

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2022, Week 3

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: Back to Life (Crucifixion and Resurrection) • *John 18:1–20:18*

Today's Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.

Monthly Memory Verse: *In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.* John 16:33b (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

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

This will be the order of our service

Linda—Debbie—Fran--Opening Activity: Easter Craft—Jesus is Risen

Debbie--After Opening Craft: Resurrection Eggs

Fanny—After the Resurrection Eggs--→Worship

Video

Linda—Bible Story

After Story—worship song

Fanny-Easter Game

LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship ("You Are My Hope" from *Every Beat* and "Hope Is Alive" from *Make a Move*)

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Egg-Scape Room A
Application Activity: Egg-Scape Room B
Memory Verse Activity: Egg-Scape Room C
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

Fanny: 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): Theme Loop

Leader enters with LOTS of energy and excitement!

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

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: “Haaaaaappppppppy Easter, everyone! What a great day—and not just if you like chocolate bunnies. Although, let's be honest, those are AWESOME! But no, this is the greatest day of the year because when you put your trust in Jesus, THIS is where you finally see the bigger picture that God was creating all along. This is where the HOPE really shows up!

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

“Hope is believing that something good can come out of something bad.

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

WORSHIP

LEADER: “We’re talking about hope this month, and we can find some amazing words of hope throughout the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) In fact, the words Paul wrote to the believers in Rome can encourage us today. Listen to what Paul wrote in Romans 15:13 (NIRV). ‘*May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.*’ Let’s sing and celebrate the hope we have in Jesus!

Video: “You Are My Hope”

“Yes, Jesus IS our hope! We’ll keep celebrating and worshipping together in a bit. But for now, you can have a seat.”

Video: Bible Story Video

LINDA : RECAP THE VIDEO—PASTOR TOM—I’M NOT SURE IF THESE SOUND AFFECTS ARE AVAILABLE AS WE AREN’T GOING TO BE IN THE CHILDREN’S CHURCH ROOM. I CAN IMPROVISE IF THEY CANNOT BE SET UP! I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE CHILDREN TO THE EMPTY TOMB DISPLAY AS I REACH THAT PART OF THE STORY. I HAVE 3 WHITE BALLOONS THAT SAY, “HE IS RISEN” I THOUGHT WE COULD RELEASE THEM AFTER WE VISIT THE EMPTY TOMB.

LEADER: “As we tell the Easter story, we’ll start out by picking up where we left off last time. Jesus had arrived in Jerusalem, and the people celebrated Him by cheering, putting their coats on the road, and waving palm branches in the air.

AUDIO: Sound #1 (*Happy crowd cheering*)

“It was an exciting, happy time. But soon, things would get dark for Jesus and the disciples.

LIGHTS: Room lights dim (or off)

NOTE: If you don’t have the option to dim the lights, turn them off, but keep a small nightlight lit on stage.

“The religious leaders had been plotting to get rid of Jesus, because they didn’t believe that He was the Son of God. And they finally found the perfect way to get to Jesus—through one of His closest followers, Judas. Judas had come to the leaders in order to BETRAY Jesus. They offered him 30 pieces of silver to hand Jesus over to them. And Judas agreed.”

AUDIO: Sound #2 (*Coins*)

THE ARREST

LEADER: “Of course, Jesus wasn’t surprised by all this darkness and sadness. He knew it was all part of God’s plan. After a special Passover meal with His friends, Jesus told them . . .

Open the Bible to John 16:16 (NIRV). Turn on the headlamp and read.

“In a little while, you will no longer see me. Then after a little while, you will see me.

“Jesus told His friends that they would all turn away because of Him that very night. Peter ran up to stand by Jesus and told Him that no matter what others did, he would NEVER turn away. But Jesus said that before the rooster crowed, Peter would say three times that he didn’t know Jesus.

“After dinner, Jesus led His friends to a garden called Gethsemane. In the garden, Jesus pleaded with God in prayer. He said . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 26:42 (NIRV) and read.

“My Father, is it possible for this cup to be taken away? But if I must drink it, may what you want be done.

“Jesus wasn’t saying that He would actually drink something from a cup. It was His way of saying to God that He knew what He had come to do, and that He was willing to do it, no matter how dark and painful it would be.

“While Jesus prayed, His friends couldn’t stay awake to pray with Him.

AUDIO: Sound #3 (Sleeping sounds)

“But soon the quiet of the garden was broken.

AUDIO: Sound #4 (Shouts and footsteps)

“A mob of soldiers and officials streamed into the garden, carrying flaming torches.

Turn on the flashlight, pointing straight up.

“Judas marched at the very front and led them straight to Jesus. Peter pulled out his sword to defend Jesus, but Jesus told him to stop. Jesus said to Peter . . .

Open the Bible to John 18:11 (NIRV) and read.

“Put your sword away! Shouldn’t I drink the cup of suffering the Father has given me?”

Turn off the flashlight.

THE CRUCIFIXION

LEADER: “Jesus was tied up and taken to the high priest for questioning.

AUDIO: Sound #5 (Footsteps in the temple)

“His friends fled into the darkness, except for Peter and John who followed at a distance. John went inside, but Peter waited outside in the courtyard and warmed himself with others by the fire.

Set out the light-up decorative campfire and turn it on.

“A woman noticed Peter standing there, and she asked if he was one of Jesus’ disciples. Peter was afraid, so he lied and denied knowing Jesus. Two more times, people asked Peter if he was a friend of Jesus. And two more times, Peter denied it. After the third time, a rooster crowed—just as Jesus had said.

AUDIO: Sound #6 (Rooster)

Turn off the campfire. Turn on several small camping lanterns.

“Meanwhile, Jesus was put on trial and lied about by fake witnesses. The religious leaders couldn’t sentence anyone to die without Roman approval, so they sent Jesus to the Roman governor, Pilate. Pilate questioned Jesus himself. He asked Jesus if He was the king of the Jews. Jesus told him this.

Open the Bible to John 18:36-37 (NirV) and read.

“My kingdom is not from this world. . . . I was born and came into the world to be a witness to the truth. Everyone who is on the side of truth listens to me.

“Pilate returned to the crowd. He told them that he found no basis for any charge against Jesus. But the crowd wasn’t happy with this, and they shouted, ‘Crucify him!’ (John 19:6, NirV)

“Pilate gave in. Jesus was beaten. A crown of sharp thorns was pressed into His head. Then He was handed over to the soldiers to be crucified. Jesus was forced to drag the heavy beams of His own wooden cross through the streets of Jerusalem and outside the city to a hill called Golgotha.

AUDIO: Sound #7 (Heavy footsteps)

“Jesus’ arms and legs were nailed to the cross, and the cross was raised up to stand between two other crosses holding thieves. Though it was the brightest part of the day, darkness began to close in. Jesus, the Savior of the world . . . died.

Turn off the lanterns, one by one. Then turn off the headlamp.

“Jesus’ body was taken to a nearby garden and placed in an empty tomb. A heavy stone was rolled to block the entrance.

AUDIO: Sound #8 (Heavy stone)

“But even in the deepest darkness this world has ever known . . . God was still at work.”

THE RESURRECTION

LEADER: “Early on Sunday, Jesus’ friend Mary Magdalene went to His tomb.

AUDIO: Sound #9 (Soft footsteps)

Turn the headlamp back on.

“But when Mary reached the tomb, the heavy stone had been rolled away! The tomb was empty! Confused, Mary raced to find Peter and John.

AUDIO: Sound #10 (Running footsteps)

“Peter and John saw the empty tomb—and they returned home, still trying to understand. But Mary

stayed behind in the slowly growing light.

Turn on one of the lanterns.

"Mary looked inside the tomb, and she saw two ANGELS dressed in white, sitting where Jesus' body had been placed. The angels asked Mary why she was crying. She said that someone must have taken Jesus away, and she didn't know where they had put Him.

"Mary turned back to the garden, and she saw a man standing there. The man asked her why she was crying—and who she was looking for. At first, Mary thought He must be a gardener. But then He spoke again.

"He said her name, Mary, and she realized it was Jesus! He was ALIVE!

Turn on the "ALIVE" lights.

"Mary was so excited that she RAN to find the others.

AUDIO: Sound #10 (Running footsteps)

"She shouted, 'I have seen the Lord!'" (John 20:18, NIV)

LIGHTS: Room lights back to normal

Note: Keep the "ALIVE" lights on for the rest of Large Group.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: "Through Jesus, we have a way to have a relationship with God that will last forever. We can celebrate today, because Jesus is ALIVE! We can have hope because, in the end, darkness will never win!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive."

SLIDE: Theme Background

WORSHIP

LEADER: "Let's celebrate that hope right now. Everyone on your feet! Sing this with everything you've got, because hope is alive!

Video (Media Package): "Hope Is Alive" Dance Moves Music Video

"That's right; Jesus is our hope, and He is alive today! You can have a seat again. Let's thank God for the hope we have in Jesus."

PRAY--Fanny

LEADER: “Dear God, wow! Thank You for the indescribable gift You gave us in Jesus. It’s amazing to think how everything seemed so dark on the day Jesus gave His life; but in the end, it was all part of Your good plan. When Mary went back to the tomb, she saw that it was empty and Jesus was alive! Help us stay focused on that truth as we celebrate today. When we face challenges and tough things in life, remind us of the hope we have in Jesus. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Fanny, Can you prepare for this activity? If you come up with another idea instead of the puzzle idea that is fine. You always do a great job with the activities you choose.

“Yes, Easter is when we see the bigger picture—so let’s celebrate by putting together our OWN big picture! As you can see . . .

Remove the tablecloth to reveal the partially put-together puzzle.

“We’ve got a really awesome puzzle started here, but we can’t see the full picture yet. Lucky for you, the missing pieces ARE in this room. But you have to find them.

Hold up an Easter egg and open it to reveal the puzzle piece inside. Add the piece to the puzzle.

“Yes, that’s right—the puzzle pieces are hidden around the room inside these Easter eggs!

“If, as a group, you can find all the eggs—AND put the pieces in the puzzle where they belong—everyone will win [prize]. I’ll release you to hunt for the eggs by grade. So if it’s not your grade’s turn, feel free to shout out helpful tips and encouragement. Then when it’s your turn, jump up and start the hunt! Let’s solve this puzzle. Kindergarten, you’re up!

AUDIO: Fun instrumental music

Cheer for the kids as they look for the eggs. Depending on how many eggs you hid, either have everyone sit down after they find an egg or allow younger kids to keep hunting while you gradually add in the older grades.

When a kid finds an egg, have them bring the piece up to the puzzle and put it in place. (Help the younger kids as needed.) Keep going until the kids find all the eggs and place the pieces in the puzzle.

NOTE: If it’s taking too long for the kids to put the pieces in the puzzle, leave them for later (“I’ll finish this up later while you’re in Small Group!”).

“Amazing! We did it! (Reference the finished puzzle.) Check out the ‘big picture’ you revealed.

CLOSER—Debbie—Fanny—Linda—Reenforce this message after our game:

LEADER: “Easter is an amazing day because of what it means for each and every one of us. As we celebrate Easter, we remember all that Jesus did for us, and that gives us HOPE that nothing in this world can ever take away.

“Jesus died because of His great love for us. He died on the cross because of our sin. And His death wasn’t the end of the story! Jesus came back to life to give us hope, so that when we believe, we’ll have a relationship with God that will last forever. He rose from the dead to show that He’s more powerful than any fear or problem we may have.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive. Say that with me!”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.”

LEADER: “God always had a plan to rescue us. God’s plan was to send Jesus as our Savior. As we take time to celebrate Easter, we remember we really can **[Basic Truth] trust God no matter what.**

“No matter what’s puzzling you right now, you can be sure that Jesus is with you. He loves you! And He is still very much alive. Remember what Jesus said to His friends not long before He went to die on the cross.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world. (John 16:33b, NIRV)

“THAT’S why we can have hope: because of Jesus and what He did for us. Happy Easter, everyone!”

Dismiss kids to their parents. Make sure they take their opening craft with them.

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
- Table
- Fun Easter-themed puzzle of your choosing, partially completed (see “What You Do”)
- Lots of plastic Easter eggs (at least one for each kid)
- Prize for each kid in the room (individually wrapped candy, Easter erasers, etc.)
- Plastic tablecloth

Music and Sound Effects:

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

- Fun instrumental music to use during the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Life App Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Memory Verse 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.
- Pick out an Easter-themed puzzle that you think your kids will appreciate. It needs to have enough pieces that you can partially assemble it and still have enough pieces left for each kid to find at least one, but preferably multiple pieces. Also, the pieces need to be small enough to fit into plastic eggs. Complete anywhere from 50 to 75% of the puzzle, then place one of the remaining pieces in each plastic Easter egg. Then hide them around the room.
- Cover the puzzle with a plastic tablecloth.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)
- Bible

Music and Sound Effects:

- "You Are My Hope" from *Every Beat*
- "Hope Is Alive" from *Make to Move*

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- "Hope Is Alive" 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.
- 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
- Headlamp
- Flashlight
- Light-up decorative campfire (like this: <https://amzn.to/2YUPmmd>)
- Several small camping lanterns
- “ALIVE” light-up letters (see “What You Do”)
- Plastic tablecloth

Music and Sound Effects:

- Bible Story Sounds #1-10 (provided)

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.
- Download the sound effects and have them ready to use.
- It’s ideal if you can dim the lights in the room for the story, but if not, plan to have a nightlight on stage so it’s not a complete blackout when you first turn the lights off.
- Plan how you’ll plug in the light-up campfire when the time comes, i.e. pre-set an extension cord so you can plug it in and turn it on during the story.
- Pre-set the lanterns in various places around the stage.
- For the “ALIVE” sign, you can either purchase LED letters (like this: <https://amzn.to/3hBUwdj>) or make a DIY sign with wooden letters, a drill, and Christmas lights. (Tutorial here: <https://bit.ly/3ElfZB9>). Set the sign up on the table and cover it with a plastic tablecloth.

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 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