

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2022, Week 4

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: Gentle on My Mind (Jesus and the Little Children) • *Mark 10:13-16*

Today's Bottom Line: God can give you the strength to be gentle.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6 (NIRV)

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

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

WE WILL OPEN WITH A CRAFT

LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("What I Choose" from *Make a Move* and "Love Like You" from *Make a Move*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Bubbles vs. Blowers
Application Activity: Bubble Painting
Memory Verse Activity: Verse Mural
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

FANNY: CAN YOU TAKE CHARGE OF THIS SEGMENT AND THE GAME.? JAMES AND I WILL HELP

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

OPENER

LEADER: “What’s up, everyone? I’m really glad to see you all here today. All summer, we’re making waves as we find out how we can change the world around us. That’s what it means to ‘make waves,’ after all.

“You see . . .

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

“With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can live each day by showing things like love, joy, patience, kindness, and faithfulness.

“Now to kick off our time together, I figure there’s no better place to practice our wave-making skills than the beach, right?

Hold your hands out as the sound begins.

AUDIO: Beach sounds

“Ahhhh, perfect!

(Hold up a beach ball.) “I brought back our beach balls so we could have ourselves a good, old-fashioned beach ball relay—with a twist!

“First though, we need to get into two teams.

If you've been doing a team competition all summer, divide into those teams. Otherwise, just two teams evenly divided among ages will work. Have each team form a line, spreading out between the basket with the beach balls and the empty basket.

"The goal is to get all of your team's beach balls from the full basket over to the empty basket. But of course, there are a few rules. You can only pass one beach ball at a time. Once the beach ball has landed in the basket, THEN your team can pick up the next one.

"Next is that I'll be calling out exactly HOW you can pass the beach ball to your neighbor. So you need to listen and watch me to see what you need to do. If you don't pass the ball correctly, then it has to go back to the starting basket.

"The first team to get all of their beach balls into their basket, wins! Any questions? Let's play! We'll get started with an easy one: pass the beach ball over your heads! Three . . . two . . . one . . . GO!

SLIDE: Fun music

Watch to make sure the kids are passing the beach balls the way they're supposed to. Every so often, call out a change in how they should pass the ball. (It's okay if the ball is in the middle of the line when this happens.)

You may need to demonstrate some of the passes. Suggested passes: Walk it to your neighbor with it between your knees, roll on it (laying on your stomach), hit it like a volleyball, do a burpee until the ball gets passed to you, roll it under your legs backwards, etc. Call out as many crazy things as you can!

Once all of the beach balls have been transferred, celebrate the winning team.

"You're really good at making waves . . . and working as a team. Great job! You can stay standing, because now it's time for us to make some waves with our worship!"

**FANNY CAN YOU LEAD THE CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:
LETS INCLUDE OFFERINGS, PRAYER REQUESTS, and/or THANKSGIVINGS**

WORSHIP

LEADER: "That was some good practice as we passed the beach ball to each other, because we can do the same thing with God's love. We can pass it on! I want to choose to put my trust in God then share God's goodness and love with everyone I see. Let's sing about that now.

Video: "What I Choose"

Video (Media Package): Theme

“God’s love is so great and so life-changing that we just can’t keep it to ourselves. We can SHARE God’s love with everyone! Jesus Himself said it this way, ‘I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.’ (*John 13:34, NIV*) Let’s sing out and say to God, ‘We want to love like You!’

Video: “Love Like You” / track 9 from Make a Move

Video (Media Package): Theme

“That was so much fun! You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY—I WILL DO THE STORY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS

JAMES, CAN YOU PLAY THE PART OF OUR BOUNCER?

FANNY CAN YOU PLAY THE MOM AND WE WILL HAVE ONE OR TWO KIDZONE PARTICIPANTS PLAY THE MOM’S CHILDREN.

LEADER: (*Hold up Bible.*) “As Jesus began to travel around, teaching and healing people, He grew more and more popular. Crowds gathered everywhere He went. Everyone wanted to see Jesus and hear what He had to say.

“With all those people trying to get close to Jesus, I imagine the disciples must have felt like they were doing ‘crowd control’ a lot of days. Have you ever seen the people who do that now? They help big superstars move through crowds of people. You might have heard them called ‘bouncers.’ They usually look like this.

Cross your arms and frown.

“Now, I’m not saying that Jesus’ disciples acted exactly like that . . . but I bet they did have to keep control of the crowds that always gathered to see Jesus.

“You know what? Let’s get some of you up here to be the bouncers—I mean the disciples—in our story.

“Looking good, James. Now cross your arms and show me how tough you can look. (*Pause for response.*) Excellent. You can stand here, just like that, so you can keep the crowds away.”

LEADER: “One particular day, people were bringing their children to Jesus. They hoped that Jesus would bless them.

“Let’s see, we need a few of you to play the children. How about the oldest and biggest of you? You get to play little, tiny babies and preschoolers.

Bring up a few of the oldest and biggest kids you have and give them the “little kid” props.

“Perfect. I love it!

“Remember, the parents were trying to get these . . . ‘little’ children to Jesus so He could bless them. But there were some people standing in the way—the disciples. (*Reference the ‘disciples.’*)

“The disciples told the people to STOP bringing their children to Jesus.

Put your palm out to the side, forcefully. Guide the “disciples” to do this, too.

“Now, it’s important to know that the disciples weren’t just trying to be mean. The disciples knew how special Jesus was, and they figured He was too important to be troubled with children. They figured He would want to spend His time with adults instead.”

JESUS’ RESPONSE

LEADER: “But when Jesus saw this happening, He was angry! We don’t hear about Jesus getting angry very often, so we know this was a big deal to Him. Listen to what Jesus said to the disciples.

Open the Bible to Mark 10:14-15 (NIRV) and read.

“Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. God’s kingdom belongs to people like them. What I’m about to tell you is true. Anyone who will not receive God’s kingdom like a little child will never enter it.”

“Then Jesus did something that must have surprised everyone around Him—especially the disciples, who thought they were doing the right thing by keeping the little children away. Jesus held the children and put His hands on them to bless them.

“For us today, we’ll do it this way.

Do some quick fist-bumps with the “little kids” and say “Bless you.”

“Jesus—God’s Son, who is SO powerful and important—chose to hold little children in His arms. Jesus made it clear to His followers that every single child is valuable to God. In fact, every single PERSON is valuable to God!”

GENTLENESS TODAY

LEADER: (*Hold up Bible.*) “In the book of Mark, we don’t get to find out how the disciples responded to this whole scene. But hopefully they learned something from Jesus’ response, just like we can!

“Jesus treated children like they were important. He was gentle with them. So let’s talk about what that would look like for us—to treat others with gentleness. (*to the kid volunteers*) Before we do, you can drop your props in this box and head back to your seats.

“Let’s go back and look again at how Jesus lived out gentleness. Remember, Jesus said to the disciples . . .

Open the Bible to Mark 10:14-16 (NirV) and read.

“Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. God’s kingdom belongs to people like them. What I’m about to tell you is true. Anyone who will not receive God’s kingdom like a little child will never enter it.” Then he took the children in his arms. He placed his hands on them to bless them.

JAMES PLEASE TAKE THE LEAD HERE AS WE REINFORCE THE STORY AND SHOW HOW ITS RELEVANT TO THE KIDZONE CHILDREN TODAY

“So what do you think being gentle would look like for you and me today? There are the obvious things like being calm and kind with kids who are younger than you. But you can also be gentle with kids your age. Like if you see someone who is having a bad day, you can reach out and let them know you care. You can ask them about their problem, and just listen to them. Or if someone is hanging out alone, you can ask them if they want to join you and your friends in the game you’re playing.

“You can even be gentle when it comes to people older than you—like your teachers or your parents. It comes down to responding with care and concern and paying attention to what the other person needs. I think we could all speak with a little more gentleness to people around us—whether they’re younger or older than us, or our friends who we see every day.”

Video: Bible Story

WRAPPING UP THE STORY: FANNY

LEADER: “Jesus made it clear to His followers that every single person is valuable to God. So we need to show others how valuable they are by being gentle—showing care and concern. It actually takes a lot of strength to be gentle, but God can give you that strength!

“That’s what we need to remember today.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “God can give you the strength to be gentle.

“Let’s pray and ask God for that strength right now.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for this story that shows us how strong Jesus was and how He used that strength to be gentle. When we think about Jesus welcoming little children, we know that we can be gentle and show others how valuable they are to You, too. Please give each of us here the strength to be gentle toward everyone in our lives. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

LINDA::

CLOSER

LEADER: “The way Jesus treated children shows a lot about how much Jesus loves people. Jesus cared about all different kinds of people, just like He cares about each of us today! Jesus showed how much He cared by the way He treated people with gentleness.

“We can follow Jesus’ example in the way we treat other people, too. We can make waves in the world around us by acting with gentleness. And we can do it with the help of God’s Spirit.

[Bottom Line] “God can give you the strength to be gentle. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “God can give you the strength to be gentle.”

LEADER: “You see, the way we respond to other people is really important. If we’re not careful, we only really care about ourselves and what’s going on in our lives. We can see other people’s needs and problems as an interruption. But when we’re following Jesus’ example, we can choose to truly care about the people around us. We can respond with care and concern about the needs in their lives.

“Think about how good it feels when someone is caring and gentle with you. That’s what you can do for someone else if you **[Basic Truth]** **treat others the way you want to be treated.**

“Living out gentleness might seem challenging sometimes—but just remember that God is always at work in our lives, helping us be more and more like Jesus. That’s what our memory verse, Philippians 1:6, is about this month.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns. (NIRV)

SLIDE: Bottom Line

“Remember, when we put our faith in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit to help us be gentle, too!

GRAB BLUE TABLECLOTH AND MAKE WAVES JUST AS JESUS WANTS US TO.

Video (Media Package): Theme

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.
- Beach balls (from previous weeks)
- Four laundry baskets or other large containers

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Beach sounds (provided)
- Fun music

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 the sound effect and have it ready to use.
- 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.
- Put the beach balls in two of the laundry baskets. Place the empty baskets on the opposite side of the room from those with the beach balls. Place the baskets far enough apart that the kids will be spaced two to three feet apart from each other when they form two lines.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- “What I Choose” from *Make a Move*
- “Love Like You” from *Make a Move*

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
- Prop box
- “Bouncer” props and clothes for the young kids to wear such as:
 - Dark suit jackets (adult-size will work fine)
 - Sunglasses
- “Little kid” props such as:
 - Bottles
 - Pacifiers
 - Preschool toys
 - Baby dolls
 - Propeller hats
 - Giant prop lollipops

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.
- Put the “bouncer” and “little kid” props in the prop box. Place the box on the stage but out of the way for the Opener.

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