

Today's Suggested Schedule—June 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: I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy (The Apostles Are Treated Badly) • Acts 5:17-42

Today's Bottom Line: Choose joy no matter what's going on.

Monthly Memory Verse: *The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.* Galatians 5:22-23a (NirV)

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
Worship ("Making Waves" from *Make Waves EP* and "Never Gonna Give Up" from *Make a Move*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Choose Joy
Application Activity: Joy-O-Meter
Memory Verse Activity: Make Waves Mural
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

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 Memory Verse: *The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.* Galatians 5:22-23a (NirV)

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Leader enters, wearing summer accessories: sun hat or visor, sunglasses, Hawaiian shirt, etc.

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

Video (Media Package): Theme

Arrival Table Activity: Color in Life Saver, page 4, of Small group Assets

Pastor Tom, Please print Small Group Assets:

- 3 copies of page 1
- 1 copy of page 2
- 1 copy of page 3
- 10 copies of page 4

At Table, ask the following questions:

When have you been the happiest in your life?

Where is the place that you feel happiest?

Who makes you feel happy?

If you were sad, what would cheer you up the most?

"Sometimes, we talk about joy like it's this pool float and we're waiting with our arms up for joy to come to us out of the sky. If we don't feel joy, we figure it's the fault of whoever should be making us happy and tossing that float—our parents, our teachers, life in general, sometimes even God.

If extra time, Have them draw what JOY means to them

Ask, "What does joy look like?"

To prompt their thinking, tell the kids they can write the letters of JOY and decorate them, draw a person or place that brings them joy, draw an abstract representation of the emotion of joy, or whatever they can think of!

After they've finished, invite kids to share about their pictures with the rest of the group.

James (say this) - Joy is a lot like happiness, but not exactly the same. People have a lot of different ideas of what joy really means.

OPENER - Fanny OPENS WITH PRAYER & THEN SONG "I'VE GOT THE JOY JOY JOY JOY DOWN IN MY HEART"

Activity: Joy-O-Meter (Fanny & James)

Choosing joy doesn't mean you pretend nothing is ever wrong, and it doesn't mean you have to be happy about sad things. Choosing joy means you trust God and God's plan. God loves us all so much that we get to have a never-ending relationship together. That's a big thing to be joyful about, no matter what else happens.

"But as much as we can have BIG JOY about God's forever plan, we can choose joy in small ways, too. How are you going to choose joy this week? *(Invite kids to share. Prompt them to think of normal situations like being grateful for what they have, keeping a good attitude during a tense time, dealing with not having what they want, etc.)*

Joy is a choice, and it's something God grows in us as we follow God's plan for our lives. You can't stand still and wait for joy to happen to you, you have to **[Bottom Line] choose joy no matter what's going on.** If you ask, God will help you choose joy, even when it's difficult to understand or there's not much to be happy about in your situation."

Activity - Kiddie Pool with floating duckies

LEADER: "Welcome back to [your environment's name], Summer Edition! This is a wet and wild summer because we are ALL about making waves! Why waves? Well, when you make waves, you can make a pretty big impact!

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

"What you do today can change the world around you.

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

"You see, when I say, 'Make waves,' I'm not talking about splashing people with ACTUAL water. I mean we can make a difference with the help of God's Spirit, like the apostle Paul described in his letter to the Galatians. Remember our memory verse, Galatians 5:22-23a?

SLIDE: Memory Verse

"The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. (Galatians 5:22-23a, NIV)

“God’s Spirit can help us show things like love, joy, peace, and patience. Those things are the PROOF of what God is doing in our lives! When we live that way, we can make waves in the world around us.

“Of course, it’s ALSO fun to make waves with real water.

Walk to the kiddie pool full of water.

“For our game today, I’ll make some waves (*hold up the paddle*) while all of you rescue some Life Savers®. I know, usually it’s a life saver (*hold up one of the Life Savers*) that’s saving YOU. But it wouldn’t be a [your environment’s name] game without a twist, right?

“I’ve got two different colors of Life Savers that I’ll toss into the water: [color] and [color].

Explain the teams and identify which color each team is going for. (Divide the teams however you’d like—either the same teams all summer or different teams for each week.) If you need to, assign a kid to go twice to make the teams even.

“When I say, ‘Go,’ the first person on each team will sit in the chair with their shoes and socks off and go fishing with their toes! They’ll try to rescue a Life Saver by picking it up with their toes, then move it into their team’s bucket. And remember, only toes—no hands! Each person should count to 15 while they’re ‘fishing,’ and when they get to 15, hop out of the chair so the next teammate can go. After everyone has had a turn, we’ll count the Life Savers in each team’s bucket to determine the winner.

“Okay, everyone kick off those shoes and peel off your socks if you’re wearing them. Put your socks inside your shoes so they don’t get mixed up! If you have pants on, I’d suggest rolling up the bottoms so they don’t get wet. Now line up behind your team’s chair and get ready to rescue some Life Savers!

Dump the Life Savers into the pool. Try to put most of each team’s color toward their side. Then sit down beside the pool with the paddle, and prepare to make some waves!

“On your mark, get set, GO!

Use the paddle to make some gentle waves as the kids attempt to pick up the Life Savers with their toes. Make sure they’re counting to 15 and not counting too slowly. You can make really gentle waves with the younger kids and bigger splashes with the older ones to make the game more challenging.

After everyone has had a turn, count the Life Savers in each team's bucket and declare the winning team. (If you're doing a summer-long team competition, you can give a point to the winning team.)

Hand out towels as necessary for kids to dry off. This should only be necessary for kids who are wearing socks and shoes.

"Nice job of rescuing those Life Savers®, everyone! You can grab your shoes and head back to your spot."

Help the kids find their shoes before you move on to Worship.

WORSHIP - James

LEADER: "Before we get started with Worship, let's check out this video."

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

SLIDE: Theme Background

"Jesus once said this to His friends, *Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you. (John 15:12, NIV)* That's something you and I can do every day! We can make waves by sharing the love that Jesus has shown to US. Let's sing this song that we learned last week. Let's make some waves and share God's love around the world!"

Video (Media Package): "Making Waves" Dance Moves Music Video

SLIDE: Theme Background

"Sometimes, it's hard to keep making waves because life gets us down. When things get difficult, we might feel like giving up. That's when we need to remember that **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what.** With the help of God's Spirit, we can find the strength we need to keep going! Let's sing out and tell God that we're never gonna give up!"

Video: "Never Gonna Give Up" / track 9 from Make a Move

SLIDE: Theme Background

"That's right! With God's help, we can keep going, even when it's hard. You can have a seat for now."

Video : Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Background

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY - FANNY. Instead of this below script, I'll lead our kids to act out the scene: as prisoners, bound up, set free by angel, and in court, and declaring the name of Jesus!

LEADER: "When Jesus died on the cross, people thought it was end of everything He had started. The believers must have felt like their whole world had been turned upside down.

"But then, Jesus came back to life! He appeared to more than 500 people over 50 days before He returned to heaven to be with God. Before He left, Jesus promised that God would send a helper—the Holy Spirit—so that the believers could tell everyone about Him.

"Sure enough, everything that Jesus promised came to pass. On the day of Pentecost, the power of God's Spirit filled everyone who followed Jesus . . . and they were full of joy! They went around telling everyone that they should turn from their sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

"To tell you what happened next, I thought it would be fun for us to hear a different perspective today. So I've invited my friend Suzy to join us. Everyone, please welcome Suzy!"

"Suzy" enters with a sour expression. Note that Suzy should speak very monotone and unenthusiastically (like "Debbie Downer"). The more over-the-top her grumpiness is, the funnier it will be.

WORD SPREADS

SUZY: *(Read from the printed script.)* "Hello, everyone. I'm Suzy. Some people call me Somber Suzy, because I can be a bit somber. I tend to see the sad side of most situations. *(to Leader)* So, [Leader's name], let me get this straight. Did you just say, 'Sins'?"

LEADER: "Yes. The disciples told everyone to turn away from their sins—you know, the things they had done wrong."

SUZY: "Oof. Sins! I bet the people weren't too happy to think about that. Everyone must have been really, really sad." *(Make a ridiculous sad face.)*

AUDIO: Trombone #1

LEADER: "Actually, it was the opposite! The people weren't sad at all, because they were so excited that Jesus had come to FORGIVE their sins. And when other people saw how Jesus

had changed the believers' lives, those other people wanted to follow Jesus, too! In fact, over 3,000 people decided to follow Jesus on the day of Pentecost.

Suzy looks like she's about to say something, but Leader continues.

"And it didn't end there! The new believers didn't just TALK about following Jesus. They LIVED it! They all shared their lives, their food, and their homes with each other. They prayed and praised God together. The Spirit of God was so strong among Jesus' apostles that sick people were made well! But the religious leaders did NOT like this. They threw Peter and John in prison overnight, and ordered them to stop talking about Jesus."

SUZY: "Oh, wow. Jail. That doesn't sound fun. Everyone must have been soooooo sad." (*Make a ridiculous sad face.*)

AUDIO: Trombone #2

LEADER: "Well the truth is, the joy of the Lord still overflowed in the lives of everyone who believed in Jesus. The love they were all showing each other was contagious!"

SUZY: "Contagious? That sounds bad. Really bad." (*Make a ridiculous sad face.*)

AUDIO: Trombone #3

LEADER: "Not that kind of contagious. I don't mean people were getting sick. I just mean that people saw the way the believers treated each other and what a difference Jesus had made in their lives. So more and more people began to follow Jesus, too!"

Suzy looks like she's about to say something, but Leader continues.

APOSTLES JAILED

LEADER: "So many people were deciding to follow Jesus that the religious leaders got really, really upset. This time, the high priest made sure that ALL of the apostles were arrested and thrown into jail."

SUZY: "Everyone in jail? That sounds like the end of a really . . . sad . . . story." (*Make a ridiculous sad face.*)

AUDIO: Trombone #4

LEADER: "But it wasn't the end—not even close! In the middle of the night, an angel of the Lord appeared in the prison and brought all of the apostles out. The angel had a message for the apostles, too. They were supposed to keep telling everyone all about the new life they'd been given in Jesus. So that's what they did!"

Suzy looks like she's about to say something, but Leader continues.

“Early the next morning, the apostles went back to the temple and began to tell everyone about Jesus again. The religious leaders sent guards to bring the apostles from the jail, but of course they weren’t there! So the captain of the guard and his officers came and found the apostles in the temple courtyard. Then they brought the apostles to stand before the religious leaders.”

SUZY: “Bummer. I guess they were bound to get caught eventually.” *(Make a ridiculous sad face.)*

AUDIO: Trombone #5

BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST

LEADER: “The high priest questioned the apostles and accused them of breaking his orders not to teach in Jesus’ name. He said to the apostles . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 5:28 (NirV) and read.

“We gave you clear orders not to teach in Jesus’ name . . . But you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching. You want to make us guilty of this man’s death.

“But the apostles were filled with courage—and joy—because of God’s Spirit! So Peter and the rest of them responded to the high priest by saying this . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 5:29-32 (NirV) and read.

“We must obey God instead of people! You had Jesus killed by nailing him to a cross. But the God of our people raised Jesus from the dead. Now Jesus is Prince and Savior. God has proved this by giving Jesus a place of honor with him. He did it to turn Israel away from their sins and forgive them. We are telling people about these things. And so is the Holy Spirit. God has given the Spirit to those who obey him.”

SUZY: “Uh-oh. They said all that to the high priest? I bet THAT didn’t turn out well.” *(Make a ridiculous sad face.)*

AUDIO: Trombone #1

LEADER: “You would think, right? But it wasn’t that way at all. There was a leader named Gamaliel there who ordered the guards to take the apostles outside. Then Gamaliel reminded the other leaders that this kind of thing had happened before: someone would rise up and gather lots of followers, but when that person died, those followers would scatter. Gamaliel told the other leaders . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 5:38-39 (NirV) and read.

"If their plans and actions only come from people, they will fail. But if their plans come from God, you won't be able to stop these men. You will only find yourselves fighting against God."

SUZY: "Uh-oh. I bet the other leaders weren't too happy to hear that. I bet they got really mad at that G-guy." *(Make a ridiculous sad face.)*

AUDIO: Trombone #2

LEADER: "Actually, no. He was a pretty smart guy, that Gamaliel. The other religious leaders agreed, and they brought the apostles back in. The leaders threatened them pretty severely this time, telling them not to speak in Jesus' name. And then they ordered for the apostles to be whipped. It was . . . rough."

SUZY: "I knew something sad was about to happen. I bet the apostles gave up then, huh?" *(Make a ridiculous sad face.)*

AUDIO: Trombone #3

LEADER: "Actually, the religious leaders STILL couldn't stop the apostles. The apostles knew that there were still so many people who didn't know about Jesus, so they had to keep spreading the word!"

SUZY: "But I bet the apostles were really, really sad when they told the people about all the awful things that had happened to them. Right?" *(Make a ridiculous sad face.)*

AUDIO: Trombone #4

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: "Well, no, not exactly. Even though the apostles had been treated badly, they were still filled with joy. They couldn't help it. Jesus had changed their lives! They kept sharing the story of Jesus everywhere. And more and more people believed!"

Suzy looks at Leader for a few seconds. Then she slowly turns back to the audience.

SUZY: "Well, that story was less sad than I expected. Thanks for having me, everyone. I'll see you later." *(Make a ridiculous sad face.)*

AUDIO: Trombone #5

LEADER: "Thanks for joining us, Suzy!"

Suzy exits.

"It's okay. I think she'll get it eventually."

“You’d think that with all those awful things happening to the believers, they WOULD be sad. Or angry. Or frustrated. I’m sure they had moments when they felt that way. But because of God’s Spirit, they were filled with JOY, even when things around them weren’t going so great. That’s how they were able to make waves and share the good news of Jesus with others!

“We can do what the apostles did. We can . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Choose joy no matter what’s going on.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us choose joy!”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY - JAMES

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You giving us Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for filling the early believers with Your Spirit so that they could keep sharing the news of Jesus and keep choosing joy, no matter what was going on. We want to make waves like they did. We want to choose joy, even when we’re facing hard times. We need Your help to do that! Please show us how we can live each day with joy, no matter what’s going on around us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER - JAMES

LEADER: “That was a pretty funny way to tell the story today! And it’s true, you’d think the early believers would have felt pretty discouraged by the bad things that happened to them. They were living in a time and place where it was against the rules to even talk about Jesus, so the believers were often treated badly.

“But whatever was going on—good or bad—the believers chose to have joy. They had the help of God’s Spirit. They knew that no matter what challenges they had to face, they could ALWAYS find joy because God had raised Jesus from the dead. Nothing that happened to them could ever take that joy away!

“Whatever’s going on with you, YOU can choose to have joy, too.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Choose joy no matter what’s going on. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Choose joy no matter what’s going on.”

LEADER: “Now that doesn’t mean you have to be happy 24/7 and always have a smile on your face. It’s okay to be sad, angry, or frustrated when things don’t go the way you want. But choosing joy means you don’t let the situation you’re in ruin everything. It means that you stop

and think about what you DO have to be thankful for. Think about the things that will always be true: God loves you and is always with you.

“Choosing joy is a great way that we can make waves in the world. Because joy is contagious! So let’s get the wave started. In fact, let’s show off some of that joy we’ve got inside by doing our best wave dance all the way to Small Group!” *(Demonstrate your own wave dance.)*

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

Summer accessories for the Leader: sun hat or visor, sunglasses, Hawaiian shirt, etc.

Tarp(s) (from the previous week)

Kiddie pool or large plastic bin filled with water

Two chairs

Two different colors of Life Savers® candy (at least one candy for each kid)

Two buckets, ideally in the same two colors as the Life Savers

Paddle (or similar object) that you can use to make waves in the pool

Towels that the kids can use to dry their feet (optional)

Scoreboard for your summer-long competition, such as a dry erase board and marker (optional)

Music and Sound Effects:

Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room

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.

Set the kiddie pool or plastic container on top of the tarp(s), then fill the pool/container with water.

Set one chair and one bucket on each side of the pool.
Open the Life Savers® candy and separate them into two colors—one color for each team, but don't toss the candy in the pool until you're just about to play the game.

2. Worship

What You Need:

Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

"Making Waves" from *Make Waves EP*

"Never Gonna Give Up" from *Make a Move*

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

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

"Making Waves" 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

Adult volunteer to play Suzy (see "What You Do")

"Suzy" name tag

Printed script for Suzy

Music and Sound Effects:

Trombone Sounds #1-5 (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.

When selecting a volunteer to play the role of Suzy, it doesn't need to be someone who will memorize a lot of lines, but it does need to be someone with some acting skills. This character is based on *Saturday Night Live*'s "Debbie Downer" skits, so it might be helpful to have the

volunteer screen one or two of those to get a feel for the character and her classic “Debbie Downer face.”

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

252 Kids

June

2022 • Week 2

Make Waves: What you do today can change the world around you

Large

Group • K-5 • Starter

PAGE

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