

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2022, 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: Exile (Jesus Tempted in the Desert) • *Luke 4:1-13 (Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)*

Today's Bottom Line: Be ready to do the right thing.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)*

Monthly Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

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 ("Your Way" from *Make a Move* and "What I Choose" from *Make a Move*)

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Desert Path

Application Activity: Get Ready

Memory Verse Activity: Super Fuel

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals 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.

TABLE ACTIVITY for early arrivers - DEBBY

What You Need: Offering container,

What You Do:

Welcome kids to Small Group and tell them Happy New Year!

Invite the kids who brought an offering to put them in the offering container.

Ask:

What do you hope to do in the new year?

Where do you want to go?

What new skills do you want to learn?

What life app would you like to grow in?

OPENER FANNY

LEADER: "Hello, everyone, and Happy New Year! I can't believe it's the year 2022! It seems like someone must have hit fast-forward on the remote control, doesn't it?"

"I have to say, though, sometimes I wish I could press pause on life. Especially when something really awesome is happening—like you're at your best friend's house for a sleepover or it's Christmas morning!"

"We may not be able to control time like that, but we DO have control over some things in life. We can choose SELF-control!"

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

"Self-control is choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to.

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

"That's what we'll talk about this month here at [your environment's name]. It's not always easy to choose to do what we should . . . especially when we FEEL like doing something else. But remember, **[Basic Truth] we need to make the wise choice.** And we never have to make that choice alone. God can help us stay in control in any situation!"

“Sometimes, don’t you wish someone could just TELL you what the wise choice is? Well you’re in luck, because I’ve got a fun game for us today. I’ll tell you exactly what to do . . . and you just have to be ready to do it!

SLIDE: Remote Control

Today’s game is based on the remote control function of . . .

SLIDE: Remote Control: Fast Forward

FANNY LEADS THIS GAME:

“Fast forward! I call it **Foot Forward!** As you can see, we’ve got little stations set up around the room with four different colors taped on the ground. (*Point to the stations.*) Everyone needs to find their own station of four colors.

Each station will have four pieces of construction paper with the same four colors at each station. As the kids walk to the stations, continue explaining the game.

“I’ll call out colors, and you’ll hop on each color as I call it. Easy-peasy, right? But at a certain point, I’ll fast-forward, and you’ll need to be ready to keep up! As it gets faster and faster, if you mess up, you need to be honest and sit down. We’ll keep playing until we get to one person who will be our winner.

“All right, let’s play!

AUDIO: Fun instrumental music

Begin calling out colors fairly slowly, but at a decent pace. Occasionally pick up your speed and get faster and faster until you see kids start messing up. Then slow down (or even pause) to give kids a chance to either sit down because they’re out or catch their breath. Then resume play.

Make sure kids are honest and sit down if they’re out. If you get down to one kid quickly and time allows, have everyone stand back up and play another round.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“Nice job playing ‘Foot Forward,’ everyone! You were ready to jump to the right spot even though it got really tricky when I fast-forwarded on you. You can all get back on your feet. Let’s move and sing as we worship God together!”

**Opening Activity - DEBBY LEADS THIS GAME. (SHE ALREADY PRINTED THESE)
NAME OF THE GAME: “WHAT AM I READY TO DO”**

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “What Am I Ready to Do?” Cards” and “Ready to Do Answers” Activity Pages, phone or timer

What You Do:

Divide the group into five teams.

Assign each team a color.

Tell the teams that they will look for the color card assigned to them.

Direct the teams to find their cards around the room and try to put them in order.

Time this part of the game so that kids move quickly.

When the timer ends, ask each group, “What are you ready to do?”

They should each be able to give at least a ball-park answer according to their cards.

Refer to the answer key to verify their responses.

What You Say:

“You are ready to do so many awesome things in this new year! **[Transition]** Let’s go hear what we can all be prepared to do, no matter what time of year it is!”

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

Video (Media Package): Theme

WORSHIP FANNY

LEADER: “Before we get started, let’s check out this video.

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

Video (Media Package): Theme

“Sometimes, it’s really tough to have self-control. It can be hard to choose what’s right and do what we SHOULD do instead of what we WANT to do. But remember, God is always there to help us. God can guide us to **[Basic Truth]** make the wise choice. Our memory verse reminds us of that truth. It’s 2 Peter 1:3.

SLIDE: *Memory Verse*

“God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. (2 Peter 1:3a, NIV)

“With God’s help, we can choose self-control. Let’s sing this song together and tell God that we want to live HIS way. Sing this with me.

Video (Media Package): “Your Way” Dance Moves Music Video

“In any situation in life, we can decide to trust God. We can **DEPEND** on God, no matter what’s going on around us. Let’s keep singing and worshipping God together. Let’s thank God for being so kind and good to us.

VIDEO: *“What I Choose” from Make a Move*

“I love to worship God with all of you! You can have a seat.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PLAY BIBLE VIDEO HERE.

SETTING UP THE STORY - FANNY

LEADER: *(Hold up Bible.)* “I’ve got an amazing story to share with you today. It’s about how Jesus showed self-control in a REALLY tough situation. This happened not long after Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by His cousin, John. When Jesus came out of the water, God spoke! He said . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 3:17 (NIRV) and read.

“This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him.

“Jesus was around 30 years old at this point. He had spent His life quietly seeking God, learning the Scriptures, and working as a carpenter. But now, everyone had heard what God had said about Jesus. If people knew that Jesus was God’s Son, you’d think that would mean Jesus would immediately start teaching huge crowds of people. But that’s not what happened right away.”

Move behind the table with the “book” of images.

TEMPTATION #1

LEADER: “God’s Spirit led Jesus away from the crowds . . . and into the desert. For 40 days, Jesus spent time with God. But at the same time, God’s enemy, the devil, tempted Jesus. Jesus ate nothing for 40 days. At the end of that time, as you might imagine, He was very hungry.

“The devil said this to Jesus . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 4:3 (NIRV) and read.

“If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.

Pick up the book and show the picture of the stone (page 4 of the book).

“The devil wanted Jesus to doubt God’s plan for His life and instead take control for Himself.

Flip forward to the picture of the bread (page 5).

“But Jesus chose to REWIND. He went back to what He knew was true: what God had shared through Scripture, many years earlier.

Flip back to beginning of the book, the Luke 4:4 page (page 1).

“Jesus quoted words from Scripture. He said . . .

Read from the Luke 4:4 page of the book.

“It is written, ‘Man must not live only on bread.’” (NIRV)

TEMPTATION #2

LEADER: “But the devil wasn’t ready to give up yet. Instead, he whisked Jesus up to a very high place—a mountaintop.

Flip forward to the aerial picture of the world (page 6).

“The devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world.

In your other hand, pick up the Bible.

“He said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 4:6-7 (NirV) and read.

“I will give you all their authority and glory. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.

“Once again, the devil tried to tempt Jesus to bypass God’s plan. The devil wanted Jesus, God’s Son, to worship him! But Jesus saw through the devil’s words. Again, He chose to REWIND.

Flip back to the Luke 4:8 page of the book (page 2).

“Jesus called on the words of Scripture. He said . . .

Read from the Luke 4:8 page of the book.

“It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.’” (NirV)

TEMPTATION #3

LEADER: “The devil had one last trick in mind. He took Jesus to the very highest point of God’s temple in Jerusalem.

Flip forward to the aerial picture of Jerusalem (page 7).

“This time the devil taunted Jesus by quoting Scripture himself.

In your other hand, pick up the Bible. Open it to Luke 4:9-11 (NirV) and read.

“‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down from here. It is written, “The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won’t trip over a stone.”’

“The devil was trying to get Jesus to throw Himself down from the temple because according to Scripture, God would keep Him safe. But Jesus refused to give in. He knew that He didn’t need to do anything to prove that He was God’s Son. Once again, Jesus chose to REWIND.

Flip back to the Luke 4:12 page of the book (page 3).

“He responded with Scripture.

Read from the Luke 4:12 page of the book.

“Jesus answered, ‘Scripture says, “Do not test the Lord your God.”’ (NirV)

WRAPPING UP THE STORY - DEBBY

LEADER: “At last, the devil realized that all his plotting would not work. So he left Jesus until he could find a better time to test Him. And after the devil disappeared, God sent angels to take care of Jesus and provide everything that He needed.

Set down the book and walk in front of the table.

“Jesus was ready to face ALL of the devil’s temptations! He was ready because He knew God, and He knew the truth of Scripture. He was able to stay in control and resist what the devil tried to get Him to do.

“God can help US resist temptation, too. God can help us stay strong . . . self-controlled . . . and ready to do the right thing.

“Here’s what we need to remember.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Be ready to do the right thing.

“If we want to be ready, we need to spend time getting to know God and getting to know His Word. (*Hold up Bible.*) Then we’ll be able to REWIND and remember what’s true—in any situation. Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY - DEBBY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for giving us everything we need in order to live Your way. We want to **[Bottom Line] be ready to do the right thing.** And we know that starts from our relationship with You. We can read the Bible and see how good and faithful You are. We can see how much You love us. Help each of us to spend time with You so we can be ready to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and stay in control. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER - FANNY

LEADER: “Jesus was tempted by the devil in lots of different ways. But Jesus was prepared! He knew that God loved Him and was with Him. He used truths He knew about God from Scripture to help Him stand against temptation.

“Most of us probably won’t spend 40 days without food in the desert. But we WILL be tempted to do things we shouldn’t do. You might be tempted to yell at your little sister. You might be tempted to watch YouTube when you’re supposed to be doing your homework. You could be tempted to eat that whole pizza instead of saving some for others.

“That’s why it’s so important that we’re **READY** to do the right thing. Then we’ll be able to stay in control when it really counts.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Be ready to do the right thing. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Be ready to do the right thing.”

LEADER: “So how do we control ourselves when we’re tempted to do what we shouldn’t? Well if you want to do the right thing, first you have to **LEARN** the right thing. The Bible is an incredible place to look if you want to know God and learn how you can live like Jesus. And God has also placed people in your life who can help teach you the difference between right and wrong—like your parents, your teachers, and your Small Group Leaders. If we listen and learn, we’ll be more prepared when we’re tempted to lose control.

“Let’s **[Bottom Line]** be ready to do the right thing. Right now, the ‘right thing’ is to head to Small Group where you’ll get to talk about this some more with your friends!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SLIDE: Theme 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

Several sets of four different colored sheets of construction paper (one set of four sheets per kid; all sets should have the same four colors)

Masking tape

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

Remote Control Slide

Remote Control: Fast Forward 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 up "stations" of construction paper taped to the ground around your room. You'll need one station per kid. Each station should have four sheets in the same four colors as all the other stations.

2. Worship

What You Need:

Leader(s)

Large Group Visuals:

Memory Verse Slide

Music and Sound Effects:

“Your Way” from *Make a Move*

“What I Choose” from *Make a Move*

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

Live Loud Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)

“Your Way” 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

Table

Large “book” made with large, poster-size pages of the “Bible Story Artwork” (see “What You Do”)

Thick black marker

Hole punch and ribbon or string

Pastor Tom: DO WE HAVE ACCESS TO THIS FOR ME TO USE FOR BIBLE STORY?

Large Group Visuals:

Theme Background Slide

Bottom Line Slide

Bible Story Artwork

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.

Print the Bible Story Artwork on 11”x17” paper OR draw the images freehand on pieces of posterboard using the Bible Story Artwork as your guide.

In addition, use the black marker to create three additional pages with Scripture: Luke 4:4, Luke 4:8, and Luke 4:12. These pages should be the same size as the other four pages (i.e. the ones with the images). These three Scripture pages should have the Scripture reference in large print, and the actual text of the verse below in smaller print (big enough for the Leader to read while telling the story).

You may also want to have two additional pages to serve as the front and back “covers” of the book.

This is how the order of the book should go: Luke 4:4 (page 1), Luke 4:8 (page 2), Luke 4:12 (page 3), stone (page 4), bread (page 5), aerial view of the world (page 6), aerial view of Jerusalem (page 7). Add page numbers to the corners of the pages so the Leader can easily flip back and forth.

Once you’ve assembled the book in order, use the hole punch and ribbon or string to secure it.

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*: Remote Control Fidget

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

***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

When you need self-control, you need to take a minute to stop and think before you act. That's how you can choose to do what you should even when you don't want to. This "remote control" fidget toy will help kids remember that they're in control of the choices they make. They can press the buttons as they say each word of the memory verse, 2 Peter 1:3a—*“God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.”* If they carry the fidget toy with them, they'll have a quick reminder of why they can make the wise choice . . . instead of losing control.

252 Kids

January 2022 • Week 1

Remote Control: The choice is yours

Large

Group • K-5 • Starter

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