

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2023, Week 5

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: Help Me (John the Baptist in Prison) • *Matthew 11:1-6 (James 1:5)*

Today's Bottom Line: If you don't understand something, ask.

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 ("A Better Me" from *Everything to Me* and "I Run to 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: The Big Five

Application Activity: Who Knows?

Memory Verse Activity: One, Two, Three, Go!

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 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.

(Media Package): Theme Loop

Leader enters with lots of energy.

(Media Package): Countdown

(Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: "Hi, everyone! I'm so glad to see all your faces here for our last week of Think Tank! We've been putting our knowledge to the test with our own versions of some fun TV game shows. It's all part of the fun as we talk about why it's important to find knowledge.

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Virtue

"Knowledge is learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do.

(Media Package): Virtue Transition to Theme

"We can grow in knowledge at school, at sports, or in music . . . and we can definitely grow in our knowledge of God! The more we know about God, the more we can GROW in our relationship with God.

"We've got an awesome game to test your knowledge today. It's our version of 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.'

AUDIO: "Opening Theme" (from Who Wants to Be a Millionaire) by Keith and Matthew Strachan

"The difference is that we don't have a million dollars to give away to the winner. But I'll tell you what we DO have: bragging rights!

"For this game show, you'll need to know your animated movie facts. We'll need a team of three people to answer a series of questions correctly. Who wants to play?

Bring up three volunteers and have them sit in the chairs.

(to contestants) “Okay, contestants. There are nine questions in this game, and you’ll take turns answering the questions. As a group, you have three lifelines you can use. You only get to use each lifeline ONE time. So choose your timing and your lifeline carefully, because the questions will just get harder as you go!

“There’s the “50-50” lifeline, in which I’ll remove two of the answer options, leaving you with just two choices.

“You can ‘phone a friend’ lifeline, in which case you actually get to phone [my friend, church pastor, Storyteller, Small Group Leader, etc.] and see if they can help you with the question.

“Then there’s the ‘ask the audience’ lifeline, which allows you to poll the audience and see what they think is the answer.

“Okay, let’s start with round one, player one, [kid’s name]. Let’s see if these brave contestants can answer all nine questions correctly to win. (to contestants) Remember, these questions only get trickier, so don’t use up your lifelines too soon!

Note: Read the questions from the printed script.

“Question One: [Kid’s name], what is the name of Kristoff’s reindeer friend in *Frozen*? Is it:

SLIDE: Game Show Answer Slide 1

- A. Sam,
- B. Anna,
- C. **Sven**, or
- D. Frederik?

When the kid answers, ask, “Is that your FINAL answer?” Congratulate them if their answer is correct. (If they get the answer wrong, let the next kid answer. Don’t worry about eliminating anyone. Just let the game be fun.)

Let the three kids take turns answering the questions.

If the kid wants to use the 50/50 lifeline, you’ll need to choose two answers to verbally eliminate since there isn’t a slide for this option.

If they want to use the “phone a friend” lifeline, actually call the person you’ve chosen, and put the phone on speaker. (Make sure this person is available and ready to take a call.)

If they want to use the “ask the audience” lifeline, let the audience shout out what letter they think is correct. Try to figure out the consensus choice, and tell that to the contestant.

Go through the remaining questions in the same way.

“Question Two: We don’t talk about . . . who?”

SLIDE: Game Show Answer Slide 2

- A. Felix
- B. Oscar
- C. Gertrude
- D. Bruno**

“Question Three: Which of the following kinds of animals is NOT in the movie *Sing*?”

SLIDE: Game Show Answer Slide 3

- A. Worm**
- B. Elephant
- C. Koala
- D. Porcupine

“Question Four: What is the name of the dog in the movie *Up*?”

SLIDE: Game Show Answer Slide 4

- A. Bob
- B. Dug**
- C. Squirrel
- D. Carl

“Question Five: In the movie *Tangled*, what is the main horse’s name?”

SLIDE: Game Show Answer Slide 5

- A. Marian
- B. Maximus**
- C. Matteo
- D. Marlin

“Question Six: In what country does the movie *Luca* take place?”

SLIDE: Game Show Answer Slide 6

- A. Italy**
- B. Mexico
- C. Spain
- D. Japan

“Question Seven: In the movie, *The Secret Life of Pets*, what kind of animal is Snowball?”

SLIDE: Game Show Answer Slide 7

- A. Kitten
- B. Guinea Pig
- C. **Rabbit**
- D. Parakeet

“Question Eight: In the movie, *Despicable Me*, what are the names of the three main girls?

SLIDE: Game Show Answer Slide 8

- A. Hannah, Evan, Lily
- B. Julie, Sarah, Courtney
- C. **Margo, Edith, Agnes**
- D. Sam, Veronica, Charlie

“Question Nine: In the movie, *Shrek*, which song is played in the opening scene?

SLIDE: Game Show Answer Slide 9

- A. “Firework”
- B. “Call Me Maybe”
- C. “We Will Rock You”
- D. **“All Star”**

After the last question, congratulate the three contestants and dismiss them to their seats.

(Media Package): Theme Loop

“Way to go, everyone! I know all of you were guessing what the answers were, just like our friends up on stage. Thanks for making all of our ‘Think Tank’ games a blast this month! Now let’s keep the fun going! On your feet for worship!”

WORSHIP

LEADER: “Before we sing, let’s check out this video together.

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

(Media Package): *Theme Loop*

“With God’s help, we can gain knowledge so we can get better at whatever we do. God is always there to teach us and help us grow. Let’s sing this song to celebrate how God helps us. Here we go!

(Media Package): *“A Better Me” Dance Moves Music Video*

(Media Package): *Theme Loop*

“Even while we’re learning and growing, sometimes we face questions that we don’t know the answers to. In those times, it’s good to know that we can turn to God. ALL knowledge and wisdom come from God in the first place. That’s what it says in our memory verse for this month, Proverbs 2:6. Say it with me.”

SLIDE: *Memory Verse*

LEADER and KIDS: *“The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.” (Proverbs 2:6, NIV)*

LEADER: “That’s right! Let’s sing out and tell God how thankful we are to have a God that we can run to!

Video: *“I Run to You”*

(Media Package): *Theme Loop*

“Great singing, everyone! You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

Place the prop box on the table.

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “As we pick up God’s Big Story today, we’re taking a look in the first book of the New Testament—Matthew. (*Hold up Bible.*) First though, let’s look at where we’ve been so far.

“In the very beginning, out of a deep, deep love, God made an amazing world!

Pull out the globe from the prop box and set it on the table.

“When people turned away from God, the world was broken. But God had a plan to make things right. God sent a baby to be born in the small town of Bethlehem—God’s very own Son, Jesus!

Pull out one of the baby dolls and set it on the table.

“Before Jesus was born, God sent another special baby to a priest named Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. This baby was John.

Pull out the other baby doll and set it on the table.

“Even before John was born, an angel told his father, Zechariah, that John would point people to God. And that’s exactly what happened!”

JOHN: THE RECAP

LEADER: “John grew up and became a . . . unique kind of guy.

Put the baby dolls back in the prop box.

“He wore rough clothing made from camel hair.

Pull out the cloth and set on the table.

“He ate crunchy locusts . . .

Pull out the fake grasshoppers and make a face as you set them on the table.

“. . . and honey from wild bees.

Pull out the bottle of honey. Squeeze some on your finger to taste it.

“Now THAT I could handle!

“John preached to crowds by the Jordan River, calling them to turn back to God and telling them about the Rescuer who was to come. John also baptized people.

Pull out the container of water and remove the lid. Scoop some up with your hands and let it fall back into the bowl. Then put the lid back on the container, and dry off your hands with the towel from the prop box.

“As you might remember, John even baptized Jesus! Jesus came out of the water, and God’s Holy Spirit came down like a dove and rested on Him. A voice from heaven said . . .

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

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

“Around this time, Jesus went out to the desert to spend time alone with God. After Jesus returned, He began to gather followers and teach and heal people. John gladly pointed his own disciples to follow Jesus instead.

“Do you remember what John said about Jesus?

Pick up the megaphone. Open the Bible to John 3:30 (NIRV) and read into the megaphone.

“He must become more important. I must become less important.”

Set the megaphone on the table.

JOHN THROWN IN PRISON

LEADER: “John didn’t stop his own teaching, though. He still spoke the truth—even to powerful leaders. In fact, John went head-to-head with King Herod, the ruler who the Romans had put in charge.

Pull out the crown and place it on the table.

“John told King Herod that he had broken God’s laws. As you can imagine, this didn’t go over very well with Herod. In fact, Herod was so angry that he had John thrown in prison!

Pull out the “jail bars” and hold them in front of your face.

“Poor John was stuck behind bars. He heard little pieces of news from the outside world when his followers were allowed to visit him. One thing he DID hear was that Jesus was teaching and healing people!”

Set down the “jail bars.”

JOHN QUESTIONS JESUS

LEADER: “John started to get discouraged as he waited there in prison . . . month after month after month.

Pull out the calendar and flip through a few months.

“Maybe John wondered . . .

Pull out the question mark sign and hold it up for each

question.

“When is Jesus going to start getting rid of the Romans? What about that new kingdom that’s supposed to come? If Jesus is really the Messiah, why am I still stuck here?”

“John wanted to be sure that everything he’d believed about Jesus was still true. So he sent his followers to Jesus with a question.

“These followers asked Jesus . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 11:3 (NIRV) and read while holding up the question mark sign.

“Are you the one who is supposed to come? Or should we look for someone else?”

“Jesus told John’s followers to go back to John and report to him about what they had seen and heard. Jesus said . . .

Set down the question mark sign and pick up the exclamation point sign. Open the Bible to Matthew 11:5-6 (NIRV) and read while holding up the exclamation point sign.

“Blind people receive sight. Disabled people walk. Those who have skin diseases are made ‘clean.’ Deaf people hear. Those who are dead are raised to life. And the good news is preached to those who are poor. Blessed is anyone who does not give up their faith because of me.

“We don’t know exactly how John responded when he received this compassionate message from Jesus. But we can imagine how John must have been comforted by the fact that Jesus wasn’t angry or annoyed about his questions.

Set down the exclamation point sign and hold up the question mark sign.

“Now he knew for sure that Jesus still cared about him . . . and hadn’t forgotten him.”

Move in front of the table as you wrap up.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “When things don’t go our way, we can easily forget what’s true. We can forget the things that we’ve seen and heard. We can get confused when things don’t go the way we expect.

“John had questions when he was stuck in prison. He needed to know that everything he had been working for was still true. He needed to know that Jesus really was the Messiah . . . so he asked! And Jesus answered him.

“It’s important to know that we can ALWAYS go to God with our questions. We can talk to God if we have questions about what we believe. We can pray and ask God for the wisdom we need.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “If you don’t understand something, ask.

“Jesus’ own brother, James, once wrote this.

Open the Bible to James 1:5 (NirV) and read.

“If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you.

“Isn’t it good to know that we can always talk to God about our questions? Let’s pray and thank God for that now.”

Video: Bible Story

(Media Package): Theme Loop

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, You created everything and You know everything. But You also don’t mind when we have questions and doubts. Thank You for being there to listen when there’s something we don’t understand. It’s so good to know that we can come to You with any of our questions. Please help us remember that we can ALWAYS talk to You and **[Basic Truth]** we can trust You no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “John was in a tough situation. He had been doing GOOD things—following God and preparing the way for Jesus—then he was thrown in prison! John needed some reassurance to know that Jesus was really the Messiah.

SLIDE: God's Big Story Timeline

SLIDE: Week 5 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.

“But Jesus didn't have a problem with John's questions. In fact, Jesus took the time to send answers back to John, to make sure John knew that He really is the Son of God.

“All of us have things that we don't understand.

Hold up the question mark sign.

“But when we have questions, we don't have to be afraid to talk to God about them. God will welcome all of our questions with love and compassion.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “If you don't understand something, ask. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “If you don't understand something, ask.”

LEADER: “Yes—God is there to help us **[Basic Truth]** make the wise choice. God can help us grow in knowledge so that we know more ABOUT God and we can live God's way, every day.

“And don't forget, if you have questions, you can also talk to the people God has put in your life—like me, your Small Group Leader, your parents or grandparents, or anyone you know who has been following God for a while. Sometimes God gives us wisdom through other people who have been following God for longer than we have. So don't be afraid to ask!

“In fact, you can start asking some of your questions in just a minute, because it's time to head over to Small Group. Let's go!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

(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
- Three chairs
- Leader's phone
- Someone who's available to answer the phone for the "phone a friend" lifeline (see "What You Do")
- Printed script, for reference
- Question mark sign (from the Bible story)
- Week 5 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
- "Opening Theme" (from *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*) by Keith and Matthew Strachan

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Game Show Answer Slides
- God's Big Story Timeline Slide
- Week 5 Timeline Image Slide
- Week 5 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.
- 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.
- Ask someone to be available to answer the phone if a kid wants to use the "phone a friend" lifeline. It would be ideal if this could be someone the kids know like a church pastor, Storyteller,

or one of the Small Group Leaders in the room. Or it could be a local celebrity if you have any connections! Just make sure this person is available and ready to take the call during the time frame of Large Group.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- “A Better Me” from *Everything to Me*
- “I Run to You” from *Make a Move*

Large Group Visuals:

- Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- “A Better Me” 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
- Table
- Prop box, containing:
 - Globe
 - Two baby dolls (boys, if possible)
 - Some sort of rough/hairy cloth
 - Several fake grasshoppers
 - Bottle of honey
 - Large container of water with a lid
 - Towel
 - Plastic megaphone
 - Crown
 - “Jail bars” (see “What You Do”)
 - Wall calendar
 - Question mark sign (on posterboard)
 - Exclamation point sign (on posterboard)

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.
- For the jail bars, you can buy cardboard ones to stand on the table, such as these: <https://bit.ly/3P9zlxH>; or simply use two PVC pipes.
- Decorate the question mark sign and exclamation point signs with lots of color. These signs should look cool and memorable so that the kids remember the importance of asking questions to gain knowledge.

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