

Today's Suggested Schedule—February 2023, Week 2

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: All About Love (Love Your Enemies) • *Matthew 5:43-47*

Today's Bottom Line: Show respect even when you don't get along.

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 ("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: SGL Says

Application Activity: Not-So-Perfect Pairs

Memory Verse Activity: Human Racecar

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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Leader enters.

Video (Media Package): Countdown

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: "Hey, everyone! It's great to see you all here at [your environment's name]. I've got a question for you. Have you ever thought about why we park in a driveway but drive on a parkway? *(Pause for response.)* I know. I know. It's a mystery. And it's one I've been thinking about since this month is all about Road Rules.

"You see, when you're driving, it's super-important to 'ride with respect.' In fact, God made us to show respect to people. no matter WHAT we're doing.

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Virtue

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

Video (Media Package): Virtue Transition to Theme

"When you're driving, you show respect to others by following the speed limit . . . watching out for pedestrians . . . and of course, paying attention and showing kindness to the other drivers. You also have to pay attention to the road signs!

"Today I've got a game that will REQUIRE you to pay attention to the road signs. It's life-sized 'Road Sign Memory'!

Walk over to the grid of printed Road Sign Memory Cards, which should be pre-set, face down, on the floor.

“One by one, you’ll come up and flip over two cards to see if you find a match. If not, you’ll sit down and wait for your next turn. But remember to pay attention to what others turn over so you have better luck getting a match next time.

“If you get a match, your turn is still over, but you get to take the matching pair of cards back to your seat. At the end, the person with the most matches, wins.

“Let’s see how well you can remember your road signs!

AUDIO: Fun instrumental music

Bring up the kids one by one. Let each kid pick two cards. Make sure the kid holds up the cards so that everyone can see them. If they don’t get a match, make sure they put the cards back down the way they were before. If they do get a match, they can take the pair of cards back to their seat, but it’s the next person’s turn.

Comment on the road signs and what you’d do for each one (especially for the ones kids might not be familiar with, like yield).

When all matches have been revealed, ask the kids to raise their hand if they have one match then keep their hand raised if they have two matches, and so on until you find a winner. Then congratulate the winner and collect all of the cards.

“Nice job of remembering those road signs—or at least where to find them! I can tell that you’ll all be great, respectful drivers someday. Everybody, up on your feet. Let’s worship God together!”

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

WORSHIP

LEADER: “We know we should show respect to others. But the truth is, sometimes that takes a lot of courage. It takes courage to be a friend to your classmate who’s always left out. If you’re not getting along with someone, it takes courage to be the first one to show respect. The great news is that Jesus is there to help us. Those things that seem too big to handle on your own? Not a problem when we look to Jesus! Let’s sing out and praise Him together.

Video: “Brave”

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“It’s so true—we’re not alone! And as we follow Jesus, He helps us to grow so we can be more and more like Him. It’s like what Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:10. ‘We are God’s creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.’ (NIRV) Let’s lift our voices and thank God for helping us to be better . . . and teaching us how to grow!

Video: “A Better Me”

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“What a great reminder that we’re not alone! God is there to help us show respect. You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

After the last song ends, take some time to set out the Bible Story Memory Cards on the floor, in a two-by-five grid pattern. Make sure the cards are mixed up and not in order. You can do this where you had the memory game in the Opener.

It's okay to set out the cards wordlessly, because this will make the kids curious about what's about to happen as you tell the story.

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: *(as you set down the last card)* “There we go! Perfect. I had so much fun playing ‘Road Sign Memory’ earlier that I thought we could do the same kind of thing with today’s story!”

(Hold up Bible.) “We’ve been making our way through the Bible this year, and now we’re here in the New Testament, in the books known as the Gospels. These are the books where we can learn about Jesus’ life.

“When Jesus grew up, He began to travel from town to town, teaching and healing. Everywhere Jesus went, huge crowds gathered—because Jesus spoke with more authority than any teacher ever had before!”

JESUS’ TEACHINGS

LEADER: “One day, Jesus sat down on a hillside to teach His disciples. He said many amazing things that day. Today, we call His message ‘The Sermon on the Mount.’

“Jesus said that people who are sad, humble, or suffering . . .

Pick up card #1 (“SAD, HUMBLE, SUFFERING”) and hold it up so the kids can see it.

“Are actually BLESSED.

Pick up card #2 (“BLESSED”) and hold it up so the kids can see it.

Set the two “matching cards” on the table.

“Jesus said . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:4-10 (NirV) and read.

“Blessed are those who are sad. They will be comforted . . . Blessed are those who make peace. They will be called children of God. Blessed are those who suffer for doing what is right. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

“Jesus also taught that when we do good things that make a difference in others’ lives . . .

Pick up card #3 (thumbs up) and hold it up so the kids can see it.

“We are like a light shining in the darkness.

Pick up card #4 (light) and hold it up so the kids can see it.

“We can show how good God is by the way we treat other people.”

Set the two “matching cards” on the table.

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

LEADER: “Then Jesus went on to say that when our enemies treat us badly . . .

Pick up card #5 (“ENEMIES”) and hold it up so the kids can see it.

“We shouldn’t try to get back at them. We should try to LOVE them.

Pick up card #6 (“LOVE”) and hold it up so the kids can see it.

Set the two “matching cards” on the table.

“This is how Jesus said it.

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:43-44 (NirV) and read.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor. Hate your enemy.’ But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you.

“Wow! It’s hard for us to even imagine what a big deal it was for Jesus to say that we should love our enemies.

Hold up the “LOVE” and “ENEMIES” cards again.

“Up until this point, most wise teachers and even the religious leaders had agreed that you shouldn’t hurt someone . . . UNLESS they had hurt you first. Then you had every right to get back at them. If they said something mean to you, then you could shout something just as mean back at them.

“But Jesus taught a new way of understanding. He taught that we should LOVE our enemies—and even pray for them!”

Set the two cards back on the table.

WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE

LEADER: “Now, it’s easy to think of your enemy as a ‘bad guy’ or a villain in a movie. But really, each of us can end up doing things that cause hurt or pain to someone else. When someone does something that hurts our feelings or makes us mad, it can FEEL like that person is an enemy.

“Like if one of your classmates cuts ahead of you in line.

Pick up card #7 (surprised face) and hold it up so the kids can see it.

“Or if you’re trying to do your homework, but your little brother keeps singing an annoying song—even though you’ve asked him not to!

Pick up card #8 (annoyed face) and hold it up so the kids can see it.

Set the two “matching cards” on the table.

“Loving your enemy is simply loving ANYONE you don’t get along with. And that kind of love is more than a warm, fuzzy feeling. You don’t have to FEEL loving to love your enemies. In fact, you probably won’t.

“But you can still take action. You can SPEAK kind words.

Pick up card #9 (“SPEAK”) and hold it up so the kids can see it.

“Let’s be honest. If someone says something mean to you, you might FEEL like saying something mean back, or grumbling and complaining about the person when they can’t hear you. But instead, you could speak to them, kindly and calmly, and ask them not to say those kinds of things to you. You could even tell them, ‘We don’t have to be mean to each other. Maybe we could even be friends—if you want.’

“Remember that you can talk to a parent or another trusted adult to know what to say if the person continues to treat you badly. You may even need to stay away from that person. But the important thing is to not make the problem worse by trying to get back at them.

“Remember also what Jesus said we can do. We can PRAY for the person who’s hurt us.

Pick up card #10 (“PRAY”) and hold it up so the kids can see it.

“We can always talk to God about what’s going on. We can ask God to help the person see what happens when they treat people badly, and to help them make a different choice the next time. We can also ask God to help us forgive someone who has hurt us.”

Set the two “matching cards” on the table.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

Hold up the “LOVE” and “ENEMIES” cards again (cards #5 and #6).

LEADER: “Love your enemies. That’s what Jesus said to do. And I know it can be really difficult. But remember, Jesus is there to help us!

Set the two cards back on the table.

“When we show respect and do good things for those who don’t treat us well, we’re actually showing the world what God is like. Remember, God ALWAYS loves us, even when we mess up! Each person is made in the image of God—even the person that we’re having trouble with.

“Jesus’ challenge to His disciples that day is also a big challenge to us—and a huge way that we can show others that they’re important and valuable.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Show respect even when you don’t get along.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us with that.”

Video (Media Package): Bible Story (Story Lab)

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for the way Jesus taught us how to live. We want to follow His example of showing respect to others, even when we don’t get along. But if we’re being honest, that can be really, really hard. Please help each of us in here find ways to show love to the people in our lives, even when we don’t get along. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “Jesus taught that we should love our enemies.

SLIDE: God's Big Story Timeline

SLIDE: Week 2 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.

“That means that even when we don't get along with someone, we should do everything we can to respond with love. We can do that with our words and actions.

“We can speak kind words that could make a bad situation better. We can let the person know that we still respect them, even if we don't agree with them . . . or even if we're mad at them. We can PRAY and ask God to help us get along with the person, even when it might seem impossible for us to do that on our own.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Show respect even when you don't get along. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Show respect even when you don't get along.”

LEADER: “Remember, we're not in this alone. When we follow Jesus, we have God's Holy Spirit living inside us. God's Spirit can help us love our enemies, even when it's difficult.

“And there's one really important thing to remember in all this respect stuff. If someone mistreats you, you should definitely tell them it's not okay. No one should be able to KEEP treating you badly. You can always ask an adult for help if you don't know what to do. It could be that ‘loving your enemies’ means that you choose NOT to get back at someone for what they've done to you.

“It pretty much comes down to something we say in here all the time. **[Basic Truth]** I should treat others the way I want to be treated. And remember, Jesus Himself said that, which we can find in our memory verse for this month, Luke 6:31.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

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

“Let's head to Small Group now and keep talking about how we can show respect when we don't get along!”

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
- "Road Sign Memory Cards" printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF (two of each card; see "What You Do")
- Week 2 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
- Fun instrumental music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- "Road Sign Memory Cards" (printable)
- God's Big Story Timeline Slide
- Week 2 Timeline Image Slide
- Week 2 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 two each of the "Road Sign Memory Cards" on cardstock. We've provided 20 different cards, meaning you can have a grid of up to 40 cards in your room (i.e. eight across by five down). If you want the game to go faster, you can use fewer pages, but you'll want to have at least as many pairs as you have kids in the room (i.e., 20 cards for 10 kids). That way, everyone will be guaranteed to have at least one turn.

- Mix the cards and set them out in a grid pattern on the floor in an area separate from where the kids normally sit.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- “Brave” from *Everything to Me*
- “A Better Me” from *Everything to Me*

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
- “Bible Story Memory Cards” printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Pen, to number the cards on the back (see “What You Do”)
- Table

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Bible Story Memory Cards (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 10 “Bible Story Memory Cards” on cardstock. Write a small number on the back of each card, as designated in the script, so that you’ll be able to find the cards easily and pick them up in order as you tell the story.
- Mix the cards before you lay them out for the story.

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