

Today's Suggested Schedule—May 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: Start Spreading the News (Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel) • *Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1–2*

Today's Bottom Line: God is always with you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *But those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.* Isaiah 40:31 (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

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
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Worship ("Never Gonna Give Up" from *Make a Move* and "I Run to You" from *Make a Move*)
Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Dribble Down
Application Activity: Resilient Core
Memory Verse Activity: Elbow Bop
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

DEBBY - Early Arriver Activity - COLORING ACTIVITY AND PLAYDOH

FANNY - BEACH BALL VOLLEY BALL FROM SMALL GROUP SCRIPT

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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Monthly Life App: Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Leader enters.

Note: Be sure to put lots of glitter lotion on your hands just before you begin Large Group.

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

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

DEBBY - “RESILIENCE” OPENER WITH BALLS THAT BOUNCE

DEBBY - ACTIVITY FROM SMALL GROUP SCRIPT - RESILIENCE CORE WITH TWO TENNIS BALLS

LEADER: “Hello! It’s great to see you all here at [your environment’s name]. We have a SUPER-fun month ahead. You’ll want to be here every single week if you can. You see, each week we’ll take on a new challenge or obstacle to show how we can ‘bounce back’ when something gets us down. It’s our fun way to practice a little something called ‘resilience.’

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

“Resilience is getting back up when something gets you down.

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

“We can get back up again because God gives us the strength to bounce back! That can look a little different based on the kind of situation you’re facing. But in our game today, resilience looks like working together, standing strong, and not giving up, even if we MESS up. You see, today we’re playing ‘Human Knot’! You can think of this is as the first part of a giant obstacle course that we’ll be playing all month long.

“Everyone, jump on your feet and circle up with me.

If you have fewer than 12 kids, you can play in one circle and race against the clock. If you have more than 12 kids, you’ll probably want to divide into two groups and have the groups race against each other to untangle. If you divide into two groups, make sure the ages are mixed well to prevent an unfair advantage for older kids.

NOTE: You will need to join the circle as you’ll use this opportunity to begin spreading the glitter (see Bible Story). So if you do two circles, you’ll want to ask another adult volunteer to join the other circle, so the kids don’t view it as unfair and to have someone watching to make sure the kids don’t cheat.

“Everyone, stand shoulder to shoulder. Now hold out your left hand and take someone else’s left hand.

Pause and give everyone a chance to find a hand.

“Now hold out your right hand and take a different person’s right hand.

Pause and give everyone a chance to find a hand.

“Now—without letting go of each other’s hands—we have to untangle ourselves. If you need to reposition your hand to get a better grip, you can do that, but don’t let go of the other hand. We only have three minutes to get this done, so let’s all work together!

AUDIO: Fun music

Set a timer on your phone for three minutes.

NOTE: Even if you have two teams competing, you’ll need to impose a time limit as the game can take a long time in some situations. If you run out of time and neither group has finished, you can call it a tie or try to determine which team got closer to untangling.

When time is up . . .

“Wow! That was tricky! Even when we messed up and twisted the wrong way, we ‘bounced back’ and kept going!

If either team was unable to finish untangling, you can also acknowledge their resilience in continuing to try even when they missed the mark.

WORSHIP - FANNY - “NOW, LET’S BOUNCE UP AND DOWN FOR JESUS!”

LEADER: “It’s so good to know that God is always with us—through any challenges we might face in life. In fact, that’s a huge reason to celebrate! Let’s all get on our feet so we can sing and dance and worship God. But before we sing, let’s check out this video.

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

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

“The disciples were facing some tough stuff when Jesus died, came back to life, then went to Heaven. But they kept going. They didn’t give up. And we don’t have to give up, either! Let’s sing this new song together.

Video (Media Package): *“Never Gonna Give Up” Dance Moves Music Video*

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

“The reason we can sing those words is because of God’s strength and power in our lives. That’s what helps us show resilience and bounce back from tough things. As we read in our memory verse, Isaiah 40:31 . . .

SLIDE: *Memory Verse*

“But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak. (Isaiah 40:31, NIV)”

“In those times when we think we just can’t keep going, we CAN keep running—running to God! Let’s sing out and celebrate, because when we don’t know what to do, we can always run to God!

Video: *“I Run to You”*

“That was so fun! You can rest from the running and dancing for a minute and have a seat.

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

Video: *BIBLE Story*

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

BIBLE STORY - FANNY BIBLE APPLICATION

DRIBBLE ACTIVITY

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “When Jesus began His ministry on Earth, He invited the disciples to follow Him. You know what? I actually need a few of you to represent Jesus’ disciples. Let’s see . . .

Call on the two kids whose hands you held during the Human Knot game, plus a few others. Reach

out and pull them up or give them a high-five to spread the glitter to their hands.

Have these “disciples” stand on the side of the room.

“This small group of men believed that Jesus was the Son of God, so they figured Jesus would soon be in charge. They thought that Jesus was about reveal who He really was to everyone. Maybe He would even lead a revolt against the Romans. With Jesus in charge, anything could happen!

“But then, during Passover week, things got dark. The threats from the religious leaders became real. One of Jesus’ followers, Judas, betrayed Jesus to the religious leaders for a handful of silver. Jesus was arrested. He was given a fake trial, sentenced to death, and nailed to a rough, wooden cross. Then . . . He died.

“It was the darkest moment ever. It must have felt to the disciples as if all the air had been slammed from their body. In fact *(to the two ‘disciples’)*, can you guys take a deep breath for me, like a sigh, like the disciples might have done? *(Pause to let them sigh.)* They probably had no idea how they’d ever bounce back.

“But even in the darkest moment, God was still there. God was still at work. And at the perfect moment in time, God raised Jesus from the dead! *(to the disciples)* Okay, disciples, it’s your turn for another sound effect. Give us your best gasp—because Jesus has been raised to life! *(Pause to let them react.)*

“Over the span of 40 days, Jesus appeared to around 500 of His friends. He walked with them, ate with them, and talked with them.”

GREAT COMMISSION AND ASCENSION

LEADER: *(Hold up Bible.)* “In Matthew, chapter 28, we can read about a time Jesus met His friends in Galilee, on a mountain. The disciples were so overwhelmed with joy to see Jesus that they fell down and worshipped Him. Listen to what Jesus told them.

Open the Bible and read Matthew 28:18-20.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.

“I’d imagine the job Jesus had given to His friends must have seemed almost impossible. Except for one very important thing: Jesus had promised to be WITH them—right by their side—forever!

“We can also read about a meal Jesus shared with His friends, in the book of Acts. *(Hold up Bible.)* Check out what Jesus said to them.

Open the Bible to Acts 1:4 (NirV) and read.

“Do not leave Jerusalem,’ he said. ‘Wait for the gift my Father promised.’

“The gift? What was He talking about? *(to the disciples)* Disciples, give me a good confused reaction sound effect. *(Pause to let them make the sound.)*

“Never fear, though. Jesus went on to explain.

Open the Bible to Acts 1:8 (NirV) and read.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other.

“Then, right before the eyes of His friends, Jesus rose up into heaven! *(to the disciples)* Okay, disciples—look up and make your best TOTAL shock reaction sound effect. *(Pause to let them make the sound.)*

“That’s probably about what it sounded like. The men stared, amazed and confused. As they looked up, two men appeared beside them, dressed in white.

Open the Bible to Acts 1:11 (NirV) and read.

“‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go.’”

PENTECOST/THE HOLY SPIRIT

LEADER: “Jesus’ friends must have been filled with questions. Jesus had left them with a BIG job to do. He wanted them to tell the whole world about Him!

“The disciples waited in Jerusalem, like Jesus had told them. And within a short time, they discovered how Jesus would give them His power.

“All the believers were gathered in one place for the day of Pentecost. As they were sitting inside a house, suddenly the sound of a huge wind came whooshing into the room! *(to the rest of the audience)* Can you all give me a good whooshing wind sound? *(Pause to let them make the sound.)*

“It filled the whole house as the Holy Spirit came to rest over the heads of the believers, like tongues of fire. As the Spirit filled them, many of the believers were able to speak and understand languages they had not known before!

“Okay disciples, before we go any further, I’ve got a question for you. If you look down at your hands, do you see glitter? *(Pause for response.)*

If there are any “disciples” who don’t have visible glitter on their hands, put some of the glitter lotion on their hands now.

“How did THAT happen?

Hold up your hands to show the glitter.

“Yep. It started with me—before we even played the Human Knot game!

“You see, that day in Jerusalem, God sent the Holy Spirit to the believers—just like Jesus had promised. I’m not saying it was like glitter. Not at all. But it IS true that the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a powerful way! At that time, the city was filled with Jewish people from lots of different places who had come for the feast of Pentecost. When the people heard their languages being spoken, they rushed to the disciples.”

PETER’S MESSAGE

LEADER: “One of the disciples, Peter, stood up and spoke boldly to the crowd. He shared the good news about Jesus. Peter said . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 2:22-24 (NirV) and read.

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this! Jesus of Nazareth was a man who had God’s approval. God did miracles, wonders and signs among you through Jesus. You yourselves know this. Long ago God planned that Jesus would be handed over to you. With the help of evil people, you put Jesus to death. You nailed him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead. He set him free from the suffering of death. It wasn’t possible for death to keep its hold on Jesus.

“When the people heard what Peter had to say, they were deeply moved. They asked, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ (Acts 2:37, NirV)

“Peter told them.

Open the Bible to Acts 2:38 (NirV) and read.

“All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

“God’s Spirit was so powerful in the followers of Jesus that THREE THOUSAND people believed in Jesus and were baptized that day! (to the disciples) Okay, disciples, it’s time to share the good news with everyone else in here. (Hold up your hands to show the glitter.) Let’s go over and high-five and shake hands and spread the good news!

Give the kids a chance to high-five, shake hands, and spread the glitter around.

“Okay, now EVERYONE, hold up your hands. (Pause for response.) Look at that glitter shining everywhere! Again, to be clear, we’re talking about God’s Holy Spirit in this story—not glitter. And the people were choosing to believe in Jesus, not put glitter on their hands. But it’s a fun way to see how the good news about Jesus started to spread!

“You can all have a seat. I’ve got these wipes you can use to get the glitter off your hands.”

Pass around the hand wipes. Give the kids a few seconds to wipe off their hands. Provide a trash can where they can throw their wipes. Encourage the kids to do a really good job of cleaning off their hands. Take time to let this happen before you move on.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “That was fun! And the disciples’ story is a really great example of resilience.

"If you think about it, the disciples had been through a LOT up to that point. Jesus, their friend and Savior, had died. Then He had come back to life! The disciples SAW Jesus and spoke with Him. Then He left and rose up to the sky. Then when all of the believers were gathered together, God sent the Holy Spirit to them in an amazing way!

"Through the power of God's Spirit, the early church in Jerusalem grew quickly. The believers shared their lives, studied, ate, and worshipped together. Though their challenges were just beginning, the believers knew that the power of God's Spirit could carry them through anything.

"You're probably going to find it's hard to get rid of that glitter. But eventually, you will. It will fade, or fall off. But the best news of all is that no matter what . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God is always with you.

"That simple truth is what kept the disciples going. It's what helped them find resilience. And it can help YOU find resilience, too.

"Let's thank God for being with us always."

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY - DEBBY

LEADER: "Dear God, thank You for always being here with us. Thank You for sending Your Spirit to the disciples to help them spread the good news about Jesus. And thank You for sending Your Spirit to guide us and help us today. When we go through difficult things in life, please help us remember that You are always with us. Give us Your strength so we can bounce back from tough things, with resilience. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

CLOSER - FANNY "GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU!"

LEADER: "It's been really cool to see how God was with the disciples in those days after Jesus died and came back to life! Remember, Jesus gave the disciples a HUGE mission to 'go and make disciples of all nations.' (Matthew 28:19, NIV) And honestly, it must have seemed like an IMPOSSIBLE mission when the disciples first heard it. But Jesus also gave His friends a promise. He said . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 28:20 (NIV) and read.

"You can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.

"And of course, God sent the Holy Spirit to help the disciples so they wouldn't have to face their impossible mission alone.

"Sometimes, we have to face things in our lives that can seem almost impossible. In those times, it's important to remember that **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what.** We can believe that God is always with us. In fact, that's the one thing to remember today.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God is always with you.

“When you’re trying to get something done that seems impossible . . . say it with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: *[Bottom Line]* “God is always with you.”

LEADER: “When you’re worried about your grades in school, or you have a big test coming up . . .”

LEADER and KIDS: *[Bottom Line]* “God is always with you.”

LEADER: “When something bad happens that’s out of your control . . .”

LEADER and KIDS: *[Bottom Line]* “God is always with you.”

LEADER: “When you don’t know what’s going to happen next . . .”

LEADER and KIDS: *[Bottom Line]* “God is always with you.”

LEADER: “You don’t have to face ANYthing alone, because . . .”

LEADER and KIDS: *[Bottom Line]* “God is always with you.”

LEADER: “That doesn’t mean you won’t ever have to face any obstacles. But it DOES mean that you won’t ever be alone. And it means you can bounce back when things get tough!

“Let’s all get back up again, head over to Small Group, and learn more together about what it means to be resilient!

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 helper (optional; if you have more than 12 kids)
Hand lotion (also for the Bible Story)
Glitter (also for the Bible Story)
Leader's phone
Bible

Music and Sound Effects:

Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
Fun music for 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. *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*

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.

Mix the glitter into the hand lotion—as much glitter as you can without losing the “stickiness” of the lotion. The Leader will need to apply the lotion to their hands before Large Group starts, and you’ll also want to keep the lotion nearby in case they need to reapply before telling the Bible story.

The Leader needs to pay attention to the two kids whose hands they hold during the Opener game. These kids will need to be the first two disciples during the Bible story.

2. Worship

What You Need:

Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

“Never Gonna Give Up” from *Make a Move*

“I Run to You” from *Make a Move*

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

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

“Never Gonna Give Up” Dance Moves Music Video (available through the 252 Media Package)

Large Group Visuals:

Memory Verse Slide

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

Hand lotion (same as Opener)

Glitter (same as Opener)

Hand wipes (one per person)

Trash can

Large Group Visuals:

Theme Background 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.

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*: Bounce Back Super-Bounce Ball

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

This super-cool bouncy ball helps kids remember that we can “bounce back” with resilience! First, they bounce the ball back and forth to someone three times, each time saying “Bounce back!” The person who catches the ball has a choice: answer one of the questions on the back of the card OR recite the memory verse, Isaiah 40:31. Then they get to bounce the ball to someone else, and so on. It's a fun way to remember that God can help us get back up when something gets us down.