

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2023, 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: This Desert Life (Jesus Is Tempted in the Desert) • *Luke 4:1-13 (Matthew 4:1-11)*

Today's Bottom Line: Remembering what's true can help you make the wise choice.

Monthly Memory Verse: *The LORD gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.* Proverbs 2:6 (NIRV)

Monthly Virtue: Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

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 ("I Run to You" from *Make a Move* and "Your Way" from *Make a Move*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Map It Out!
Application Activity: Remember, Remember
Memory Verse Activity: Scramble!
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.

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Monthly Virtue: Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Leader enters with lots of energy.

Video (Media Package): Countdown

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: "What's up, my fellow Think Tankers! At [your environment's name] this month, we're putting our knowledge to the test with our own versions of some fun TV game shows! And just what IS knowledge? Let's say it together!"

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Virtue

LEADER and KIDS: "Knowledge is learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do."

Video (Media Package): Virtue Transition to Theme

LEADER: "We can all grow in knowledge as we follow God. That's something we should ALL do—whether we're in elementary school, in high school, or even adults! Let's keep the fun going today with a game I call 'Take or Trade.'"

AUDIO: "Deal or No Deal" by I Love TV Themes

"For this game show, there will just be one contestant. So first, we need to figure out who that will be. If you want to play, raise your hand and tell me the answer to this question. What are the five CURRENT flavors of regular Skittles? (*Hold up the fun size pack of Skittles®.*)

Call on kids with their hands raised and let them guess. Bring up the first kid who can name all five flavors: orange, lemon, lime, grape, and strawberry. (Note: These are the current flavors in the United States. Green Skittles were green apple flavored from 2013 to 2021.)

Reveal the suitcases for the game.

(to the contestant) “[Kid’s name], welcome to ‘Take or Trade.’ Inside each of these suitcases is a different type of Skittles candy—from the smallest individual Skittle to the biggest Skittles package. I’ll give you one version of Skittles to start out, then you have to decide if you want to take that candy or trade it for the chance of opening another suitcase. You can continue trading as long as you want, or at any point, you can choose to take what you’ve got. The only thing you can’t do is go backwards and pick what you had before!

“Here is your first pack.

Hand the fun size pack of Skittles to the kid.

(to the contestant) “Okay, the time has come, my friend. Will you keep what you’ve got or take your chances opening up a different suitcase? Remember, you could get a much bigger pack of candy, or much smaller . . . or maybe you might find a different set of flavors altogether. So only YOU can decide if you want to ‘Take or Trade.’

Continue playing as long as the kid is willing to keep trading. When they choose to “take,” give them the candy then reveal the other types of candy that remain in the suitcases.

If the kid ends the game too soon (within one or two turns), you can replace the candy they took with another kind and play a second round with another kid.

“That was so fun! *(to the contestant)* I don’t know how you made your decisions, though—that was tough! I guess no matter what, you’re a winner, because Skittles are just . . . so . . . good!

“Let’s keep the fun times going, everyone! Up on your feet for worship!”

WORSHIP

LEADER: “We often talk about how we **[Basic Truth]** need to make the wise choice. But what about those times when we don’t know what the wise choice might be? There are definitely situations in life when we can get overwhelmed about making the right decision. But we’re not alone as we try to find knowledge and wisdom. God is always there to help us. Let’s sing and tell God, ‘I Run to You’!

Video: “I Run to You”

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“That’s right—God is always with us, and we can look to God to lead us in the right direction. I love these words from Isaiah 26:3, (NIRV), ‘Lord, you will give perfect peace to those who commit themselves to be faithful to you. That’s because they trust in you.’ Let’s sing this song and declare that we want to live our lives God’s way.

Video: “Your Way”

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“Very cool! Thanks for singing, everyone. You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “We’re continuing our journey today through God’s Big Story. (*Hold up Bible.*)

If you’re using a Bible timeline on the wall, you can reference it here as you recap.

“In the very beginning, God made the world. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. Still, God had a plan to bless the whole world through one group of people, the Israelites.

“Over hundreds of years, God spoke through prophets about the great Rescuer. And at last, God sent a baby to be born in the small town of Bethlehem—God’s very own Son, Jesus!

“When Jesus grew up, He was baptized in the Jordan River. We talked about that last week, and how God spoke from heaven, saying . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 3:17 (NIRV) and read.

“This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him.

“As we look at what happened next, I thought it would be fun to tell it like we’re playing a classic game show: ‘Deal . . .

SLIDE: Deal?

“. . . or No Deal.’

SLIDE: No Deal!

“You’ll see what I mean in a minute.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

STONE TO BREAD?

LEADER: “Jesus was about 30 years old when He was baptized. The people had heard that Jesus was God’s Son because of what God said when Jesus came out of the water. So it might seem like this was the perfect time for Jesus to start teaching, doing miracles, and gathering followers. But that isn’t what happened—at least, not right away. Instead, God’s Spirit led Jesus away from the crowds and towns . . . and into the desert.

“For 40 days, Jesus spent time with God, preparing for what God would have Him do next. During this time, Jesus ate nothing. He focused on God as the one thing He needed above all else. But He wasn’t alone. Not quite. Because the devil showed up to distract Jesus.

“As the days passed, Jesus became desperately hungry. At the end of the 40 days, the devil offered Jesus a large stone.

Hold up the stone.

Check out what the devil said.

Open the Bible to Luke 4:3 (NIRV) and read.

“If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.

Hold up the bread in your other hand.

“What do you think Jesus did? Did He . . . take the deal?

SLIDE: Deal?

“Or do you think Jesus said, ‘No deal’?

SLIDE: No Deal!

(Pause for response.) “Right. No deal! Jesus knew God’s words from Scripture, so He was ready with an answer. Jesus said

SLIDE: Luke 4:4

Read from the screen.

“It is written, ‘Man must not live only on bread.’” (NIRV)

SLIDE: Theme Background

Set down the stone and bread.

KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD

LEADER: “But the devil didn’t give up. He led Jesus up to a high place where all the kingdoms of the world appeared to spread out beneath them.

“The devil said to Jesus . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 4:6-7 (NIRV) and read.

“I will give you all their authority and glory. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.

Pick up the crown.

“What do you think Jesus did? Do you think He took the devil up on that deal?

SLIDE: Deal?

“Or do you think Jesus said, ‘No deal, devil’?

SLIDE: No Deal!

(Pause for response.) “Of course, Jesus did NOT take the deal. Jesus knew that one day He WOULD rule all the nations of the world. He had come as God’s Rescuer. But to take this easy way the devil offered would destroy God’s plan. Once again, Jesus spoke words from Scripture.

“He said . . .

SLIDE: Luke 4:8

Read from the screen.

“It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.’” (NirV)

SLIDE: Theme Background

Set down the crown.

THROW YOURSELF DOWN

LEADER: “The devil then led Jesus to the city of Jerusalem. They stood on the very highest point of the Temple itself.

Put your hand over the top of your eyes, like you’re looking out and downward, nervously.

“The devil said this to Jesus.

Open the Bible to Luke 4:9-11 (NirV) and read.

“If you are the Son of God . . . throw yourself down from here. It is written, ‘The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won’t trip over a stone.’

“This time, the devil was using words from Scripture to try to trick Jesus. What do you think Jesus did this time? Do you think He fell for the devil’s trap to PROVE He was the Son of God? Did He take the deal?

SLIDE: Deal?

“Or do you think Jesus said, ‘No deal, devil’?

SLIDE: No Deal!

(Pause for response.) “You’re right. Jesus did NOT fall for the devil’s trick. Once again, Jesus had words from Scripture at the ready. Jesus not only knew Scripture, He understood what God was doing through the Scriptures. He knew what was true.

“So Jesus said . . .

Read from the screen.

SLIDE: Luke 4:12

“Scripture says, ‘Do not test the Lord your God.’ (NirV)

SLIDE: Theme Background

“At last, the devil left. . . until he could find a better chance to try to trick Jesus.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “When the devil was gone, God sent angels to take care of Jesus and provide everything He needed.

“Jesus had spent time with God. He knew the truth from Scripture. We can find everything Jesus quoted in this story today in the Old Testament in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) Because Jesus knew Scripture, He was able to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** when He was tempted by the devil.

“That’s important for us to remember. If we remember what’s true, that will help us live each day with God’s wisdom.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Remembering what’s true can help you make the wise choice.

“Let’s ask God to help us do that.”

Video: Bible Story

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for this story about Jesus. It shows us that we ALL need Your truth to make wise choices. Thank You for giving us that truth in the Bible. Please help each of us spend time with You and remember what’s true, so we can live with knowledge and wisdom. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “Jesus knew the truth from Scripture. He knew exactly what to say when He was tempted by the devil.

SLIDE: God's Big Story Timeline

SLIDE: Week 4 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.

“It's important for us to remember how Jesus acted when He had to make those kinds of tough choices. The truth is, you and I can face difficult choices in life . . . and they can show up anytime.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

“But **[Bottom Line]** remembering what's true can help you make the wise choice. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Remembering what's true can help you make the wise choice.”

LEADER: “Here's the thing, though. If you want to remember what's true, first you have to DISCOVER what's true. You can start by reading what's in the Bible—and memorizing verses like we do here at [your environment's name]. You can also talk about what you've read with people who have been following God for a while—like people in your family or your Small Group Leader here.

“There are so many truths about God that will help you **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**, like the fact that God made you and loves you and that you are so valuable that Jesus gave up His life so you could have a relationship with God forever. And that's just the start!

“Let's think for a minute about how that might play out in your life. Maybe one of your best friends suddenly stops talking to you or starts talking about you behind your back. That's super discouraging. But before you say something mean that you might regret, first you remember that You are made and loved by God. That can give you the confidence you need to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and talk to your friend about what's really going on.

“We can live with wisdom if we learn and remember the things that we know are true. So let's head to Small Group and talk about that some more! Deal?”

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
- Several suitcases labeled with numbers
- Several different types of Skittles® candy (enough to put one in each suitcase, plus extras), such as:
 - Fun size
 - One individual Skittle (in a zipper bag, so it's sanitary)
 - Regular-size pack
 - "Share Size" pack
 - Movie theater box
 - Family size pouch
 - Skittles® candy cane tube (if you can find any on clearance after Christmas)
 - Skittles® Gummies
 - Other flavors (Wild Berry, Sour, etc.)
- Week 4 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
- "Deal or No Deal" by I Love TV Themes

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- God's Big Story Timeline Slide
- Week 4 Timeline Image Slide
- Week 4 Timeline Image (printable)

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

- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- 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.

- 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.
- The suitcases can be varying sizes if needed, but the smaller side is recommended. Number each suitcase with a simple sign. Inside each suitcase, put a different type of Skittles® candy—but only use one of each kind. Reserve an extra two or three candies in case you need to play additional rounds.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- “I Run to You” from *Make a Move*
- “Your Way” 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
- Table
- Large stone
- Small loaf of bakery bread (whole, not sliced)
- King’s crown

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- “Deal?” Slide
- “No Deal!” Slide
- Luke 4:4 Slide
- Luke 4:8 Slide
- Luke 4:12 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.
- Set out the props on the table.

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):

- In *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 and a Communicator 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 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)
- Music videos for original songs that highlight each Virtue
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday