**LEADER:** “If you can’t see something right now to celebrate, look back at the things God has done in the past. Look at the stories in the Bible. Think about how God created the world. Remember that He knows everything and can do anything. Think of how He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross for your sins.

“And keep your eyes open for what God is doing in your life right now. There’s SO much that we can celebrate when we take the initiative to look for it. In fact, we can talk about that some more in Small Group. Let’s go!”

*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

For station #1 (weightless race):

Table

Pile of cotton balls, at least one cotton ball for each kid

Plastic spoons, one for each kid

Two buckets, ideally in the two teams' colors

For station #2 (moon rock bounce):

Two tape lines

Lots of balloons (inflated with air)

For station #3 (Saturn ring toss):

Beach ball

A few hula hoops

Tape line for the kids to stand behind

For station #4 (rocket ship portal)

Blank sheets of paper, at least one sheet for each kid; ideally with half of the paper in each of the two team colors

Hula hoop suspended from the ceiling or against the wall

Tape line for the kids to stand behind

Dry erase board and dry erase marker

### *Music and Sound Effects:*

Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room

Fun instrumental music

### *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.

*Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software such as ProPresenter® have a countdown clock built into the program that you can overlay on a still image.*

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](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com).

## **2. Worship**

### **What You Need:**

Leader(s)

#### *Music and Sound Effects:*

“Make a Move” from *Make a Move* single

“Thank You” 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)

“Make a Move” 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](http://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](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com).

## **3. Bible Story**

### **What You Need:**

Leader

Bible

Place to post the large, yellow felt circle—either on the stage wall or on a posterboard on an easel

Large, yellow felt circle

Black, white, brown, blue, and purple felt, cut to match the pieces on the Emoji Pieces reference sheet, proportionally sized for your yellow circle:

Two dot eyes (black)

Smiling mouth (black)

Grimace mouth (white, with teeth drawn in black marker)

Shocked open mouth (black circle)

Scroll (brown)

Tear (blue)

Party hat (purple)

Noisemaker (purple)

Booth (brown)

### *Large Group Visuals:*

Theme Background Slide  
Bottom Line Slide  
Emoji Pieces (for reference)

### **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.

Cut a large circle out of the yellow felt. Either attach it to the stage wall, or put it on a posterboard.

Using the Emoji Pieces sheet for reference, cut out the other emoji pieces that you'll need from the colors of felt listed above. Make sure these pieces are sized proportionally for your yellow circle. Note: the "booth" will need to be sized to go over the top of the emoji face.

Put the emoji pieces in a small box or container near the yellow circle.

## **Video Enhancements for Your Environment**

*Available for additional purchase at [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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

252 Kids

September 2021 • Week 4

Ready for Launch: Boldly do what needs to be done

Large

Group • K–5 • Starter

PAGE

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