

## Today's Suggested Schedule—September 2022, Week 3

*Note: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.*

**Today's Bible Story:** Fall Asleep (Jacob's Dream) • *Genesis 28:10-22 (Genesis 25:19-34; 27)*

**Today's Bottom Line:** You can trust that God has a plan.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.* Proverbs 3:5 (NIRV)

**Monthly Virtue:** Trust—Putting your confidence in someone you can depend on

**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 ("Over and Over" from *Everything to Me* and "Hope Is Alive" from *Make a Move*)  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
Prayer  
Closer

### **SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)**

#### **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect**

Bible Story Review: Circus Posters  
Application Activity: Dance, Dance!  
Memory Verse Activity: Balancing Act  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

#### **HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience**

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

## **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.

**Today's Bible Story:** Fall Asleep (Jacob's Dream) • *Genesis 28:10-22 (Genesis 25:19-34; 27)*

**Today's Bottom Line:** You can trust that God has a plan.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.* Proverbs 3:5 (NIRV)

**Monthly Virtue:** Trust—Putting your confidence in someone you can depend on

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

*Leader enters, carrying the prop box with the muscle costume(s) and "dumbbells."*

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

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

## **OPENER**

**LEADER:** "Come one, come all! It's time for another amazing week here at the [your environment's name] Circus!"

"We're finding out this month what it means to trust in God as we look at some amazing, death-defying stories of trust from the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*)"

"What IS trust?"

**Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Virtue**

**"Trust is putting your confidence in someone you can depend on."**

**Video (Media Package): Virtue Transition to Theme**

"If you think about it, it takes a lot of trust to be a circus performer. You have to trust your partner to not drop you when you're doing high-flying acrobatics. You have to trust the high wire not to break as you walk across it! (*Act like you're walking on a tightrope.*)"

"Another person at the circus who works hard is the strongman—or strongwoman! I thought it would be fun to test your strength—or at least your stamina—today with our own 'strong person' competition!"

*Depending on the size of your group and whether you have one or two muscle costumes, make this a race between two teams or a race against the clock.*

“When it’s your turn, you’ll put on the ‘strong person’ costume then drop down and do five push-ups. Then pick up this ‘dumbbell’ (*hold up the fake dumbbell*) and lift it over your head repeatedly while you run down the course you see marked with the masking tape. Then come back to return the costume and dumbbell. The next person will put on the costume and do the same thing. You’ll keep going until everyone on your team has competed.

“Of course, the first team to finish, wins! (*or ‘If you beat the clock, you win!’*) You’ve got to trust your teammates and work together to bring home the victory. Any questions? Okay, let’s do this!

*Line the kids up behind the starting line. Pull out the costume(s) and dumbbell(s) and place them on the other side of the line.*

“On your mark, get set, GO!

**AUDIO: Circus music**  
**PLAY ON COMPUTER**

*If you’re racing against the clock as one team, set a timer on your phone.*

*When the race ends, celebrate the winner or celebrate if you beat the clock.*

“You are all quite strong! Hopefully you saved some energy, though, because it’s time to sing and dance as we worship God!”

## WORSHIP

**LEADER:** “Before we sing, let’s watch this video together.

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

*Video (Media Package): Theme Loop*

“I know **[Basic Truth]** I can trust God no matter what. I can trust God over and over again! That makes me want to worship God and thank God for being so faithful. Let’s do that now!

*Video (Media Package): “Over and Over” Dance Moves Music Video*

*Video (Media Package): Theme Loop*

“It can be easy to trust God when things are going great. But what about the dark days? Well, great news: God is with you then, too! In fact, you can trust God to be with you, no matter what. I love these words from Proverbs 23:18 (NIV). ‘There really is hope for you in days to come. So your hope will not be cut off.’ It’s true. We can find hope when we trust in God. Let’s sing about that now.

*Video: “Hope Is Alive”*

*Video (Media Package): Theme Loop*

“I love that! We can always put our hope in God. You can have a seat, but let’s all come together and sit in a circle.”

## BIBLE STORY

*Invite the kids to sit in a circle with you. Bring the bag/box of props to the circle.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** “God made the world and everything in it, and everything God made was good! But when Adam and Eve broke God’s rule, God’s amazing world was broken by sin.

“However, God chose a man named Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through Abraham’s family. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, waited a long time, but eventually they had a baby boy named Isaac.

“When Isaac grew up, he and his wife Rebekah had twin boys named Jacob and Esau. But Jacob and Esau didn’t exactly get along.”

### A TRADE

**LEADER:** “In fact, these two guys had it in for each other from the start. They wrestled while they were babies inside their mom. And when Esau came out first, Jacob was holding onto his heel!

“Not only that, but the boys were very different from each other. Esau was really hairy, while Jacob was smooth-skinned. As they grew up, Esau loved to hunt, while Jacob preferred to stay close to home.

“Esau was the older brother. Back in those days, this meant that Esau had special rights to money, property, and leading the family one day. But Esau didn’t always stop to think . . . and that got him into trouble.

“One day, Esau was out hunting. By the time he got home, he was super-hungry! Jacob had just cooked a pot of delicious red stew.

*Pull out the thermos of stew. Open it and pass it around the circle, prompting the kids to sniff it.*

“Here. Pass this around and take a sniff. Doesn’t that smell good? Well, imagine how good that stew smelled to Esau after he had been out in the open country all day! Esau begged his brother to give him some. Let’s see how Jacob responded.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 25:31 (NirV) and read.*

*“Jacob replied, ‘First sell me the rights that belong to you as the oldest son in the family.’*

“Whoa! Did you hear that? Jacob asked Esau to give up his rights as the oldest son! And believe it or not, Esau agreed! He traded away something really valuable . . . for a bowl of stew. I bet he regretted that big-time once his stomach was full.”

*Wait for the stew to make it all the way around the circle if it hasn’t already. Put the lid back on the thermos and set it down.*

## A TRICK

**LEADER:** “Things didn’t get any better between Jacob and Esau as time went on. When their father Isaac was very old, he wanted to pass on a special blessing to his oldest son . . . *(Gesture to the kids to tell you who that was.)* Esau! He sent Esau to hunt and make him a tasty meal first.

“Isaac’s wife, Rebekah, overheard. And while parents aren’t supposed to have a favorite kid, Jacob was definitely Rebekah’s favorite. She came up with a pretty wild plan. Listen to what she said to Jacob:

*Open the Bible to Genesis 27:8-10 (NirV) and read.*

*“My son, listen carefully. Do what I tell you. Go out to the flock. Bring me two of the finest young goats. I will prepare tasty food for your father. I’ll make it just the way he likes it. I want you to take it to your father to eat. Then he’ll give you his blessing before he dies.*

“Now, Isaac’s eyesight was so bad that he probably wouldn’t be able to tell that it was Jacob instead of Esau just by looking. But Jacob wondered—what if Isaac reached out to TOUCH him? If he did, surely he would be able to tell that Jacob was trying to trick him, because Jacob’s skin wasn’t hairy like Esau’s.

*Pull out the piece of “hairy” fabric and pass it around the circle.*

“Well, Rebekah had a plan for that, too. She gave Jacob some of Esau’s clothes to wear. And she even covered Jacob’s hands and neck with goat skins so he would feel hairy.

“Jacob did just what Rebekah told him. And sure enough, Isaac gave his blessing to Jacob.

“When Esau showed up, Isaac realized what had happened. He had to tell Esau that Jacob had taken his blessing.”

*Wait for the “hairy” fabric to make it all the way around the circle if it hasn’t already. Then set it down.*

## ON THE RUN

**LEADER:** “Jacob had won the birthright AND his father’s blessing . . . all by being sneaky. But he had also made an enemy of his older brother. Rebekah wanted to keep Jacob safe from Esau, so she told him to run away to her brother, Laban, in a place called Haran.

“Jacob did what Rebekah said. He set off through the wilderness. By nighttime, Jacob arrived at . . . the middle of nowhere.

*Pull out the stone and begin passing it around the circle.*

“With no place to stay, Jacob curled up on the hard ground, with nothing but a stone under his head. Can you imagine sleeping on a stone instead of a pillow?

“But as Jacob slept, the most incredible thing happened. Jacob saw a vision from God! Listen to what it was like.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 28:12-13 (NirV) and read.*

*“In a dream [Jacob] saw a stairway standing on the earth. Its top reached to heaven. The angels of God were going up and coming down on it. The LORD stood beside the stairway.*

“Amazing! And then, God spoke to Jacob. God said . . .

*Open the Bible to Genesis 28:13-15 (NirV) and read.*

*“I am the LORD. I am the God of your grandfather Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your children after you the land you are lying on . . . All nations on earth will be blessed because of you and your children after you. I am with you. I will watch over you everywhere you go. And I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.*

“Amazing, right? God reminded Jacob of the promise to his grandfather Abraham—that God would bless the whole world through Abraham’s family.

“Early the next morning, Jacob took the stone he had used as a pillow and set it up as an altar for God.

*Wait for the stone to make it all the way around the circle if it hasn’t already. Then set it down.*

“Then Jacob continued on his journey to Haran.”

**Video : Bible Story**

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**LEADER:** “A LOT happened in this story, right? (*Hold up the thermos.*) Jacob tricked his brother to get the rights of the oldest son. (*Hold up the ‘hairy’ fabric.*) Jacob tricked his dad to take his dad’s blessing. (*Hold up the stone.*) And when Jacob slept on a stone, he had an amazing dream where God promised to continue the promise to Abraham through Jacob’s family.

“God always had a plan to bless the whole world, and Jacob was PART of that plan. Many hundreds of years later, Jesus was born into Jacob’s family line!

“God’s plan to bless the world is still continuing today because of what Jesus did for us. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Because of that, each of us can choose to put our trust in God and have a relationship with God that will last forever!

“So even when it’s hard to see the path ahead . . .

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line] “You can trust that God has a plan.**

“Let’s pray and thank God for having a plan!”

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

### **PRAY**

**LEADER:** “Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You have a good plan for our lives. Sometimes, it’s hard when things happen that we don’t understand. When we can’t see Your plan, we can get scared or worried, just like Jacob was when he was on the run. But God, You love us, no matter what. You are always with us! You sent Jesus to be our Savior. Help us trust You and believe that Your plan is always the best plan. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



## CLOSER

**LEADER:** “Jacob and Esau’s differences drove them apart. And then Jacob tricked his family to get what he wanted—not once but twice! But this was all part of God’s plan. In Jacob’s dream, God reminded Jacob that the promise to Abraham would also come through HIS family line.

**SLIDE: God’s Big Story Timeline**

**SLIDE: Week 3 Timeline Image**

*If you’re making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today’s timeline image on the clothesline.*

“God had a plan for the world from the beginning of time—a plan to send Jesus, God’s Son, to be our Savior. Jesus came through Abraham and Jacob’s family. And God blessed the whole world through Jesus!

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “You can trust that God has a plan. Say that with me.”

**LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line]** “You can trust that God has a plan.”

**LEADER:** “We can’t always see the details of God’s plan. Sometimes things happen that take us by surprise, and we have to trust that God is still in control of it all. We can trust that God is still working—in the good times and also in the tough times.

“We can see how God has a good plan for the WORLD, because God sent Jesus to be our Savior. That helps us trust God when things happen that we just don’t understand. Even in those difficult times, we can remember that God is still good and God still has a good plan. We can trust that God will make everything right in the end.

“Our plan right now is to head to Small Group, so let’s head over! We’ve got lots to talk about!”

*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
- Bible
- Prop box
- One or two muscle costumes (such as this: <https://amzn.to/3PJxFvY> it's best if you can find one that's red or blue, not one that looks like a bare chest)
- One or two kids' tank tops or T-shirts
- Sewing kit or safety pins
- Two or four black balloons
- One or two dowels or empty paper towel holders
- Masking tape
- Leader's phone
- Week 3 Timeline Image, printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room

#### *Music and Sound Effects:*

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

#### *Large Group Visuals*

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- God's Big Story Timeline Slide
- Week 3 Timeline Image Slide
- Week 3 Timeline Image (printable)

#### *Optional Videos (available for purchase through the 252 Media Package):*

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Virtue
- Virtue 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](https://Store.ThinkOrange.com).
- If possible, put a tank top or T-shirt over the muscle costume(s). Adhere the tank/top shirt to the costume by either sewing it together with a few stitches, or using safety pins. If you use safety pins, you'll want to check the costume each time a kid takes it off before another puts it on, to make sure nothing came undone. If you can't secure the shirt beforehand, then you can just have kids immediately put the shirt on over the costume during the race.
- Make the "dumbbells" by inflating the black balloons (with air, not helium) and taping or stapling the tied-off part of the balloon to the dowel or paper towel roll. Make one or two dumbbells, depending on how many teams you have.
- Place the dumbbell(s) and the costume(s) in the prop box.
- Tape a start line and a "course" for the kids to follow during the game. (If you have two teams, you'll need to create two courses.)

## 2. Worship

### What You Need:

- Leader(s)

### Music and Sound Effects:

- "Over and Over" from *Everything to Me*
- "Hope Is Alive" from *Make a Move*

### Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- "Over and Over" 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](https://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](https://Store.ThinkOrange.com).

## 3. Bible Story

### What You Need:

- Leader
- Bible
- Bag or box of props containing:
  - Small amount of warm (not hot) beef stew in a thermos
  - Piece of "hairy" feeling and/or looking fabric
  - Large, smooth stone

### 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.
- Heat up the stew but don't make it too hot in case a kid spills it. Put it in a thermos and add all the props to the box or bag.

## Video Enhancements for Your Environment

*Available for additional purchase at [Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://www.ThinkOrange.com).*

**FEATURE PRESENTATION:** Everything you need to pull off a dynamic video storytelling experience, including video Bible presentations to complement 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum.

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- In *252 StoryLab*, two inquisitive young Hosts invite kids to engage with the month's Virtue, setting up a simple and direct telling of the Bible story by a professional Storyteller.

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
- Virtue and monthly widget promo videos (M.C. Haggis)
- Countdown videos (30 and 60 seconds)
- Music videos for original songs that highlight each Virtue
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday