

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 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: Life Changes (Zacchaeus) • *Luke 19:1-10*

Today's Bottom Line: When you forgive others, it can change them.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.* Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

Monthly Virtue: Forgiveness—deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

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 ("Love Like You" from *Make a Move* and "Love One Another" from *Make a Move*)

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Tree Toppers

Application Activity: Broken and Mended

Memory Verse Activity: Before and After

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: "What's up, everyone? It's a great day to be here at [your environment's name] as we continue the fun we started last week. But if you missed last week, don't worry—I forgive you. Kidding! Of course, you don't need my forgiveness for that, but we ARE going to talk about forgiveness today."

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Virtue

"Forgiveness means deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay."

Video (Media Package): Virtue Transition to Theme

"When you forgive someone, it's like you're giving them a do-over . . . a chance to rewrite the story . . . a chance to restore the friendship. I think we all need a do-over from time to time, right?"

"I've got a game today where you get to finish your own work-in-progress!"

Turn the three easels around so the kids can see the identical drawings or paintings.

"Let's get three volunteers to come up and try this first one."

Bring three volunteers up and assign each of them to an easel. Make sure the easels are angled so the volunteers can't see each other's progress but the kids in the audience can.

(to the three volunteers) “Each of these easels has a [drawing/painting] that’s just getting started. At this point, it might just look like a blob or a mistake, but I bet you artists can think of a way to turn what you see into something completely new. You get to restore these works-in-progress and turn them into real works of art!

“You’ve got 30 seconds. On your mark, get set, go!

Video (Media Package): Countdown (30-second version)

If you’re not using a screen countdown, set a 30-second timer on your phone.

Encourage the volunteers as you observe their artwork.

“Time’s up! Let’s see what each of you [drew/painted], and see how your masterpieces compare to each other.

Comment on each person’s artwork, praising each kid’s effort and asking questions (“Is that a . . . ?”).

“Let’s play another round, shall we? (to the three volunteers) Nice work, friends. You can have a seat while I pick three new volunteers.

Bring up three new kid volunteers and flip to the next page on the three easel pads. This will have a new work-in-progress drawing or painting that the kids can make into a work of art.

Video (Media Package): Countdown (30-second version)

If time allows, play a third round with three new kid volunteers.

Video (Media Package): Countdown (30-second version)

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“Awesome job, artists! You turned those works-in-progress into some amazing new works of art, and they were all so different!

“Now, everyone up on your feet so we can sing and worship our God who always gives us forgiveness and a fresh, new start.”

WORSHIP

LEADER: “We can love and forgive others because God loves and forgives US! That’s what this first song is all about. It says, ‘We want to love like You in everything we do.’ Let’s sing it!

Video: “Love Like You”

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“When we love others the way God loves us, we show the world a love like no other—a love that can only come from God! That reminds me of what Jesus said in John 13:35, ‘If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples.’ (NIV) Let’s sing and tell God that we’ll choose to love one another.

Video: “Love One Another”

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“Awesome, everyone! I love singing about God’s love with you. You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: (*Hold up Bible.*) “We’re picking back up in God’s Big Story, which we’ve been following all the way from the very beginning.

If you’re using a timeline of story images on the wall, reference it here.

“At this point in the story, Jesus, the promised Savior, had arrived! Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and when He grew up, He traveled from town to town, teaching and healing people. Everywhere Jesus went, crowds of people came to see Him—religious leaders, everyday people, and even people who were considered outcasts.”

ZACCHAEUS THE TAX COLLECTOR

LEADER: “One day, Jesus and His followers were on their way to Jerusalem, and they passed through the town of Jericho. As usual, a huge crowd gathered to see Jesus. They pressed in from all sides along the road, hoping to see Jesus, hear what He had to say, and for some, be healed of their sickness.

“But one man was stuck on the edge of the crowd: a tax collector named Zacchaeus.

“Can I get someone up here to play Zacchaeus for me?

Bring up a volunteer, preferably a young boy but someone you think will be comfortable acting in front of everyone.

“Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, which meant he was very rich.

Give Zacchaeus the fancy robe, sunglasses, necklaces, etc.

(to “Zacchaeus”) “Here you go, Zacchaeus. You can put on these things. (to audience) While Zacchaeus is doing that, everyone pass around this basket and take out some money.

Pass around the basket of toy gold coins.

“Now, there’s something you’ve got to understand about tax collectors like Zacchaeus. They were not well-liked by the other people in town. Tax collectors worked for the Roman government that was ruling over the Jewish people at the time. Tax collectors like Zacchaeus collected people’s money that they owed to the government.

(to “Zacchaeus”) “Go ahead, Zacchaeus. You can walk around and collect some money from everyone.

Prompt the boy to go around and collect some (but not all) of the coins from the other kids. Give him a collection bag already partially filled with extra coins.

“To make matters worse, tax collectors often demanded EXTRA money that they kept for themselves!

(to “Zacchaeus”) “Well Zacchaeus, I guess that means you need to go take the rest of their money, too.

Prompt the boy to go around and collect any remaining coins from the other kids.

“Basically, Zacchaeus had gotten rich by taking money from his neighbors! But get this. Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to town, and he really, REALLY wanted a chance to see Jesus. But this was a challenge for Zacchaeus, because he was short . . . and the crowd was very large.

Set out the small step ladder decorated as a “tree.”

“So what did Zacchaeus do? He climbed a sycamore-fig tree so he could see Jesus coming by.”

Help the kid climb the step ladder. (Be sure to “spot” him even if he’s only climbing a step or two.)

ZACCHAEUS MEETS JESUS

LEADER: “When Jesus was right below Zacchaeus, He looked up!

Look up at “Zacchaeus.”

“Jesus knew about everything Zacchaeus had done—including the way he had taken extra money from the people. Jesus could have ignored Zacchaeus, or even called him out in front of everyone for the wrong things he had done. But instead, Jesus called Zacchaeus’s name . . . and spoke kindly to him.

“Jesus said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 19:5 (NIRV) and read.

“Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today.”

ZACCHAEUS CHANGES

LEADER: “Zacchaeus’ heart must have been filled with joy as he climbed down the tree and rushed ahead to prepare his home for Jesus.

Help the kid down the ladder. Point to the dinner table and cue him to walk to it.

“As Jesus approached Zacchaeus’ house, many people had followed. They couldn’t believe that Jesus would choose to hang out with someone who had done so many wrong things. They whispered among themselves, saying . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 19:7 (NIRV) and read.

“Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

Sit down at the table with Zacchaeus.

“Zacchaeus was amazed at the love Jesus had shown him, and he knew he couldn’t keep on living his old life. Listen to what happened next.

Open the Bible to Luke 19:8 (NIRV) and read.

“Zacchaeus stood up.

Pause and wait for the kid to stand up.

“He said, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took.’”

“Wow! So Zacchaeus promised to give away half of what he had to people who were living in poverty. Then he also promised to pay back FOUR TIMES the amount of money he had taken from people!

“Listen to what Jesus then said to Zacchaeus.

Open the Bible to Luke 19:9 (NIRV) and read.

“Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham’s family line. The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them.

“Incredible! Jesus had forgiven Zacchaeus for what he had done wrong. (to “Zacchaeus”) Zacchaeus, you’re a changed man! Time to return that money!

Cue “Zacchaeus” to head out to the crowd and give the coins back to the other kids, including the extra coins that were already in the bag before. Cue him to keep going until he’s given away ALL of the coins in the bag. Then motion for him to come back to the front.

“Look at that. Zacchaeus didn’t just give back what he had taken from the people. Remember, he gave back four times the amount! Zacchaeus had changed, and he wanted to make things right.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “In a single day, Zacchaeus went from being an outcast to a beloved follower of Jesus! His entire life was changed because of Jesus’ love and forgiveness.

“Zacchaeus promised to give away half of what he had . . . plus four times the amount he had cheated and taken from anyone. That might have been nearly all the money he had! But that didn’t matter to Zacchaeus, because Jesus had forgiven him completely.

“We can see this in Zacchaeus’s life in a big way.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “When you forgive others, it can change them.

(to the kid playing Zacchaeus) “[Volunteer’s name], you did such a great job of playing Zacchaeus. You can put your props back in here, then head back to your seat.

Collect the kid’s props in the box.

(to audience) “Everyone else, you can put your coins in this box, too.

Give the kids a chance to put their coins in the box.

“Thanks, friends! Let’s pray and talk to God about how forgiveness can change us.”

Video (Media Package): Bible Story

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus so we can be forgiven. Thank You for allowing us to share Your forgiveness with other people, too. Your forgiveness completely changed Zacchaeus and made him want to live a different kind of life by treating others with love and making things right with them. Please help each of us in this room be willing to forgive, because we know how Your forgiveness has changed us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “As a chief tax collector, Zacchaeus had spent most of his life taking from others. But when Jesus forgave him, Zacchaeus changed!”

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.

“He went from taking from others to giving most of his money away. It was all because of the way Jesus loved him and FORGAVE him.

“Forgiveness can do that. It can change people.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “When you forgive others, it can change them. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “When you forgive others, it can change them.”

LEADER: “I know it's true that God's forgiveness has changed me! When you ask God to forgive you, it frees you from carrying around feelings of guilt and fear. Forgiveness sets you free and allows you to love God and love others.

“I know it makes ME feel so good when someone is willing to forgive me. Forgiveness is an amazing way to **[Basic Truth]** treat others the way you want to be treated!

“Of course, forgiving others doesn't mean that the other person WILL change, but it offers them the opportunity to change. It gives them a chance to choose to live differently.

“Our memory verse for this month comes from Paul's letter to the Colossians. It reminds us why it's so important that we forgive. Here it is, Colossians 3:13.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13, NIRV)

“Let's head to Small Group and talk more about how God can help us forgive!”

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 easels, each with a large pad of paper
- Either colorful markers, washable finger paint, or washable paint with brushes
- Leader's phone
- Hand wipes for the kids to clean up, if needed
- 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 music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- 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.
- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software such as ProPresenter® have a countdown clock built into the program that you can overlay on a still image.*
- 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.

- Ahead of time, draw or paint a different image (more accurately, a part of an image) on each easel pad. Do the same thing on the second and third page of all three easel pads. Each easel should have the same three drawings or paintings. The image will look different based on what kind of medium you use, but try to create things that look like mistakes or unfinished art, like two thirds of a triangle, or a couple of splats of paint.
- Place the easel pads on the easels. Angle the pads so that the audience can see all three of them, but the artists can't easily see each other's work.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Love Like You" from *Make a Move*
- "Love One Another" from *Make a Move*

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
- Kid volunteer to play Zacchaeus
- Bible
- Toy gold coins (about five per kid plus extras to go in the basket)
- Prop box containing:
 - Costume for Zacchaeus (fancy robe, sunglasses, large faux gold necklaces, etc.)
 - Bag (such as a reusable shopping bag) partially filled with toy gold coins
 - Basket with additional gold coins that you'll pass out to the kids
- Step ladder decorated as a tree (see "What You Do")
- Table set up with two place settings, fake food, etc. (can even be empty fast food bags, etc.)
- Two dining chairs

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.
- Decorate the step ladder to resemble a tree. You can simply move a ficus tree or large house plant in front of the step ladder. You can use fake foliage or green and brown tissue paper taped on the ladder, or tape a craft paper "tree" to the front of the ladder. Place the step ladder on the stage but out of the way for the Opener and Worship.

- Move the table and chairs onto the stage, but out of the way for the Opener and Worship. Set out the place settings, fake food, etc.
- Place the remaining props in the prop box.

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