

Today's Suggested Schedule—May 2022, Week 2

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: Go the Distance (Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin) • Acts 3:1–4:21

Today's Bottom Line: Keep going even when it gets tough.

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 Linda and James

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT

LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship ("Never Gonna Give Up" from *Make a Move* and "Hope Is Alive" from *Make a Move*)

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

GAME with pool noodles

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Leader enters.

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

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER---JAMES

LEADER: “Hey, everyone! It’s always awesome to see you here. Even when I’ve had a rough week, I feel like I always ‘bounce back’ when I come in and see your faces at [your environment’s name]. That’s what it means to show resilience—to bounce back! You see . . .

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

“It means you keep going—even when things are difficult or don’t go the way you expect. We’ll put your resilience to the test today with part two of our obstacle course.

Hold up the bin full of pool noodle pieces.

Note: Depending on how many kids you have, you can either play this game with two teams competing against each other or with all the kids trying to finish together before time runs out.

“As you can see, I’ve got this bin full of one of my favorite supplies: pool noodles! You can do so much with these things! For today’s game, I’ve cut the noodles into pieces. *(Hold up one of the pieces.)* When it’s your turn, you’ll dig through this bin to find a [pre-chosen color OR your team color] piece. Then you’ll take it and hold it in your neck like this.

Demonstrate holding the piece in your neck.

“At this point, you should not use your hands again . . . unless you drop the piece, in which case you can pick it up and put it back in your neck. But you can’t hold it there or otherwise touch the pool noodle with your hands after you have it in place.

“Then you’ll drop to your knees and crawl through the tunnel here *(reference the tunnel)*, continuing to hold the pool noodle under your chin. Finally, when you make it out of the tunnel, lean over [the container OR your team’s container] and drop the pool noodle in—again, without using your hands. Then shout, ‘GO!’ At that point, your next teammate can start the course. Just so we’re clear, you can’t dig for your pool noodle until the person before you has finished the course completely. Get it? Got it? Good!

Explain the goal of the game: either being the first team that has all of their contestants complete the challenge OR having everyone in the room complete the challenge before time runs out.

“Everyone, line up. Let’s get this party started!

Get everyone lined up behind the large bin in either one or two lines.

“On your mark, get set, go!”

AUDIO: Fun music

If you’re playing the game as a race against the clock, set a timer on your phone. (You’ll want to set the total time based on how long you think it’ll take the average kid to complete the course multiplied by the number of kids. If this number is longer than three minutes, then you’ll want to play the team version instead.)

Cheer for the kids as they play the game. Watch them to make sure they’re not starting until the kid before them has completed the course. If it’s a team competition, you can count down the number of kids left on each team to create a sense of urgency. If it’s a race against the clock, you can count down when time is running out.

“That was amazing! Way to ‘bounce back’ and keep going, everyone! I know it was hard sometimes, especially if you kept dropping the pool noodle, but you picked it back up and kept going. Everyone, stay on your feet so we can sing and worship God together!”

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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 Transition to Life App

“... resilience is getting back up when something gets you down.”

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

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James & Linda

WORSHIP

LEADER: "Before we get started, let's watch this.

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

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

"When things get tough, sometimes you just want to give up and quit. But you can keep going with the help of God's Spirit. Remember that **[Basic Truth] you can trust God no matter what**, and that'll help you bounce back and push through. Let's sing out this truth together!

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

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

"In those times when we're tired and we just aren't sure we can keep going, there's one sure way we can get back up again. We can put our hope in Jesus and remember that He is always there to help us! Remember what Jesus said to His friends, the disciples. *You can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end. (Matthew 28:20, NIV)* Let's celebrate, because Jesus is with us . . . and hope is alive!

Video: *"Hope Is Alive"*

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

"I'm so thankful that we have a God who is here with us! Thanks for singing, everyone. You can have a seat."

Video: *BIBLE STORY*

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

SETTING UP THE STORY----JAMES

LEADER: "I'll need a few of you up here to help me tell today's story. If you want to play a part, get ready to use your creativity—and you might need to get a little silly, too!

"We'll pick up the story in the time after Jesus died on the cross, came back to life, then returned to heaven. Word was spreading about Jesus' death and resurrection. And through the power of God's Spirit, the brand-new church was growing!

“One afternoon, Peter and John approached the temple at a special time for prayer. They approached one of the gates that led into the temple courtyard. There was a man sitting there who had been unable to walk since he was born. Every day, his friends carried him to sit beside the gate and beg for money. The man saw Peter and John approaching, and he called out to them.

“Peter and John looked directly at the man. Peter told the man to look at them, and he did, expecting to be handed the money he desperately needed. But Peter had something else in mind.

Open the Bible to Acts 3:6 (NIRV) and read.

“Peter said, ‘I don’t have any silver or gold. But I’ll give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk.’

“Peter took the man by the hand and helped him up. Sure enough . . . now, the man could WALK! It was a miracle! The man went with Peter and John into the temple courtyards, jumping and praising God.

“On the count of three, show us your best happy dance like the man might have done after he was healed. One, two, three!

Give the volunteers a few seconds to demonstrate.

(to audience) “All right—now everyone pick one of those dances and give it a try.”

Get the rest of the kids to dance, mimicking the kids on stage. (Dance with them.) Then motion for everyone to sit down.

PETER PREACHES

LEADER: “A crowd quickly gathered. They couldn’t believe what they had just seen. *(to one of the kid volunteers)* [Volunteer’s name], show us your best ‘What just happened here?’ GIF.

Give the volunteer a few seconds to demonstrate.

“Nice! Now everyone, let’s join [volunteer’s name]!”

Everyone should do the same GIF for a few seconds. Then motion for them to sit down.

“Check out how Peter responded.

Open the Bible to Acts 3:12-16 (NIRV) and read.

“He said, ‘Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us? It’s not as if we’ve made this man walk by our own power or godliness. The God of our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has done this. . . . This man whom you see and know was made strong because of faith in Jesus’ name. Faith in Jesus has healed him completely. You can see it with your own eyes.

“Peter urged the people to turn away from their sins and turn to God instead. And many people in the

crowd believed! They put their faith in Jesus in response to the miracle they had seen, and the truth Peter was sharing. But the religious leaders were not happy, to say the least. They sent guards to seize Peter and John and throw them in prison.

(to a different kid volunteer) “[Volunteer’s name], show us an ‘I’ve been thrown in jail unfairly’ GIF.

Give the volunteer a few seconds to demonstrate.

“That seems accurate. Now everyone, let’s join [volunteer’s name]!”

Everyone should do the same GIF for a few seconds. Then motion for them to sit down.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS RESPOND

LEADER: “The next morning, Annas, the high priest, and other religious leaders met together. Peter and John were hauled out of the prison and brought to stand before them. The leaders demanded to know how Peter and John had healed the man who couldn’t walk.

“God’s Spirit filled Peter, giving him the words to speak. He said . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 4:8-10 (NIRV) and read.

“Rulers and elders of the people! Are you asking us to explain our actions today? Do you want to know why we were kind to a man who couldn’t walk? Are you asking how he was healed? Then listen to this, you and all the people of Israel! You nailed Jesus Christ of Nazareth to the cross. But God raised him from the dead. It is through Jesus’ name that this man stands healed in front of you.

“And that wasn’t all! Peter continued.

Open the Bible to Acts 4:12 (NIRV) and read.

“You can’t be saved by believing in anyone else. God has given people no other name under heaven that will save them.

“The religious leaders were surprised by how bold Peter and John were. After all, Peter and John were ordinary men with no training. But there was something Peter and John had that made all the difference: they had been with Jesus!

“The man who had been healed was standing right there with them; so it’s not like the religious leaders could deny that the miracle had happened. They ordered the guards to take Peter and John away. That way they could talk and make a decision about what to do.

THE VERDICT---JAMES

LEADER: “The guards hustled Peter and John out of the room. While the men were gone, the religious leaders talked. Let’s peek in on their conversation.

Open the Bible to Acts 4:16-18 (NIRV) and read, facing one direction.

“What can we do with these men?” they asked. ‘Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed an unusual miracle. We can’t say it didn’t happen.’

Continue reading, now facing the other direction, as though you’re a different leader.

“We have to stop this thing. It must not spread any further among the people. We have to warn these men. They must never speak to anyone in Jesus’ name again.

“The guards herded Peter and John back in before the leaders. Sure enough, the leaders ordered the men to stop talking about Jesus or speaking in His name.

“Peter and John had an amazing response to this. Listen to what they said.

Open the Bible to Acts 4:19-20 (NIRV) and read.

“Which is right from God’s point of view? Should we listen to you? Or should we listen to God? You be the judges! There’s nothing else we can do. We have to speak about the things we’ve seen and heard.

“The leaders couldn’t figure out how to punish Peter and John—especially since all the people were praising God for what had happened. So ultimately, they had to let the men go.

(to the three kid volunteers) “Okay, last GIF! All three of you, show us your best ‘See ya!’ dance move that Peter and John might have done—at least in their imaginations.

Give the volunteers a few seconds to demonstrate.

(to audience) “Everyone, pick one of those GIFs, and let’s dance!

*Give the kids a few seconds to dance. (Dance with them.)
Then motion for everyone to sit down.*

“Awesome job! Everyone, please give a big hand to our brave and hilarious volunteers. *(to the kid volunteers)* You three can head back to your seats.

Kid volunteers go back to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY—LINDA

LEADER: “This was such a HUGE day for the man-who-could-now-walk. His life would never be the same. He must have DANCED his way home!

“And Peter and John probably returned to their friends with a little bounce in their steps, too. They didn’t give up when things got tough. They had relied on God’s Spirit to help them get back up and keep going. And all around them, the brand-new church quickly grew . . . to more than 5,000 Jesus-followers!

“What Peter and John did is something we can do, too. It’s an important part of resilience.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

“We can **[Bottom Line]** keep going even when it gets tough.

"We can do that if we trust God and ask God for help. Let's pray and do that now."

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: "Dear God, thank You for this amazing example of resilience from Peter and John. When things got tough, they got back up again. They kept going, even when they had to face some really big challenges. Because of Your Spirit, they found the strength they needed to bounce back. Each of us in this room is facing a different tough situation, too. Please help each of us show resilience and **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it gets tough**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

CLOSER

LEADER: "What a story, right? When Peter and John got in trouble for talking about Jesus, they could have given up and gone home. They could have stopped talking about Jesus, like the leaders wanted them to. But they KEPT GOING. They stood up to the religious leaders. They said . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 4:20 (NirV) and read.

"We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard.

"And you know what? The reason we know about Jesus today is because people like Peter and John were brave enough to talk about Him!

"So here's what we need to remember today.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Keep going even when it gets tough. Say that with me."

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** "Keep going even when it gets tough."

LEADER: "Each of us is probably facing some tough things right now, in our own way. You might be struggling with a subject at school or maybe you're having trouble getting along with a friend or family member. Maybe something is happening in your life that you just don't understand, and it's hard for you to trust God and believe that God is still in control. Those are some hard situations, and sometimes, you might be tempted to just give up.

"But think about what could happen if you keep going! You could learn something you never knew before. You could build relationships that are stronger than they were before. You could make an impact in the world that you don't even realize. So don't give up too soon! **[Bottom Line] Keep going even when it gets tough.**

"Let's head to Small Group and talk about that some more."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

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
- Pool noodles in lots of different colors, cut into six-inch pieces—at least as many pieces as you have kids in the room (see "What You Do")
- Large container (plastic bin, clean garbage can, cardboard box, etc.)
- One or two other containers (smaller bin, garbage can, box, etc.)
- Play tunnel (like this: <https://amzn.to/30HgdmT>)
- 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.
- *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.

- If you're making this a team competition, buy pool noodles in two colors in a high enough quantity to cut enough pieces for each team. Then buy additional colors to fill up the large bin. If you're doing one team in a race against the clock, just pick enough of one color to make pieces for everyone, then get random assorted colors to finish filling the large bin.
- Set up the obstacle course with the large bin filled with all the pool noodle pieces on one side of the tunnel and the empty one or two containers on the other side. (Use two containers if you're making this a team-versus-team competition.)
- Note: You'll be making a large obstacle course in Week 5 using all of these supplies again.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Never Gonna Give Up" from *Make a Move*
- "Hope Is Alive" 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)

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
- Three kid volunteers (see "What You Do")

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.
- Think ahead about which three kids you might want to choose to act-out the "live GIFs." They'll need to act out the GIFs in a big way but also have enough self-control to stand still when they're not GIF-ing so as not to distract from the story. If possible, you may want to pre-select the kids and make sure they'll be there for Large Group.

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