

## **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:** By Your Side (Jesus Talks with a Woman from Samaria) • *John 4:1-30, 39-42*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Show others that they matter.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *The LORD has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.* Micah 6:8 (NIRV)

**Monthly Life App:** Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

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

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

**Optional Video (Media Package): Theme**

### **OPENER**

**LEADER:** "Hey, everyone! I always love to see your friendly faces. I'm so glad that we're a part of this great church in our great community. I love having neighbors like you to high-five (*high-five a few kids*) . . . or even air high-five! (*Do air high-fives with some kids in the back.*)

"This month we're finding out what it means to care for the people on our block—by showing compassion!

**Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App**

**"Compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else's need.**

"We can **show** compassion to our neighbors . . . whether they're the people who live on our actual street, down the block, or even around the world.

"What are some things our neighbors might need? Well, they might need a high-five or a hug. (*Do another air high-five.*) They might need a place to stay . . . a friend to listen when they feel sad . . . or maybe some cold water on a hot summer day! (*Hold up one of the cups.*)

"I've actually got a fun game that will help us practice that last one. First, let's make two teams.

*Divide the kids into two teams, evenly distributing ages to make the teams as fair as possible. (Note: if you have a lot of kids, you may want to make three or four teams so the game moves faster.)*

*If possible, have another adult or student assist you with this game so you can fill both teams' cups at the same*

*time.*

*Have the teams line up in the area between the water pitchers and the table at the end with the empty containers. There should be a tarp under this area to catch any spills. Hand a cup to each kid.*

“Okay, everyone put your cup on top of your head. When the music starts, I’ll fill up the first person’s water cup. Then you’ll turn to your neighbor and—without removing the cup from your head—try to pour as much water from your cup as you can into theirs. I’ll be watching, and if you lift the cup from your head, you’ll have to start over; so no cheating! The second person will share their water with the next person, and so on down the line. As soon as the first person empties their cup, I’ll refill it so you can keep moving water down the line constantly.

“When the last person gets water in their cup, they must keep the cup on their head, bend over, and pour the water into their team’s container. (*Demonstrate.*) The first team to fill their container, wins!

“I’ll go ahead and fill the first cups so you can start at the same time, but don’t start sharing the water until I say, ‘Go.’

*Pour water into the first kid’s cup on each team.*

“Okay, let’s do this! On your mark, get set, go!

**AUDIO: Fun, upbeat music**

*Each time the first kid empties their cup, refill it, keeping an eye on the line to make sure kids don’t cheat. (If you have a helper, then each of you can concentrate on helping one team.)*

*Cheer for both teams, and as soon as one of the containers is full, end the game and celebrate the winners. (If the game is taking too long, you can end it and declare the winner by seeing which container has more water at the end.)*

“Nice job of sharing that water, everyone! Let’s get it dry in here, because we need to be able to move and dance for worship!”

*Hand out paper towels and let kids dry off while you collect the cups and move the table, containers, etc. out of the way. Gather up the tarp and set it to the side.*

*Be sure to put the cups back in the plastic bin and save one of the jugs of water; you’ll use these for the Bible story.*

## **SIINCE WE'RE ALL STILL STANDING UP – LETS' WORSHIP**

**REMOVE OF “HOW” TO WORSHIP – PRIZE IF EVERYONE STANDS UP AND WORSHIPS.  
KEY WORD: “EVERYONE”**

**LEADER:** “We can show love and compassion to other people because we’ve already experienced God’s love for ourselves. As we read in in 1 John 4:19, *‘We love because he loved us first.’* (NirV)

“Let’s sing this song and remind ourselves that we can give love away because we have so much to share!

**VIDEO:** “*Give a Little Kindness*”

“It’s true! God loves us so much that we can’t help but let that love overflow to others. Let’s keep singing about that now.

**VIDEO:** “*Love One Another*”

**SLIDE:** *Theme Background*

“I don’t know about you, but I can’t help but smile when I sing those songs about God’s love! Thank you for singing with me. You can have a seat.”

## BIBLE STORY

### SETTING UP THE STORY

*Hold up one of the plain cups from the Opener.*

**LEADER:** “Since we’ve got these cups from before, I think I’ll use them to help tell today’s story. (*Hold up Bible.*) This story happened as Jesus was finishing up a long stretch of teaching in and around Jerusalem. Jesus knew it was time to return to Galilee with His disciples.

“Let’s see . . . we need some disciples. So, here we go.

*Set the cups representing the disciples upside down on one side of the table. These cups should have googly eyes and hair/beards drawn with permanent marker.*

“And we need Jesus. I think I have a different cup to represent Him.

*Rummage through the box and pull out the cup representing Jesus. Set it on the table next to the “disciples.”*

“Where were we? Ah, yes, Jesus and the disciples were headed to Galilee.

*Pull out the “Galilee” sign and place it on the opposite side of the table.*

“It was a long way to walk—especially since most Jewish people went the loooooong way around through the desert.

*Take an empty cup and “walk” it down the table. Demonstrate that it’s the longest way by curving around, zig-zagging, etc.*

“They would rather do that than take the short way, through Samaria.

*Pull out the “Samaria” sign and place it in the middle of the table. Set the empty cup back into the plastic bin.*

“You see, most Jewish people didn’t want anything to do with Samaritans. There had been trouble between Jews and Samaritans for hundreds of years. Samaritans worshiped God differently. They believed different things. In fact, Jewish people thought it was a sin to spend any time with a Samaritan! So when the road branched and Jesus took the route toward Samaria, His friends were probably shocked.”

*Hold up one of the disciple cups and gasp.*

## AT THE WELL

**LEADER:** “But the disciples followed Jesus. They took the shorter route through Samaritan territory. Around noon, they reached the town of Sychar.

*Move the Jesus and disciple cups to the middle of the table, in front of the “Samaria” sign.*

“More than a thousand years before, Jacob had dug a well there, and it was still called by his name.

*Get the jug of water and set it by the “Samaria” sign on the table.*

“Jesus was tired from the journey, so He sat down by the well.

*Hold up the Jesus cup.*

“Meanwhile, the disciples went into town to buy some food.

*Put the disciple cups back in the plastic bin.*

“Soon after, a woman from Samaria came to get water.

*Pull out the cup representing the Samaritan woman and place it on the table next to Jesus.*

“Few women came to draw water in the heat of the day, so it’s likely this woman was avoiding the other women of the town. When she saw Jesus, the woman stopped and looked away.

*Turn the woman’s cup around, away from Jesus.*

“Men rarely spoke with women in public. And a Jewish man would never want to be seen with a Samaritan woman. But, to the woman’s surprise, Jesus actually spoke to her.

*Turn the woman’s cup back around so it faces Jesus.*

“He asked her for a drink.”

## LIVING WATER

**LEADER:** “Let’s check out how the woman answered Jesus.

*Open the Bible to John 4:9-10 (NirV) and read.*

*“The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘You are a Jew. I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?’ She said this because Jews don’t have anything to do with Samaritans.*

*“Jesus answered her, ‘You do not know what God’s gift is. And you do not know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would have asked him. He would have given you living water.’*

“But the woman was confused. Living water? What did this mean? And where would she get this water? Let’s keep reading their conversation.

*Open the Bible to John 4:11-14 (NIRV) and read.*

*“‘Sir,’ the woman said, ‘you don’t have anything to get water with. The well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Our father Jacob gave us the well. He drank from it himself. So did his sons and his livestock. Are you more important than he is?’*

*“Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life.’*

*Hold up the Jesus cup and the woman cup.*

“The woman wasn’t sure what to make of Jesus’ words. But she did know how tired she was of coming every day in the heat to get water . . . of hiding from her neighbors who talked behind her back. So she asked Jesus for this living water. Then she would never be thirsty again!

“Jesus told her first to go get her husband and come back. But the woman told Jesus she didn’t have a husband. Jesus already knew this. In fact, He knew everything about this woman’s life and the pain in her heart. He knew that the woman had had five husbands . . . and the man she lived with wasn’t her husband. Jesus knew everything about her life, but He hadn’t come to make her feel badly about those things. He had come to bring hope and healing.

“The woman now knew she was speaking to someone very special. He must be a prophet!

*Set down the two cups.*

“She told Jesus . . .

*Open the Bible to John 4:25-26 (NIRV) and read.*

*‘I know that Messiah is coming . . . When he comes, he will explain everything to us.*

*“Then Jesus said, ‘The one you’re talking about is the one speaking to you. I am he.’*

“Jesus wanted the woman to understand that He had come to be the Savior of the world!”

### **GOOD NEWS FOR EVERYONE**

**LEADER:** “Just then, the disciples returned.

*Set the disciple cups back on the table, behind Jesus and the woman.*

“They saw Jesus speaking with the woman, which was surprising . . . but no one questioned Him.

*Hold up the cup representing the woman.*

“The woman was so excited by what she’d experienced that she ran back into town, leaving her water bucket behind. Listen to what she told everyone she met.

*Open the Bible to John 4:29 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Come. See a man who told me everything I’ve ever done. Could this be the Messiah?”*

*Set the cup representing the woman on the table.*

“The villagers listened to the woman. They came to see Jesus and begged Him to stay.

*Pull out several more plain cups and set them around the other cups, in the background (from the kids’ perspective). These cups don’t need to have any features.*

“For two days, Jesus spent time with the Samaritans—something that would have been shocking to other Jewish people. Listen to what happened next.

*Open the Bible to John 4:41-42 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Because of what [Jesus] said, many more people became believers. They said to the woman, ‘We no longer believe just because of what you said. We have now heard for ourselves. We know that this man really is the Savior of the world.’”*

*Walk in front of the table as you wrap up.*

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** “Even though the Samaritan woman had made wrong choices, even though she had been rejected by others, Jesus chose to talk with her. He made it clear that no matter what she’d done or how she was treated by others, she mattered to Him. And so did all the other Samaritans.

“Just like Jesus did, we should . . .

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “Show others that they matter.

**VIDEO: Bible Story**

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

“We should treat people with compassion and show them that they’re valuable and important. Let’s pray and ask God to help us.”

- **OFFERING**

- **PRAYER REQUESTS?**

- **PRAY**

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior and show us how to live. We want to show people that they're valuable, like Jesus did. We know how good it feels to be loved like that—by You and by others—and we want to share that kind of love with the people around us. Help us. **show others that they matter.** We love You, and we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.”

## CLOSER

**LEADER:** “Imagine how it must have felt for the Samaritan woman to spend time with Jesus. She had probably been overlooked for much of her life. She must have felt invisible. But Jesus didn’t overlook her. He truly SAW her. He spent time with her and showed her that she mattered.

“We should show people that they matter, too—especially people who are sometimes forgotten or overlooked.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “Show others that they matter. Say that with me.”

**LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line]** “Show others that they matter.”

**LEADER:** “With God’s help, we can be on the lookout for people who might feel invisible. It could be the new kid at school . . . someone who’s shy . . . or someone who doesn’t feel like they fit in. Maybe it’s as simple as inviting someone to hang out with you, sending them a funny note that will make them laugh, or just taking the time to talk.

“If you’ve ever felt overlooked, then you know how important it is when someone reaches out to show you that you matter. You can do that for someone else. You can **[Basic Truth]** treat others the way you want to be treated.

“Let’s head over to Small Group now and figure out some more ways we can **[Bottom Line]** show others that they matter!”

*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
- Adult or student helper(s), if possible
- Large tarp
- Plastic bin
- Plastic cups such as SOLO® cups (one for each kid)—ideally in a lighter color (not red), so that the hand-drawn facial features will be easy to see for the Bible story
- A few gallon jugs of water
- Table(s)
- Two or more small, clear containers that can stand securely (one per team)
- Paper towels (for clean-up)
- Trash can (for clean-up)

#### *Music and Sound Effects:*

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat music to use during the game

#### *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](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com).
- If you typically have more than 15 kids in your environment, you may want to make more than two teams for the game. In that case, you'll need to adjust the supplies accordingly.

- Lay the tarp on the floor, with the table(s) on one side and the water jugs on the other side. There should be enough space that the kids can line up between the jugs and the table in teams of about seven to ten kids. Set the clear containers on top of the table.
- Place the cups in the plastic bin, along with the pre-made character cups for the story (see below).
- If possible, recruit additional leader(s) to help you pour the water into the first kids' cups. It would be ideal to have one adult to help each team.

## 2. Worship

### What You Need:

- Leader(s)

### Music and Sound Effects:

- "Give a Little Kindness" from *This Love*
- "This Love" 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](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
- Table
- Plastic bin from Opener, containing:
  - Cups from Opener
  - Additional SOLO® cups that you can decorate as the characters in the story
    - Disciples (several cups; googly eye stickers, hair/beards/mouths drawn with permanent marker)
    - Jesus (different color cup so it stands out; googly eye stickers, hair/beard/mouth drawn with permanent marker)
    - Samaritan woman (googly eye stickers, long hair drawn with permanent marker)
  - Two folded-over cardstock signs that say "Galilee" and "Samaria"
- Jug of water (from Opener)

### Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- "Cup Examples Sheet"

### 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.
- Take several of the cups (same kind as from Opener), set them upside down, and create the characters for the story ahead of time. Use googly eye stickers and draw hair/beards/mouths

with a permanent marker. Use lighter-colored cups (not red) so the kids can see the features of the cups. Use a different colored cup for Jesus, if possible, so that He stands out. Use the Cup Examples Sheet from the LG Assets PDF for inspiration.

## Video Enhancements for Your Environment

*Available for additional purchase at [Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://www.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