

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2023, 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: New Attitude (Jesus' Baptism) • *John 1:19-42; 3:22-36 (Matthew 3)*

Today's Bottom Line: When you discover something new, it can change you.

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 ("Brave" from *Everything to Me* and "A Better Me" from *Everything to Me*)

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Who Said It?

Application Activity: Charades Duo

Memory Verse Activity: Applied Knowledge

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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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 Intro

OPENER

LEADER: "Hellllooo, everyone! Welcome back to Think Tank. We're playing a different game show every week and putting our knowledge to the test!"

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Virtue

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

Video (Media Package): Virtue Transition to Theme

"God made us to go out and find knowledge. The more we learn, the more we'll be able to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.**

"We've definitely put our knowledge to the test with these games each week, and today will be no different. Today, we're playing the 'Friendly Feud'!"

AUDIO: "Family Feud" by The Hit Crew

"In our version of the game, you'll be guessing the top answers to a few questions. However, these answers were not voted on by a large group of random strangers. Nope, these answers are MY top five answers. So the more you know about ME and how MY brain works, the better you will be at this game. And if you don't know much about me, well, you'll certainly discover more today!"

"First, let's divide into two teams.

Divide the teams as evenly as possible among ages.

“To start the game, the first team to buzz in and guess one answer on the board will get control of play. That team will get to keep guessing until they guess wrong. Then play will shift to the other team. Let me get one player from both teams up here for our face-off.

Choose a player from each team. Place the game buzzer on the table between the two players.

“All right. Here’s the first question. My top five answers are on the board.

Reference the first board with the five blanks.

“Only [kid’s name] and [kid’s name] can answer—and they just need to guess ONE of the answers on here. *(Pause then read from the printed script.)* What have been the top five inventions of all time?

Whoever buzzes in first gets to guess. If they guess one of the five answers on the board, play goes to their team. If they get it wrong, the other team gets control and gets to start guessing.

Reveal a correct answer however you’ve set up the answer boards. If you’ve pre-made posterboards and covered the answers with paper, just remove the paper over the chosen answer. If you’re using a single dry erase board, erase the number blank and write in the correct answer.

After the initial face-off, the rest of the kids on the team can suggest answers to their captain. Play should bounce back and forth until all five answers have been revealed OR you reach three strikes total.

If a team guesses an answer on the board, they get a point and they get to go again. If their answer is not on the board, then that’s one strike (for everyone) and it’s the other team’s turn to guess.

When the round is over, reveal the remaining answers to show what the kids have missed.

Note: Keep it simple; there’s no need to give the other team a chance to steal like the in the real game. The teams get a point for any correct answer. There isn’t a higher value for the #1 answer, for example.

On the dry erase scoreboard, keep track of points—i.e. how many correct answers each time guessed during the round.

For quick reference, write in the Leader’s answers here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4.

5.

(Ideas: electricity, the internet, the wheel, the telephone, toaster strudels)

“Nice job! So far the score is . . . *(Reference the score on the dry erase board.)*

Next round, next question. My top five answers are on the board. *(Pause.)* What is something you’d only want NEW instead of used?

Play the round as before.

For quick reference, write in the Leader’s answers here:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

(Ideas: a fork, tissues, ear swabs, toothbrush, socks)

“Nice job! For our final round, here’s our last question. My top five answers are on the board. *(Pause.)* What are the five coolest things that CHANGE color?

Play the round as before.

For quick reference, write in the Leader’s answers here:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

(Ideas: chameleon, the sky, hair, leaves, traffic light)

“It’s a little scary how much some of you know about the way my mind works. Let’s see who got the most points overall.

Add up the points on the scoreboard and celebrate the winning team.

Video (Media Package): Theme

“One thing that never changes is how much I love to worship God with all of you. Let’s get to it. Everyone on your feet!”

WORSHIP

LEADER: “Sometimes it takes courage to learn new things. We might feel worried that we’ll look silly or not smart. But we know God MADE us to be curious and grow in knowledge. Let’s sing this song to remind ourselves that nothing is impossible with God and we can be brave to face any of our fears!

Video: “Brave” / track 7 from Everything to Me

Video (Media Package): Theme

“Before we continue worshipping, let’s watch this video together.

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

Video (Media Package): Theme

“Yes! God will help us find knowledge, because all knowledge comes from God to begin with. It’s like we read in our memory verse, Proverbs 2:6.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

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

“This song says, *(do the motions)* ‘You’re teaching me . . . I’m gonna be . . . a better me.’ Let’s sing and thank God for helping us grow in knowledge.

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

Video (Media Package): Theme

“Awesome! You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “We’ve been making our way through God’s Big Story, in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)*

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

“We’ve seen how God made an amazing world. God created everything out of a deep, deep love. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. Still, God had a plan to make things right. At the perfect time, God sent a tiny baby to be born in the small town of Bethlehem—God’s very own Son, Jesus! As Jesus grew older, He became wiser and stronger and more pleasing to God and people.

“Before we find out what happened next, I’ll need your help to tell today’s story. There’s a good bit of talking in this story, so I’ve got some of the things people said written on these speech bubbles.

Hold up the speech bubble signs. Pass them out to different kids.

“On the back of each of these bubbles, there’s a number. When I call your number, hold up your speech bubble for everyone to see, and I’ll read what it says. But when it’s not your turn, hold your speech bubble like this. (*Motion like you’re holding a sign at chest level.*) Got it?”

Note: There are 11 speech bubbles total. If you have fewer than 11 kids, give the older kids an extra one.

“All right. Let’s begin.”

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

LEADER: “Jesus had a cousin, John, who was six months older than Him. John had been sent by God to help get people’s hearts ready to hear the words of Jesus.

“John would preach on the riverbanks, talking to anyone who would listen. Number one, hold up your speech bubble, and let’s check out some of what John was saying.

The kid holds up speech bubble #1: The kingdom of heaven has come near.

“John said . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 3:2 (NIRV) and read.

“Turn away from your sins! The kingdom of heaven has come near.

“Sure enough, people came from Jerusalem to hear what John had to say—and many actually listened. John baptized these people in the Jordan River as a sign that, from then on, their lives would be different.

“The Jewish religious leaders heard about John, and they sent priests and teachers to discover more about him. Some wondered if John could be the Messiah who had come to save the world. But John told them he was NOT the Messiah. So then, who was he? Number two!

The kid holds up speech bubble #2: Why are you baptizing people?

“The priests and teachers asked John . . .

Open the Bible to John 1:25 (NIRV) and read.

“If you are not the Messiah, why are you baptizing people?

“Number three!

The kid holds up speech bubble #3: He is the one who comes after me.

“Listen to how John responded.

Open the Bible to John 1:26-27 (NIRV) and read.

"I baptize people with water . . . But someone is standing among you whom you do not know. He is the one who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie his sandals.

"You see, God had already spoken to John about Jesus. God had told John . . .

Open the Bible to John 1:33 (NIRV) and read.

"You will see the Spirit come down and remain on someone. He is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

"Now, around this time, Jesus Himself came to John at the Jordan River. John already knew that Jesus was special. Jesus wanted to be baptized by John, but John tried to stop him. Let's see why. Number four!

The kid holds up speech bubble #4: I need to be baptized by you.

"John said to Jesus . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 3:14 (NIRV) and read.

"I need to be baptized by you. So why do you come to me?"

"Jesus told John that it was right for John to baptize Him because it was part of God's plan.

"So John dipped Jesus down into the waters of the Jordan. As Jesus rose up out of the water, God sent the Holy Spirit to rest on Jesus like a dove. A voice from heaven called out.

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

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

JESUS' NEW FOLLOWERS

LEADER: "Around this same time, John was with two of his followers. He spotted Jesus walking past. Number five, let's see what John called out.

The kid holds up speech bubble #5: Look! The Lamb of God!

"John said . . .

Open the Bible to John 1:36 (NIRV) and read.

"Look! The Lamb of God!"

"The two men, Andrew and his friend, hurried after to talk to Jesus. Unlike the religious leaders, these men were quick to hear the truth about Jesus. Jesus turned around and saw the men and asked them what they wanted. Number six, you have their response.

The kid holds up speech bubble #6: Rabbi, where are you staying?

“Andrew and his friend said . . .

Open the Bible to John 1:38 (NIRV) and read.

“Rabbi, where are you staying?”

“Jesus invited them to come with Him and see. So Andrew and his friend went and spent the rest of the day with Jesus. They were so amazed by Jesus that Andrew immediately went and told his brother, Simon, something really important. Let’s see number seven, what did Andrew tell his brother?”

The kid holds up speech bubble #7: We have found the Messiah!

“Andrew said . . .

Open the Bible to John 1:41 (NIRV) and read.

“We have found the Messiah!”

“Andrew then brought Simon to Jesus, and Jesus gave Simon his new name: Peter.”

“EVERYONE IS GOING TO HIM”

LEADER: “These men heard the truth about Jesus, and they immediately followed Him. Jesus began to call His disciples, teach people, and even perform miracles! Jesus also baptized people.

“Some of John’s disciples weren’t sure what to think about that. They went to John and told him that the man who had been with him on the other side of the Jordan was now baptizing people. What else did they say? Let’s see number eight.

The kid holds up speech bubble #8: Everyone is going to him.

“John’s followers said . . .

Open the Bible to John 3:26 (NIRV) and read.

“Everyone is going to him.

“It was true. Many people had begun to follow Jesus instead of John. But John wasn’t upset. John reminded them that he had already said he wasn’t the Messiah. He had been sent AHEAD of the Messiah. What else did John say about Jesus? Let’s look at numbers nine and ten.

Two kids hold up speech bubbles #9 and #10. “He must become more important” and “I must become less important.”

“John said . . .

Open the Bible to John 3:30 (NIRV) and read.

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

“John went on to tell his followers what we see on our last speech bubble, number 11.

The kid holds up speech bubble #11: Jesus = eternal life.

“John said . . .

Open the Bible to John 3:36 (NIRV) and read.

“Anyone who believes in the Son has eternal life.”

“Great job, everyone. You can pass those signs up here.”

Collect the speech bubble signs before you wrap up the story.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “John had spent his life listening to God, so he discovered the truth about Jesus and shared it with everyone he met. And everyone who truly listened knew that Jesus was the One to follow.

“John’s message about Jesus changed the lives of everyone who heard it!

Video (Media Package): Bible Story

Video (Media Package): Theme

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “When you discover something new, it can change you.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us keep learning and discovering new things.”

Video (Media Package): Theme

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, some of us may feel like we know a lot about You. Some of us may be just getting started in our faith. No matter what we know about You, though, we know that there is so much MORE to learn. We know that when we discover something new about You, it can change us—just like it did for John in our story. Please open our hearts and minds to Your truth. Let it change our lives and the lives of those around us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “John discovered the truth about who Jesus is . . . and it definitely changed the way he thought, spoke, and acted. John had a new purpose in life. He spent his days pointing people to Jesus.

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.

“Because of that, Andrew and Peter started following Jesus, too!

“Here's something you need to know, though. Learning something only matters if you let it CHANGE you—if it changes the way you live and treat others.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “When you discover something new, it can change you. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “When you discover something new, it can change you.”

LEADER: “Of course, the MOST important thing you can discover is that Jesus is God's Son! Once you know who Jesus is, you can put your trust in Him and follow Him. God's Spirit will work inside of you to make you more like Jesus every day.

“That will show up in everything you say and do! With the help of the Spirit, you'll make different decisions. You'll know how to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. You'll even start to notice things around you differently—like how you can be a friend to someone who's going through a tough time . . . or how you can stop what you're doing to help your parents or grandparents at home.

“There's no end to the new things you can discover and how God can help you grow. Let's head to Small Group and talk some more about that!”

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
- Three answer boards for the game (i.e. pre-made posterboards or a single dry erase board; see "What You Do" for options)
- Table
- Game buzzer (one from last week will work great)
- Dry erase board and marker that you can use for a scoreboard
- Printed script
- 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
- "Family Feud" by The Hit Crew

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
- 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.
- Print a copy of the script so you can easily remember your answers then reveal them on the boards.

- In advance, write your top five answers for each question on the printed script. This will be important so you can reference your answers during the game.
- Create the three answer boards. You can do this in two ways.
 - Use three posterboards and write the question at the top of each posterboard, then write your five answers below. Then cover each answer with a rectangular piece of construction paper and number those pieces of paper #1-5. That way, you'll be able to remove the paper to reveal the answer when one of the teams guesses it.
 - A simpler option is to use one dry erase board (separate from the dry erase scoreboard). Write blanks (lines) and number them #1-5. As you play the game, if a team guesses an answer, you'll erase that number and write in the answer. This option will be simpler in terms of supplies and prep work, but will take longer in the moment.
- Find a place to display the boards.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Brave" from *Everything to Me*
- "A Better Me" from *Everything to Me*

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
- Eleven posterboards to make speech bubbles with the following text (see "What You Do"):
 1. The kingdom of heaven has come near.
 2. Why are you baptizing people? (if you're using the NIV: Why then do you baptize?)
 3. He is the one who comes after me.
 4. I need to be baptized by you.
 5. Look! The Lamb of God!
 6. Rabbi, where are you staying?
 7. We have found the Messiah!
 8. Everyone is going to him.
 9. He must become more important. (If you're using the NIV: He must become greater.)

10. I must become less important. (If you're using the NIV: I must become less.)

11. Jesus = eternal life.

- Thick permanent marker
- Eleven long craft sticks or paint stirring sticks
- Tape

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.
- Create the speech bubbles using the posterboards and marker. (Write the text first, then draw the speech bubble around it.) Make sure the lines are thick so the text is easy to read in the room.
- Write the number on the back of each speech bubble.
- Cut out the speech bubbles, then tape a craft stick or paint stirring stick to the back so that the kids can easily hold them up.

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