# TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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

This Is Me

Esther Esther

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God created you for a purpose.

# MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Lord, you are great. You are really worthy of praise. No one can completely understand how great you are. Psalm 145:3, NIrV

# MONTHLY LIFE APP

Creativity—Imagining what you could do because you're made in God's image

# **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**



# **SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

Early Arriver Opening Activity

## **LARGE GROUP**

**35** 

# STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship ("Know You More" from Can't Stop, Won't Stop and "Follow You" from Can't Stop, Won't Stop)

Bible Story

**Bottom Line** 

Prayer

Closer

# **SMALL GROUP**



#### **GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

Bible Story Review: Your Majesty, May I?

Application Activity: Spoonball

Memory Verse Activity: Creative Verse, Week 3

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

# **HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience**

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
GodTime devotional for kids
Studio252.tv
Parent Cue App

THREE
AUGUST 2020

K-5

STARTER

**PRELUDE** 

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

**GROUPS** 

**HOME** 

25 MINUTES

**10 MINUTES** 

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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# MONTHLY LIFE APP

Creativity—Imagining what you could do because you're made in God's image

## **BASIC TRUTH**

I can trust God no matter what.

# LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

**SLIDE: THEME** 

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Leader enters with lots of energy and enthusiasm.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND

**VERSION**)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

#### **OPENER**

**LEADER:** "Hi, everybody! I'm so happy to be back with you in [your environment's name]. We've had a great month so far uncovering all the ways we can be creative and seeing how God wants to use our creativity in the world around us.

SLIDE: LIFE APP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Creativity is imagining what you could do because you're made in God's image.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"God's creativity is limitless. And since we're made in God's image, we can be creative, too.

"Just look at God's creation; He has made some crazy and amazing things. Sometimes even the things we think are pretty obvious or normal have a purpose we wouldn't expect.

#### SLIDE: PHOTO OF A DRY DOG

"For example, did you know dogs have really loose skin? Any idea why? (Pause to listen to their guesses.) Well, have you ever seen a WET dog? If you have, you might know why the loose skin is helpful.

SLIDE: PHOTO OF A WET DOG SHAKING OFF WATER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

"A wet dog can shake off 70 percent of the water from its fur in just FOUR seconds, because the loose skin moves so fast!

"Or what about another one of God's creations: the butterfly?

#### SLIDE: PHOTO OF A BUTTERFLY IN FLIGHT

"Did you know butterflies have feet? But they don't use their feet for walking like we do. Does anyone know what they use their feet for? (Pause to listen to their guesses.) Well, look at this.

#### SLIDE: PHOTO OF A BUTTERFLY ON A FLOWER

"Butterflies have feet so they can taste their food! Their feet have special sensors that allow them to taste anything they land on! Crazy, right?

#### SLIDE: THEME

#### OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

"God's creativity is really mind-blowing. It's indescribable! And since God made us to be like Him, we can be creative, too. Let's prove that right now with a game. It's Team A (indicate one half of the room) versus Team B (indicate the other half of the room).

Hand a dry erase board and dry erase marker to each team. Pick up the plastic bin full of objects.

"Inside this bin, I have a few different objects. Each of these objects has a pretty specific purpose. But today your team gets to imagine some OTHER creative ways you could put them to use. I'll pull out an object and give it to each team, and you'll have 30 seconds to come up with as many creative uses for that object as you can.

"Write your ideas on your board, and work quietly, so the other team can't hear you. Then when time's up, we'll take turns having each team present their ideas. Team A will present an idea, then Team B has to present a different idea, and so on. If you have the same idea as the other team, you have to cross that one out. It doesn't count.

"We'll keep going until you've shared all your ideas, and then we'll count up how many original ideas each team wrote down. The more creative ideas you come up with, the greater chance you have to win.

"Let's get started. Our first object is . . . a paper clip!

Pull out the paper clips and hand one to each team.

"You've got 30 seconds to come up with some original uses for this paper clip, other than the obvious one—clipping papers together. Ready, set, go!

Set a 30-second timer on your phone for each round.

## **AUDIO: UPBEAT MUSIC**

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30-SECOND VERSION), FOR EACH ROUND

THREE
AUGUST 2020

K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

"Three . . . two . . . one . . . time's up! Markers down. Team A, you're up first. Show us how you can use that paper clip.

Allow the teams to take turns presenting their ideas. Encourage them to act out the "new uses" with great enthusiasm. After each team has shared their ideas, have them count up their unique answers—omitting any that both teams had in common. Have each team write their points from each round in the top corner of their board. Gather the objects from each round before you hand out the new ones.

Repeat the process with the remaining objects (switching which team goes first each round). After the third round is over, add up both teams' points and declare the winner.

## OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

"Wow! You all continue to blow me away with your creativity! I never would have thought there were so many creative purposes for a paper clip or a rubber band. Way to go!

"We can be creative because we're made that way by our amazing Creator. Our God can do ANYTHING! He's bigger and stronger and more powerful than we can even imagine. Let's sing and worship Him together."

THREE
AUGUST 2020

K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

# WORSHIP

**LEADER:** "God made everything we can see—including each one of us. And it gets even better, because He made human beings to KNOW Him. God wants to have a relationship with each one of us. Let's worship Him now and tell Him that we want to live our lives to know Him more!

## AUDIO: "KNOW YOU MORE" / TRACK 6 FROM CAN'T STOP, WON'T STOP

"When we get to know God better, we can follow His plans for our lives. He wants us to follow Him because He can see things we CAN'T see. Listen to these words that God spoke through the prophet Isaiah: "My thoughts are not like your thoughts. And your ways are not like my ways," announces the Lord. "The heavens are higher than the earth. And my ways are higher than your ways. My thoughts are higher than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9, NIrV). Our God is good, and [Basic Truth] we can trust Him no matter what. Let's sing to Him now."

AUDIO: "FOLLOW YOU" / TRACK 5 FROM CAN'T STOP, WON'T STOP

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**25 MINUTES** 

### **BIBLE STORY**

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

#### **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**LEADER:** "It's true that **[Basic Truth]** we can trust **God no matter what.** We can trust His plans for our lives. But that can be tricky, since we don't always know what big plans God has for us.

"Esther's story is a great example of how God can work through us in unexpected ways. We can read Esther's story in the Bible (hold up the Bible) in the book of . . . any guesses? (Pause to let them respond.) Yes, Esther!

"As we talk about Esther's story today, I'll need some help from some of you, so be prepared. In fact, to start out, who wants to play Esther?

Bring up an older girl volunteer.

"Esther was the queen of Persia, but she didn't become queen in the usual way. Her father wasn't a king, and she wasn't from an important family.

"In fact, Esther was Jewish. Many of God's people had been captured and brought to Babylon when their home, Judah, was conquered. Then, Babylon was taken over by Persia. So Esther grew up in a land, Persia, that wasn't her own. When Esther's parents died, her cousin Mordecai raised her as his own daughter.

"Anyone want to play Mordecai?"

Bring up a boy volunteer and give him the fake gray beard.

# **ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN**

**LEADER:** "At the time our story takes place, a man named Xerxes was king of Persia. Let's see . . . who wants to be King Xerxes?

Bring up an older boy to play King Xerxes. Give him the king's crown and scepter.

"Xerxes got angry and fired his queen, Vashti, simply because she refused to show up for a wild party. Xerxes, can you banish the former queen with your scepter?

Prompt the king to wave the scepter angrily.

"Yikes! Well, after that, the king decided to hold a contest to find a new queen. He ordered his officials to gather the most beautiful young women from throughout the empire—one of whom was Esther. (Reference the girl playing Esther.) Mordecai warned Esther not to tell anyone she was from a Jewish family.

Prompt Mordecai to "warn" Esther by waving his finger.

"The king ordered that the young women should be put through an entire year of beauty treatments. Let's see . . . beauty treatments . . . what do I have in here?

**PRELUDE** 

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

**GROUPS** 

HOME

**25 MINUTES** 

Rummage around the box and pull out the plastic bin, cucumber slices, spray bottle, and towel.

(To Esther) "Here, Esther, let's get you a chair.

Pull over one of the chairs. Have Esther sit and put her feet in the plastic bin.

"Let's get these on your eyes.

Have Esther tilt her head back a bit and put the cucumbers on her closed eyes.

"Now, what do I do with this?

Look at the spray bottle and then shrug your shoulders. Spray it in the air above Esther's face (but not directly at her).

(To audience) "Honestly, this seems exhausting. But finally the year was up, and the king began to have the young women brought to him, one at a time.

(To Esther) "Esther, the king is ready to see you now. Let's get you dried off.

Take the cucumbers off Esther's face, remove her feet from the bin, and give her a towel to pretend to dry off. Then have her stand up, and put the robe around her shoulders.

"When the king saw Esther, he liked her more than any of the others. He chose her as his queen in place of Vashti. (To Xerxes) King Xerxes, that means you need to crown your queen."

Hand the queen's crown to Xerxes so he can put it on Esther.

#### **HAMAN'S EVIL PLOT**

**LEADER:** "King Xerxes also raised up a royal official named Haman to be higher than any of the other nobles. You know what that means. I need another volunteer to play Haman.

Bring up an older boy to be Haman. Give him the fake mustache and the top hat.

"Since Haman had such an important position, all of the other royal officials were supposed to bow down to him. (Pause.) Go ahead, all you royal officials—you can stand up and bow.

Cue the kids in the audience to stand up and bow before Haman.

"Good. Now have a seat.

"There was one man who refused to bow to Haman: Mordecai. (Reference the kid playing Mordecai.) Mordecai knew that he should only bow to God—not to a person. Some of the other officials told Haman about this, and Haman was MAD! He found out that Mordecai was Jewish, and he made a plan to destroy not only Mordecai, but also all of the other Jewish people in the land. (To Haman) Haman, you should probably twirl your mustache as you think about your evil plan.

HREE
GUST 2020

LARGE GROUP

K-5

STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**25 MINUTES** 

Haman twirls his mustache.

"Haman went to King Xerxes. (Move Haman and Xerxes together.) Haman told the king that there was a group of people who lived separately from everyone else in his kingdom, and they didn't obey the king's laws. Haman offered to destroy this group of people for the king.

"King Xerxes agreed, and he sent out a decree.

Hand the rolled-up paper to Xerxes and cue him to unroll it.

"The order decreed that all the Jewish people must be killed. (Pause.) Not good.

"Mordecai and all the Jewish people throughout the kingdom were terrified. Queen Esther heard that Mordecai was upset, so she sent one of her servants to find out what was wrong.

"The servant returned with a message from Mordecai, . . .

Hand the envelope to Esther.

". . . which explained what Haman had done. All of the Jewish people were soon to be killed! Mordecai wanted Esther to do something about it. He asked her to go before the king and beg him to save their people.

"Esther responded to Mordecai.

Hand the envelope to Mordecai.

"She reminded him of the law that no one could go before the king unless the king sent for them first. If Esther approached the king without being summoned, she could be killed . . . unless the king reached out his golden scepter to her.

"Mordecai had another message for Esther.

Hand the envelope to Esther.

"Listen to what he said.

Open the Bible to Esther 4:14 (NIrV) and read.

"What if you don't say anything at this time? Then help for the Jews will come from another place. . . . Who knows? It's possible that you became queen for a time just like this.

"Esther realized that Mordecai was right. She sent another message to him.

Hand the envelope to Mordecai.

"She asked him to gather the Jewish people and tell them not to eat anything for three days. She and her attendants would do the same thing. Then she would go to the king."

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**25 MINUTES** 

#### **ESTHER AND THE KING**

**LEADER:** "On the third day, Queen Esther put on her royal robes and entered the throne room. And—shocker—King Xerxes wasn't mad! He was happy to see Esther. He reached out toward her with his golden scepter.

Prompt Xerxes to hold out the scepter toward Esther.

"King Xerxes told Esther he would give her anything—up to half of the kingdom. But Esther's request was simple. She invited the king and Haman to a feast. Esther, why don't you lead the king and Haman to the feast?

Cue Esther, Xerxes, and Haman to go over to the table and sit down. (Make sure they're all facing the audience.) Place the pizza box on the table.

"Esther didn't make her plea to the king right away; she knew she would have a better chance if she made the king curious.

"Sure enough, at the meal, King Xerxes again tried to discover what Esther wanted. But Esther held her ground, waiting for the perfect moment. She invited the king and Haman to come to another feast the NEXT day—then she'd answer. The king agreed, and the men left.

Clear your throat to prompt Xerxes and Haman to get up.

(To Xerxes and Haman) "Don't go too far, you two. (To audience) The next night, King Xerxes and Haman again came to the feast Esther had prepared.

Have Xerxes and Haman sit down at the table again. Place the pizza box on the table again.

"Finally, at that meal, Esther revealed her request to the king. She told King Xerxes about the evil plot to kill off her people. The king demanded to know who would do such a thing. Esther told him it was Haman! The king was furious . . . and that very night, Haman was killed. Okay, we don't have to act that part out. But that's what happened—and King Xerxes created a new order that saved the Jewish people.

Hand the other rolled-up paper to Xerxes. Cue him to unroll it.

"We won't be needing that old one anymore.

Hold up the trash can and cue him to throw the old decree away.

"Let's give our volunteers a hand. (To volunteers) You all can drop your props here and then head back to your seats. Great job, everyone."

Collect the props and dismiss the volunteers to their seats.

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**LEADER:** "Esther wasn't the most likely choice to become queen of Persia. But God had a very important purpose for her. When the time was right, she used the position God had given her as queen to save her people.

LARGE GROUP

K-5

2020

STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**25 MINUTES** 

"God has a purpose for each one of us, too. You might not always be able to see exactly what it is. But you can trust that He does have a purpose for you. There's a reason why He's put you with the people you see every day. There's a reason why He's given you gifts, talents, and opportunities—and, of course, your creativity—so you can make a difference.

"Remember:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"God created you for a purpose.

"Let's pray and ask God to help us live out the purpose and plan He has for our lives."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

## PRAY

**LEADER:** "Dear God, thank You for creating each one of us with a purpose. Help us to keep following after You and following Your plans for our lives. Help us **[Basic Truth]** make the wise choice and choose to live Your way each and every day. We know that You've placed us in different situations for a reason—so we can use the creativity You've given us to help others. Help us to trust You and make the most of every opportunity You give us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**25 MINUTES** 

## **CLOSER**

**LEADER:** "God gave Esther an opportunity to do something important—an opportunity that no one else had. As queen, SHE could be the one to speak up and save her people from death. Talk about a purpose!

"Later on, God would send His own Son with an even bigger purpose: to save the entire world. Because Jesus came to be our Savior, we can have a relationship with God that will last forever!

"Remember that God has a purpose for you, too. Sometimes it can be tough to see it. You might wonder why certain things happen in your life—especially when it's something you didn't expect. Even then, remember that God may be giving you an opportunity to do something important. He may be giving you a chance to use your creativity to do something that really matters.

#### **SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

"God created you for a purpose. Say that with me."

LEADER AND KIDS: "God created you for a purpose."

**LEADER:** "If you're trying to figure out what YOUR purpose might be, here's something that might help. Pay attention to the gifts God has given you. Think about the ways He's made you unique. Think about the kinds of creativity He's shared with you.

"Think about the things that excite you. Or think about the things that make you sad—the things you really want to try to fix. Maybe you have the skills and ideas to help solve them. Maybe there's someone who needs the kind of help only you can offer.

"God created you for a purpose. You can spend your whole life learning and growing and discovering more and more about what He's made you to do.

"Let's dig a little deeper in Small Group and talk about what God's purpose might be for each of us."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

**SLIDE: THEME** 

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

K-5

STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

# **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
- Two dry erase boards with dry erase markers
- Plastic bin containing:
  - Two paper clips
  - Two toothbrushes
  - Two rubber bands
- Leader's phone

#### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat music to use during the game

# LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
- Life App Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Week 3 Opener Photos:
  - Photo of a dry dog
  - Photo of a wet dog shaking off water
  - Photo of a butterfly in flight
  - Photo of a butterfly on a flower

# OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH THE 252 MEDIA PACKAGE):

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Life App
- Life App 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. Think Orange.com.

# 2. WORSHIP

# WHAT YOU NEED:

• Leader(s)

## MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "Know You More" from Can't Stop, Won't Stop
- "Follow You" from Can't Stop, Won't Stop

#### 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. Think Orange.com.
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. The Dance Moves Music Video for the monthly worship song is included in the package. For more information, visit Store. ThinkOrange.com.

## 3. BIBLE STORY

# WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader
- Four kid volunteers (one girl and three boys)
- Bible

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

# **GETTING READY**

## HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

- Prop box containing:
  - Two crowns (one for a king and one for a queen)
  - Scepter (or something to represent one)
  - Fake gray beard
  - Plastic bin (to represent a foot bath)
  - Two cucumber slices (in a plastic bag)
  - Spray bottle with water
  - Towel
  - Bathrobe (or other kind of "royal" robe)
  - Fake mustache
  - Top hat
  - Two pieces of paper, rolled up and tied with ribbon or string
  - One sealed envelope with "MESSAGE" written on the front
- Table
- Three chairs
- Empty pizza box
- Trash can

### 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.
- Place the props in the box and place it on the stage, but out of the way for the Opener and Worship.
- Set up the table and chairs on or somewhere near the stage, but also out of the way. Make sure the chairs are facing the audience.

#### **VIDEO ENHANCEMENTS FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT**

AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AT STORE.THINKORANGE.COM.

**FEATURE PRESENTATION:** Everything you need to pull off a dynamic weekly Large Group 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):

- 252 Story brings you the Bible story in a simple and direct way through a professional Storyteller accompanied by engaging visuals.
- Also included: Intro and Outro videos with a character Host. The Intros set up the Bible story, while the Outros connect the story to the weekly Bottom Line. These videos are interchangeable with the live Opener and Closer, so you can use them to bookend either a live Storyteller or 252 Story.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

 In The So & So Show, two Hosts 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 2.0:** 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
- Life App and monthly widget promo videos (M.C. Haggis)
- Countdown videos (30 and 60 seconds)
- Music videos for original songs that highlight each Life App
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday