

## Today's Suggested Schedule—February 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:** God Is God (A Roman Commander Has Faith) • *Matthew 8:5-13*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Remember God is most important.

**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 can trust God no matter what.

### **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 "Everything to 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: Course Map  
Application Activity: Remote Control  
Memory Verse Activity: Stoplight Bop  
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 can trust God no matter what.

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

*Leader enters, carrying the red, yellow, and green pieces of paper and the printed Road Hazard Signs.*

**Optional Video (Media Package): Countdown**

**Optional Video (Media Package): Theme**

### **OPENER**

**LEADER:** "What's going on, my fellow travelers? It's been an incredible month on the road with all of you. We've been talking about the rules of the road and finding out how we can 'ride with respect.'"

"Can anyone tell me what respect means? *(Pause for response.)*"

**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**

"If you're driving down the street, it's important that you respect the rules of the road . . . or else you might bump into something or get a ticket! Today, we'll see just how well you can 'ride with respect' with a little twist on the game 'Red Light, Green Light.'"

"All of you will line up behind the starting line over there and listen for me to call out directions. When I say 'Green light,' that means you can walk NOT run toward me, and try to cross the finish line. You must have a foot on the ground at all times. But when I say, 'Red light,' that means you have to stop immediately. If you keep going for even a half a second longer and I see you, you'll be out. But if I say 'Yellow light,' you can start moving again, but only in slow motion. *(Demonstrate.)*"

"Here's one twist on the game. I'll hold up a sign that either has a red light, green light, or yellow light. And the sign may or may not match what I say! But you need to follow the stoplights, even if I SAY something different. Tricky, right?"

“And the other twist is this: If I call you out for not following the stoplights, then you need to come take one of these ‘Road Hazard’ signs (*hold one up*) and sit somewhere in the middle of our playing area. If you want, you can even sit right in front of someone who’s still in the game to make it extra challenging for them. Ha!

“To recap, green light (*hold up the green paper*), go; red light (*hold up the red paper*), stop; and yellow light (*hold up the yellow paper*), slow motion. Follow the signs, NOT my verbal cues. And if you get out, grab a ‘Road Hazard’ sign, and you can sit in the middle and be . . . well, a road hazard. Got it?

“Everyone, line up behind the starting line. Let’s play ‘Red Light, Green Light, Twist!’

**AUDIO: Fun instrumental music**

*As you play the game, hold up the pieces of colored paper and call out directions. Most of the time, match what you say to the color you hold up. But occasionally, try to trick the kids by holding up a color that’s different from the one you call out.*

*Make sure you don’t stay on “green light” for too long so that the game isn’t over too quickly. Pay close attention to see who messes up and give them signs so they can become “road hazards.”*

*As soon as one kid crosses the finish line, the game is over. If you have time, you can let everyone back in the game and play another round.*

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

“You all are great at following the rules of the road. Even when you messed up and had to be a road hazard, you showed respect for the rules of the game. So, way to go! Now, everyone jump to your feet. Let’s keep the fun going as we worship God together!”

## WORSHIP

**LEADER:** “Each day, we can live with respect and show others they’re important. That’s what Jesus does for us. We know that Jesus loves us and that He’s always with us! So, we can be brave when we face obstacles in our lives. Jesus Himself said, ‘In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.’ (*John 16:33, NIV*) I DO feel so encouraged when I remember that Jesus is with me—and He’s bigger than anything I might face. Let’s sing this song to worship Him!

**Video: “Brave”**

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

“Before we continue in worship, let’s watch this.

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

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

“We can show respect to others when we first remember how much God loves us. God made each of us special and SO very valuable. God is there through anything we face in life—the good times and the tough times. Let’s sing now and tell God, ‘You’re everything to me.’ Here we go!

**Video (Media Package): “Everything to Me” Dance Moves Music Video**

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

“I love to sing and praise God with you! You can have a seat.”

## BIBLE STORY

### SETTING UP THE STORY

*If you're using a timeline of printed images on the wall, you can reference it here.*

**LEADER:** “Over the past few months, we’ve been making our way through God’s Big Story—all the way through the Bible! (*Hold up Bible.*) We’re now in the New Testament. We’re finding out how Jesus lived and how He showed love to everyone He met.

“Jesus spent His time traveling from town to town, teaching and healing people along the way. The town of Capernaum was like His home base. Everyone there knew about Jesus—not just the Jewish people, but also the Romans, who were in charge at the time. One of the Romans who knew about Jesus was a commander in the Roman army.

“You’re not going to believe this, but we actually have this Roman commander here today. I figure we can interview him about his conversation with Jesus.

“Please welcome . . . the commander!”

*The “commander” enters the room. He nods and looks serious but still friendly.*

### A MAN WHO COULDN’T WALK

**LEADER:** “Hello, commander. I’m so glad you could join us today! I know you have an important job commanding at least 100 soldiers.”

**COMMANDER:** “Yes, indeed I do. In fact, it looks like I see some of them out there. You (*pointing to all of the kids*), stand at attention. Now, drop and give me ten! That’s right, ten push-ups!

*Pause while the kids do this. (Note: The tone of this should be lighthearted and fun—not scary for little kids.)*

“Okay, at ease, soldiers. Back in your seats.”

**LEADER:** “Wow, that was impressive. So yes, as you can see, our friend the commander here has a lot of authority. Anything he commands his soldiers to do, they do—no questions asked.

(*to the commander*) “I was just about to start telling these kids—I mean, soldiers—about the time you met Jesus. But since you’re here, I can just interview you, if that’s okay. (*Pause.*) I mean, permission to interview you, sir?”

**COMMANDER:** “Permission granted.”

**LEADER:** “So I understand that you had a sick servant at home, is that correct?”

**COMMANDER:** “Ten-four.”

**LEADER:** “I heard that this man was so sick that he couldn’t move. So he was suffering pretty badly.”

**COMMANDER:** “Affirmative.”

**LEADER:** “Then you came to ask Jesus for help. And He offered to come and heal your servant?”

**COMMANDER:** “Yes, [sir or ma’am].”

**LEADER:** “Wow, that must have been pretty awesome to have Jesus, the Son of God, offer to come and help! What did you say to Him?”

### THE COMMANDER’S RESPONSE

**COMMANDER:** “It’s actually written down right here. *(Hold up Bible.)* I said to Jesus . . .

*Commander opens the Bible to Matthew 8:8-9 (NIRV) and reads.*

*“Lord, I am not good enough to have you come into my house. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.”*

*Leader looks like he’s about to speak, then the commander continues.*

*“I myself am a man under authority. And I have soldiers who obey my orders. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes. I tell that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes.”*

**LEADER:** “It sounds like you really understand how authority works, Mr. Commander. You know that when you give a command, you speak with the power of the Roman emperor, and that command is carried out right away.

*Commander nods.*

“So you knew that Jesus’ power and authority were so great that all Jesus had to do was speak a word, from anywhere, and your servant would be healed!”

**COMMANDER:** “Exactly.”

### HEALING FROM AFAR

**LEADER:** “I imagine that Jesus must have been pretty amazed by your faith. Actually, I think we know what Jesus said because it’s right there in the Bible. Permission to read from the Bible, sir?”

**COMMANDER:** *(Hand the Bible over.)* “Permission granted.”

**LEADER:** “Jesus turned to His followers who were there and said . . .

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:10 (NIRV) and read.*

*“What I’m about to tell you is true. In Israel I have not found anyone whose faith is so strong.”*

“Nice job, Mr. Commander! Then Jesus said to you . . .

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:13 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.”*

**COMMANDER:** “That’s right.”

**LEADER:** “And your friend, your servant, was healed immediately.”

**COMMANDER:** “Immediately.”

**LEADER:** “Jesus didn’t even have to go to your house.”

**COMMANDER:** “He didn’t even have to go to my house.”

**LEADER:** “Incredible! Hey, Mr. Commander, thank you so much for coming to share your story with us today.”

**COMMANDER:** *(nodding)* “Of course.”

*The commander waves and leaves the stage.*

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**LEADER:** “Okay, we’re having some fun with this story today, but everything you just heard really did happen. Jesus did heal the servant of the commander—from far away! And the commander? He knew there was something special about Jesus. He had respect for Jesus as the greatest authority of all: the Son of God.

“As we’ve seen, God can do the impossible with a single word. God is all-powerful AND all-loving. That means God deserves our ultimate respect. We should put God first in everything we do.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “Remember God is most important.

“Let’s talk to God about that now.”

**Video (Media Package): Bible Story (StoryLab)**

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

### **PRAY**

**LEADER:** “Dear God, You ARE the most important! You are the one we should respect and honor more than anything or anyone in this world. And You’ve given us the ultimate example of how we can treat people with love and kindness. Help us live in a way that makes it clear that You are the most important part of our lives. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## **CLOSER**

**LEADER:** “That was a really impressive story, wasn’t it? The commander came to Jesus because he believed that Jesus could heal his servant. The commander had so much respect for Jesus and His authority that he knew Jesus could heal his servant with a single word—without even entering his house!

**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.*

“Our lives are full of all kinds of good things. But nothing is better or more important than our relationship with God. We should put God first, above everything else!

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “Remember God is most important. Say that with me.”

**LEADER and KIDS:** **[Bottom Line]** “Remember God is most important.”

**LEADER:** “One great way that you can put God first is by taking time to pray. You can talk to God when you wake up . . . when you’re feeling scared . . . when you’re happy . . . when you go to bed at night, or just any time you want. God is ALWAYS there to hear you.

“No matter what challenges you face, whether it’s a tough math test or if someone you love is sick, God is the One who can give you the strength, patience, and peace you need to get through your day. God sent Jesus to be our Savior and teach us how to live, by loving God and loving others. It’s clear that God deserves our ultimate respect.

“Let’s head to Small Group to talk about how we can make sure we put God first in our lives!”

*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
- Masking or gaffer's tape
- Three sheets of construction paper: one red, one yellow, one green
- Several copies of the "Road Hazard Sign" printed from the LG Assets PDF (roughly one per kid)
- 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
- Fun instrumental music for the game

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- "Road Hazard Sign" (printable)
- 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.
- 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](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com).
- Clear a large area of the room to make a playing field for the game. Tape a start line on one side of the room and a finish line on the other.
- Print multiple copies of "Road Hazard Sign." Basically, you need enough for one per kid minus one (the winner).

## 2. Worship

### What You Need:

- Leader(s)

### Music and Sound Effects:

- “Brave” from *Everything to Me*
- “Everything to 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.
- Dance Moves Music Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://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](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com).

## 3. Bible Story

### What You Need:

- Leader
- Bible
- Adult volunteer (male) to play the role of the Roman commander
- Costume for the commander (can be an elaborate Roman gladiator-type costume or just a simple robe with a helmet)
- Printed script for the volunteer playing the commander
- Music stand

### 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.
- Choose a volunteer with a commanding presence to play the commander. The majority of the speaking for this person will be simple responses to the Leader’s questions, but the volunteer should be able to convey authority.
- Have a printed script on a music stand as a quick reference for the volunteer.
- If possible, rehearse ahead of time with the volunteer playing the commander, so you can get the timing down.

## Video Enhancements for Your Environment

*Available for additional purchase at [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://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