

Today's Suggested Schedule—February 2023, Week 1

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: For the Sake of the Call (Calling of the Disciples) • *Luke 5:1-11, 27-32*

Today's Bottom Line: Include people who are left out.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Do to others as you want them to do to you.* Luke 6:31 (NIRV)

Monthly Virtue: Respect—Showing others they are important by what you say and do

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

LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship ("Everything to Me" 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: On the Bus

Application Activity: HOV Lane

Memory Verse Activity: Yield Sign

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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Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Leader enters.

Video (Media Package): Countdown

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: "What's up, my fellow road warriors? (*Pause.*) What's that you say? What is a road warrior? That's someone who burns up the pavement . . . who hits the road . . . who's always on the go.

"And why are we road warriors this month in [your environment's name]? Because this month is all about Road Rules. We're finding out how we can 'ride with respect,' like God created us to do.

"Here's what respect is all about.

Video (Media Package): Virtue Transition to Theme

"Respect is showing others they are important by what you say and do.

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Virtue

"We all know how good it feels when someone shows respect to us and makes us feel important. We've also seen how people might NOT show respect—especially out on the road! So this month, we're here to rev up the respect!

"Let's kick things off with a game that will definitely test your respect for each other. Let's split up into teams—kindergarten through second grade on this side and third through fifth grade on this side. Everyone, bring your chair with you and sit in your chair over on your team's side. Try to get your chairs in a nice, straight line, okay? Ready? Go!

Divide up the kids by grade, so that you have the younger kids on one side, and the older kids on the other. This should get you close to an even number of kids on each side.

Note: If you don't normally use chairs in Large Group, you could have the chairs pre-set on each side of the room.

"All right, our teams look pretty even. Let me even them out just a little bit more.

Move individual kids from one side to the other until you have the same number of kids on each side. For example, you could move two or three of the biggest second graders over to the older kid side or vice versa. Make sure the kids you move take their chairs with them.

If you have an odd number of kids and the numbers aren't completely equal, you can play yourself (on the older side) to even things out.

"Okay, perfect! We now have even teams, and each person has a chair. Great job!

"This game is kind of like musical chairs—but with traffic! When you hear this sound . . .

AUDIO: Traffic sounds

Graphic: Theme Background

"You'll walk to the other side of the room to find a chair to sit in. Notice I said, 'WALK,' not run. That means one foot should always remain on the ground! Only speed walking, no running.

"If you're trying to get to the other team's side, and THEY'RE trying to get to YOUR side, what do you think will happen in the middle? (*Pause for response.*) A traffic jam! That's where the respect comes in. Slow down and find a way to get past each other without any crashes, okay?

"When you get to the other side, try to find a chair and sit down. Of course, we won't have QUITE enough chairs for everyone.

Motion for one kid on each side to stand up, then put their chair to the side so it's out of play.

"Everyone, stand up and line up with your feet against the wall. Listen for the traffic sounds, then it's go time! Remember though, no running—only walking. If you run, I'll point you back to the wall, and you'll have to start over. Let's respect the rules of the road . . . and your fellow drivers. Here we go!

AUDIO: Traffic sounds (for each round - GO BACK TO PREVIOUS "SLIDE" TO PLAY TRAFFIC SOUNDS THEN REPEAT AS NEEDED)

Guide the kids to move through the "traffic jam" in the middle then sit down on the opposite side of the room.

Don't worry about stopping the audio like in regular musical chairs, just let the kids sit down when they make it across the room.

One kid on each side will be “out.” Encourage them to be your referees (on the sidelines) to make sure no one is running.

Have the remaining kids stand up. Then remove a chair from each side. Start a new round, with the teams going across the room again in the opposite direction (back to where they started).

Continue playing until you’re down to two kids—one from each side. Bring the two remaining kids to one side of the room, with a single chair on the other side. Put a blindfold on each kid, then resume the traffic sounds as the kids try to get to the chair the fastest. The first one to sit down is the winner.

At the end of the game, get the kids to move the chairs back to their normal places.

“That was fun, everyone. Way to respect the road—and each other! I know that was a real challenge. Now let’s worship God together!”

WORSHIP

LEADER: “First, let’s check out this video.

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

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“When we respect others, we show them that they’re valuable and important. Each person is valuable, because each of us is made in the image of God. We’ve experienced God’s love and kindness for ourselves, and that moves us to respect others. It reminds us to praise God, because God is so good to us. As we read in Psalm 63:3 (NIRV), ‘Your love is better than life. So I will bring glory to you with my lips.’ Let’s stand and worship God now as we sing.

Video (Media Package): “Everything to Me”

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“Sometimes, it can be hard to be respectful to others. We might feel tired or grumpy, or maybe we just think the other person doesn’t deserve our respect. But remember, God is always with us. And God can help us CHOOSE to show respect, even when it’s difficult. Let’s sing this song about how God helps us learn and grow!

Video: “A Better Me”

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“It’s so much fun to worship God together. You can all have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “All this year, we’ve been making our way through God’s Big Story. (*Hold up Bible.*). Today, we’ve landed in the book of Luke.

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

“We’ve seen how God created the world and everything in it—including people. People turned away from God, but God had a plan to make things right again. God’s plan was to send Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

“When Jesus grew up, He was baptized in the Jordan River. 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.

“After Jesus was baptized, He spent 40 days in the desert. Then He began to go from town to town, teaching and healing people. Even though Jesus is God’s Son, He didn’t just spend His time with people who were considered important, like the religious leaders. Instead, Jesus met with ordinary, everyday people on hillsides and by the lakeshore. And Jesus chose some of the most unlikely people to be His closest friends and followers.”

NO FISH

LEADER: “Jesus chose regular, ordinary fishermen: Peter, James, and John.

Hold up the Peter, James, and John “stick figures” (printed faces attached to bamboo skewer sticks). Place the three stick figures in the first foam block on the table.

“When you read this story in the Book of Luke, Peter is called Simon. But he was known by both names—Simon and Peter.

“These men were just out doing their job. They weren’t people who would be thought of as important or popular. In a way, they were left out.

Set the “LEFT OUT” sign in front of the foam block.

“One morning, after a long night of fishing, Peter and his friends had caught exactly ZERO fish.

Hold up the empty net.

“But also on this particular morning, they weren’t alone on the beach. Jesus was standing on the lakeshore. And though it was early, a huge crowd had gathered. The people were eager to hear what Jesus had to say. Jesus climbed into the boat that belonged to Peter.

Set out the inflatable raft. Step inside the raft, bringing the

net with you.

“He told Peter to go out a little way from the shore.

Sit down inside the raft.

“Jesus then sat down and continued to teach the crowds. When He was done, He spoke to Peter again, saying . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 5:4 (NIRV) and read.

“Go out into deep water. Let down the nets so you can catch some fish.

“I’m sure Peter was confused by Jesus’ request. After all, he and his friends had been fishing all night, and they hadn’t caught ANYTHING. But Peter did what Jesus said. He went out into the deep water and set out the fishing nets.”

Stand up, still inside the raft. Throw the net out of the back of the raft, holding it with one hand while still facing forward toward the audience.

A MIRACULOUS CATCH

LEADER: “The nets filled with SO many fish that they began to burst!

Act as though the net is now extremely heavy, turning to grab it with both hands.

“Peter motioned to James and John to bring their boat over, too.

Let go of the net with one hand and wave your hand in the air.

“Together, they began to pull in all the fish. But both boats were so full of fish that they began to sink! Uh-oh!

Quickly but appearing to use much effort, pull the net into the raft. Act like you’re tossing fish out of the net to keep the raft from sinking.

“Peter realized just how powerful Jesus really was. He didn’t feel worthy to be near Jesus. He threw himself down at Jesus’ feet and said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 5:8 (NIRV) and read.

“Go away from me, Lord! . . . I am a sinful man!”

“Jesus reassured Peter by saying . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 5:10 (NIRV) and read.

“Don’t be afraid. From now on you will fish for people.

Step out of the raft.

“Right away, Peter, James, and John hauled their boats up on shore and left everything to follow Jesus.

Move back to the table. Remove the three stick figures from the first foam block then stick them into the other foam block. Put the “INCLUDED” sign in front of this second foam block.

“Jesus had included these ordinary fishermen as His close friends and disciples.”

JESUS AND MATTHEW

LEADER: “Jesus wasn’t finished calling His disciples. One day, He stopped at a booth where a man named Levi was collecting taxes.

Hold up the Matthew stick figure, then stick it into the first foam block behind the “LEFT OUT” sign.

“Levi was also known as Matthew, which is what we’ll call him today.

“Now, you’ve got to understand, NO ONE talked to a tax collector unless they had to. These men were hired to collect taxes from their own people for the Roman government—the enemies.

Hold up the stack of fake money.

“They would charge extra and keep it for themselves. Tax collectors like Matthew were definitely ‘left out,’ because they were NOT popular with the people.

Set down the stack of fake money.

“But Jesus walked right up to Matthew at his tax booth and said, ‘Follow me.’ (Luke 5:27, NIV)

Wave your hand in the air, as though you’re saying, “Come with me.”

“Jesus wanted Matthew to be included!

Move the Matthew stick figure to the “INCLUDED” foam block.

“Sure enough, Matthew got up from his tax booth and left everything to follow Jesus. Matthew was so excited that he even invited Jesus to come to a dinner party at his house!

Hold up the pizza box.

“They probably didn’t have pizza, but you get the idea. At Matthew’s home, Jesus shared a meal with tax collectors and others who were seen as outcasts.

Set down the pizza box.

“The religious leaders were shocked. They complained to Jesus’ disciples, asking them . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 5:30 (NirV) and read.

“Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

“Jesus answered them this way.

Open the Bible to Luke 5:31-32 (NirV) and read.

“Healthy people don’t need a doctor. Sick people do. I have not come to get those who think they are right with God to follow me. I have come to get sinners to turn away from their sins.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “Jesus wasn’t worried about what other people thought. He chose to include EVERYONE—even people who weren’t considered important.

Toss the “LEFT OUT” foam block to the side. Hold up the “INCLUDED” block with the four stick figures.

“Jesus chose to spend His time with people who saw how much they needed Him—instead of those, like the religious leaders, who thought they were too good and too important to need help. Jesus showed how we can do this.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Include people who are left out.

“That’s not always the easiest choice to make, so let’s ask God to help us.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

Video (Media Package): BIBLE STORY

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for the life and teachings of Jesus. Jesus’ example shows us that we should **[Bottom Line] include people who are left out**. Sometimes, that’s hard to do, but we know that You’re there to help us! Please give us the courage to show respect to everyone and show others how valuable they are—especially those who might be overlooked. Like Jesus did, help us welcome people who are left out. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “Jesus chose to include people who others overlooked. From people like fishermen to tax collectors, Jesus chose them to be His closest friends—His disciples.

SLIDE: God’s Big Story Timeline

SLIDE: Week 1 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.

"Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Include people who are left out. Say that with me."

LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] "Include people who are left out."

LEADER: "Like Jesus did, we can show others they're important with our words and our actions. That might look like inviting the new kid to sit with you on the bus. It could be picking the kid with the broken arm to be on your team in P.E. Or maybe it looks like including your little brother or sister when your friends are over to hang out and play video games.

"It can help to think about how it feels when YOU'RE the one who's left out. Then just remember what we always say in here. **[Basic Truth]** I should treat others the way I want to be treated. That will help you know how to include people who are left out!

"Did you know that idea comes from the Bible? Check it out. This is our memory verse for this month, Luke 6:31. It's something Jesus said to do.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

"Do to others as you want them to do to you. (Luke 6:31, NIV)"

"What a great way to figure out how to treat others with respect! Let's head to Small Group and chat some more about it. Just no more traffic jams on the way!

AUDIO: Traffic sounds

"Like I said, no more traffic jams!

AUDIO: Traffic sounds stop

"That's better. Now let's get moving!"

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
- Chairs (one per kid)
- Two blindfolds

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Traffic Sounds (provided)

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- God's Big Story Timeline Slide
- Week 1 Timeline Image Slide
- Week 1 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 the traffic sound effect and have it ready to use.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play. *Note: Legally a song belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. Usually, but not always, PROs give general permission for performances in worship services. We recommend you obtain permission from the PRO representing the song or the publisher of the song you wish to play. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. For a list of PROs in your part of the world: www.iamusic.com. Look at the copyright on the CD or sheet music to discover the PRO or publisher of the song. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song.*
- 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.

- Figure out where you can set up chairs on opposite sides of the room, with cleared floor space in between. If you don't normally use chairs for Large Group, you can pre-set the chairs with half of the them against one wall and the other half against the opposite wall.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

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

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- "Everything to Me" Dance Moves Music Video (available through the 252 Media Package)

What You Do:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use. *Note: Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:*
"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe
©2000 Good Music Co.
CCLI License # 0000
- 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
- "Disciple Faces" printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF and cut out
- Four bamboo skewer sticks
- Tape
- Two large foam blocks (big enough that you can fit all four skewer sticks)
- "LEFT OUT" and "INCLUDED" signs (tent style)
- Fishing net
- Inflatable raft
- Stack of fake money
- Pizza box

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- "Disciple Faces" (printable)

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.
- Print the "Disciple Faces" on cardstock and cut out each one. Tape each face to a bamboo skewer stick.
- Create "LEFT OUT" and "INCLUDED" signs (tent style)

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 *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

Supplemental Resources

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

MONTHLY WIDGET*: Respect Fridge Magnet

Each month, we offer a unique item that helps kids and families apply what they're learning at home. Available at Store.ThinkOrange.com.

***widg-et [wij-it]** –noun

1. Something unspecific whose name is either forgotten or not known.
2. A device that is very useful for a particular job

Origin: 1925–30; perhaps an alternative form of gadget

We could all use a reminder to “ride with respect.” That’s why this magnetic license plate is the perfect addition to your fridge. Families can talk about different ways they can show others they’re important by what they say and do. Based on their discussion, they’ll think of a word to be their challenge of the week, spell that word on the license plate (in a cool shorthand way!), then put the magnet on the fridge so everyone remembers to live out the challenge word each day. Includes the license plate magnet as well as a page of reusable vinyl letters.