



PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

WEEK **FIVE** JANUARY 2023

LARGE GROUP **K-5** STARTER

## 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

**Help Me**  
John the Baptist in Prison  
Matthew 11:1-6 (James 1:5)

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

If you don't understand something, ask.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth."  
Proverbs 2:6, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

### BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

### 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**  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

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

Welcome/Opener  
Worship ("A Better Me" from *Everything to Me* and "I Run to You" from *Make a Move*)  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
Prayer  
Closer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

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

Bible Story Review: The Big Five  
Application Activity: Who Knows?  
Memory Verse Activity: One, Two, Three, Go!  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)  
Devotionals for Kids  
Parent Cue App



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WEEK **FIVE** JANUARY 2023

LARGE GROUP **K-5** STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Help Me
John the Baptist in Prison
Matthew 11:1-6 (James 1:5)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

If you don't understand something, ask.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth."
Proverbs 2:6, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

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.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

LEADER: "Hi, everyone! I'm so glad to see all your faces here for our last week of Think Tank! We've been putting our knowledge to the test with our own versions of some fun TV game shows. It's all part of the fun as we talk about why it's important to find knowledge.

SLIDE: VIRTUE
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Knowledge is learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do.

SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"We can grow in knowledge at school, at sports, or in music . . . and we can definitely grow in our knowledge of God! The more we know about God, the more we can GROW in our relationship with God.

"We've got an awesome game to test your knowledge today. It's our version of 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.'

AUDIO: "OPENING THEME" (FROM WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE) BY KEITH AND MATTHEW STRACHAN

"The difference is that we don't have a million dollars to give away to the winner. But I'll tell you what we DO have: bragging rights!

"For this game show, you'll need to know your animated movie facts. We'll need a team of three people to answer a series of questions correctly. Who wants to play?"



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WEEK  
**FIVE**  
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**K-5**  
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

*Bring up three volunteers and have them sit in the chairs.*

(to contestants) "Okay, contestants. There are nine questions in this game, and you'll take turns answering the questions. As a group, you have three lifelines you can use. You only get to use each lifeline ONE time. So choose your timing and your lifeline carefully, because the questions will just get harder as you go!

"There's the "50-50" lifeline, in which I'll remove two of the answer options, leaving you with just two choices.

"You can 'phone a friend' lifeline, in which case you actually get to phone [my friend, church pastor, Storyteller, Small Group Leader, etc.] and see if they can help you with the question.

"Then there's the 'ask the audience' lifeline, which allows you to poll the audience and see what they think is the answer.

"Okay, let's start with round one, player one, [kid's name]. Let's see if these brave contestants can answer all nine questions correctly to win. (to contestants) Remember, these questions only get trickier, so don't use up your lifelines too soon!

*Note: Read the questions from the printed script.*

"Question One: [Kid's name], what is the name of Kristoff's reindeer friend in Frozen? Is it:

**SLIDE: GAME SHOW ANSWER SLIDE 1**

- A. Sam,
- B. Anna,
- C. Sven,** or
- D. Frederik?

*When the kid answers, ask, "Is that your FINAL answer?" Congratulate them if their answer is correct. (If they get the answer wrong, let the next kid answer. Don't worry about eliminating anyone. Just let the game be fun.)*

*Let the three kids take turns answering the questions.*

*If the kid wants to use the 50/50 lifeline, you'll need to choose two answers to verbally eliminate since there isn't a slide for this option.*

*If they want to use the "phone a friend" lifeline, actually call the person you've chosen, and put the phone on speaker. (Make sure this person is available and ready to take a call.)*

*If they want to use the "ask the audience" lifeline, let the audience shout out what letter they think is correct. Try to figure out the consensus choice, and tell that to the contestant.*

*Go through the remaining questions in the same way.*



WEEK  
**FIVE**  
JANUARY 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**K-5**  
STARTER

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“Question Two: We don’t talk about . . . who?”

**SLIDE: GAME SHOW ANSWER SLIDE 2**

- A. Felix
- B. Oscar
- C. Gertrude
- D. Bruno**

“Question Three: Which of the following kinds of animals is NOT in the movie Sing?”

**SLIDE: GAME SHOW ANSWER SLIDE 3**

- A. Worm**
- B. Elephant
- C. Koala
- D. Porcupine

“Question Four: What is the name of the dog in the movie Up?”

**SLIDE: GAME SHOW ANSWER SLIDE 4**

- A. Bob
- B. Dug**
- C. Squirrel
- D. Carl

“Question Five: In the movie Tangled, what is the main horse’s name?”

**SLIDE: GAME SHOW ANSWER SLIDE 5**

- A. Marian
- B. Maximus**
- C. Matteo
- D. Marlin

“Question Six: In what country does the movie Luca take place?”

**SLIDE: GAME SHOW ANSWER SLIDE 6**

- A. Italy**
- B. Mexico
- C. Spain
- D. Japan

“Question Seven: In the movie, The Secret Life of Pets, what kind of animal is Snowball?”



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JANUARY 2023

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25 MINUTES      10 MINUTES

**SLIDE: GAME SHOW ANSWER SLIDE 7**

- A. Kitten
- B. Guinea Pig
- C. Rabbit**
- D. Parakeet

“Question Eight: In the movie, Despicable Me, what are the names of the three main girls?”

**SLIDE: GAME SHOW ANSWER SLIDE 8**

- A. Hannah, Evan, Lily
- B. Julie, Sarah, Courtney
- C. Margo, Edith, Agnes**
- D. Sam, Veronica, Charlie

“Question Nine: In the movie, Shrek, which song is played in the opening scene?”

**SLIDE: GAME SHOW ANSWER SLIDE 9**

- A. “Firework”
- B. “Call Me Maybe”
- C. “We Will Rock You”
- D. “All Star”**

*After the last question, congratulate the three contestants and dismiss them to their seats.*

**SLIDE: THEME**

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

“Way to go, everyone! I know all of you were guessing what the answers were, just like our friends up on stage. Thanks for making all of our ‘Think Tank’ games a blast this month! Now let’s keep the fun going! On your feet for worship!”



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10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

**LEADER:** "Before we sing, let's check out this video together."

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE):** [LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL](#)

"With God's help, we can gain knowledge so we can get better at whatever we do. God is always there to teach us and help us grow. Let's sing this song to celebrate how God helps us. Here we go!"

**AUDIO:** ["A BETTER ME" / TRACK 2 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME](#)

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE):** ["A BETTER ME" DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO](#)

"Even while we're learning and growing, sometimes we face questions that we don't know the answers to. In those times, it's good to know that we can turn to God. ALL knowledge and wisdom come from God in the first place. That's what it says in our memory verse for this month, Proverbs 2:6. Say it with me."

**SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE**

**LEADER AND KIDS:** *"The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth." (Proverbs 2:6, NIV)*

**LEADER:** "That's right! Let's sing out and tell God how thankful we are to have a God that we can run to!"

**AUDIO:** ["I RUN TO YOU" / TRACK 6 FROM MAKE A MOVE](#)

"Great singing, everyone! You can have a seat."



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**FIVE**  
JANUARY 2023

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**K-5**  
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**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

25 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Use

*SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND*

*Place the prop box on the table.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** "As we pick up God's Big Story today, we're taking a look in the first book of the New Testament—Matthew. (*Hold up Bible.*) First though, let's look at where we've been so far.

"In the very beginning, out of a deep, deep love, God made an amazing world!

*Pull out the globe from the prop box and set it on the table.*

"When people turned away from God, the world was broken. But God had a plan to make things right. God sent a baby to be born in the small town of Bethlehem—God's very own Son, Jesus!

*Pull out one of the baby dolls and set it on the table.*

"Before Jesus was born, God sent another special baby to a priest named Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. This baby was John.

*Pull out the other baby doll and set it on the table.*

"Even before John was born, an angel told his father, Zechariah, that John would point people to God. And that's exactly what happened!"

### JOHN: THE RECAP

**LEADER:** "John grew up and became a . . . unique kind of guy.

*Put the baby dolls back in the prop box.*

"He wore rough clothing made from camel hair.

*Pull out the cloth and set on the table.*

"He ate crunchy locusts . . .

*Pull out the fake grasshoppers and make a face as you set them on the table.*

". . . and honey from wild bees.

*Pull out the bottle of honey. Squeeze some on your finger to taste it.*

"Now THAT I could handle!



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**FIVE**  
JANUARY 2023

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**K-5**  
STARTER

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

25 MINUTES

“John preached to crowds by the Jordan River, calling them to turn back to God and telling them about the Rescuer who was to come. John also baptized people.

*Pull out the container of water and remove the lid. Scoop some up with your hands and let it fall back into the bowl. Then put the lid back on the container, and dry off your hands with the towel from the prop box.*

“As you might remember, John even baptized Jesus! Jesus came out of the water, and God’s Holy Spirit came down like a dove and rested on Him. A voice from heaven said . . .

*Open the Bible to Matthew 3:17 (NIRV) and read.*

*“This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him.*

“Around this time, Jesus went out to the desert to spend time alone with God. After Jesus returned, He began to gather followers and teach and heal people. John gladly pointed his own disciples to follow Jesus instead.

“Do you remember what John said about Jesus?

*Pick up the megaphone. Open the Bible to John 3:30 (NIRV) and read into the megaphone.*

*“He must become more important. I must become less important.”*

*Set the megaphone on the table.*

**JOHN THROWN IN PRISON**

**LEADER:** “John didn’t stop his own teaching, though. He still spoke the truth—even to powerful leaders. In fact, John went head-to-head with King Herod, the ruler who the Romans had put in charge.

*Pull out the crown and place it on the table.*

“John told King Herod that he had broken God’s laws. As you can imagine, this didn’t go over very well with Herod. In fact, Herod was so angry that he had John thrown in prison!

*Pull out the “jail bars” and hold them in front of your face.*

“Poor John was stuck behind bars. He heard little pieces of news from the outside world when his followers were allowed to visit him. One thing he DID hear was that Jesus was teaching and healing people!”

*Set down the “jail bars.”*

**JOHN QUESTIONS JESUS**

**LEADER:** “John started to get discouraged as he waited there in prison . . . month after month after month.

*Pull out the calendar and flip through a few months.*





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WEEK FIVE JANUARY 2023

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

"Maybe John wondered . . .

Pull out the question mark sign and hold it up for each question.

"When is Jesus going to start getting rid of the Romans? What about that new kingdom that's supposed to come? If Jesus is really the Messiah, why am I still stuck here?"

"John wanted to be sure that everything he'd believed about Jesus was still true. So he sent his followers to Jesus with a question.

"These followers asked Jesus . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 11:3 (NIRV) and read while holding up the question mark sign.

"Are you the one who is supposed to come? Or should we look for someone else?"

"Jesus told John's followers to go back to John and report to him about what they had seen and heard. Jesus said . . .

Set down the question mark sign and pick up the exclamation point sign. Open the Bible to Matthew 11:5-6 (NIRV) and read while holding up the exclamation point sign.

"Blind people receive sight. Disabled people walk. Those who have skin diseases are made 'clean.' Deaf people hear. Those who are dead are raised to life. And the good news is preached to those who are poor. Blessed is anyone who does not give up their faith because of me.

"We don't know exactly how John responded when he received this compassionate message from Jesus. But we can imagine how John must have been comforted by the fact that Jesus wasn't angry or annoyed about his questions.

Set down the exclamation point sign and hold up the question mark sign.

"Now he knew for sure that Jesus still cared about him . . . and hadn't forgotten him."

Move in front of the table as you wrap up.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: "When things don't go our way, we can easily forget what's true. We can forget the things that we've seen and heard. We can get confused when things don't go the way we expect.

"John had questions when he was stuck in prison. He needed to know that everything he had been working for was still true. He needed to know that Jesus really was the Messiah . . . so he asked! And Jesus answered him.

"It's important to know that we can ALWAYS go to God with our questions. We can talk to God if we have questions about what we believe. We can pray and ask God for the wisdom we need.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"If you don't understand something, ask.



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WEEK FIVE JANUARY 2023

LARGE GROUP K-5 STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

“Jesus’ own brother, James, once wrote this.

Open the Bible to James 1:5 (NirV) and read.

“If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you.

“Isn’t it good to know that we can always talk to God about our questions? Let’s pray and thank God for that now.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, You created everything and You know everything. But You also don’t mind when we have questions and doubts. Thank You for being there to listen when there’s something we don’t understand. It’s so good to know that we can come to You with any of our questions. Please help us remember that we can ALWAYS talk to You and [Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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JANUARY 2023

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**K-5**  
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**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

25 MINUTES

## CLOSER

**LEADER:** “John was in a tough situation. He had been doing GOOD things—following God and preparing the way for Jesus—then he was thrown in prison! John needed some reassurance to know that Jesus was really the Messiah.

**SLIDE: GOD’S BIG STORY TIMELINE**

**SLIDE: WEEK 5 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.*

“But Jesus didn’t have a problem with John’s questions. In fact, Jesus took the time to send answers back to John, to make sure John knew that He really is the Son of God.

“All of us have things that we don’t understand.

*Hold up the question mark sign.*

“But when we have questions, we don’t have to be afraid to talk to God about them. God will welcome all of our questions with love and compassion.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**“If you don’t understand something, ask.** Say that with me.”

**LEADER AND KIDS: “If you don’t understand something, ask.”**

**LEADER:** “Yes—God is there to help us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.** God can help us grow in knowledge so that we know more ABOUT God and we can live God’s way, every day.

“And don’t forget, if you have questions, you can also talk to the people God has put in your life—like me, your Small Group Leader, your parents or grandparents, or anyone you know who has been following God for a while. Sometimes God gives us wisdom through other people who have been following God for longer than we have. So don’t be afraid to ask!

“In fact, you can start asking some of your questions in just a minute, because it’s time to head over to Small Group. Let’s go!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

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

**SLIDE: THEME**

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



PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

WEEK FIVE JANUARY 2023

LARGE GROUP 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
• Three chairs
• Leader's phone
• Someone who's available to answer the phone for the "phone a friend" lifeline (see "What You Do")
• Printed script, for reference
• Question mark sign (from the Bible story)
• Week 5 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
• "Opening Theme" (from Who Wants to Be a Millionaire) by Keith and Matthew Strachan

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
• Virtue Slide
• Theme Background Slide
• Bottom Line Slide
• Game Show Answer Slides
• God's Big Story Timeline Slide
• Week 5 Timeline Image Slide
• Week 5 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.
• Ask someone to be available to answer the phone if a kid wants to use the "phone a friend" lifeline. It would be ideal if this could be someone the kids know like a church pastor, Storyteller, or one of the Small Group Leaders in the room. Or it could be a local celebrity if you have any connections! Just make sure this person is available and ready to take the call during the time frame of Large Group.

2. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader(s)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "A Better Me" from Everything to Me
• "I Run to You" from Make a Move

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Memory Verse Slide

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- Live Loud Video from Get Reel (available through the 252 Media Package)
• "A Better Me" Dance Moves Music Video (available through the 252 Media Package)



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WEEK FIVE JANUARY 2023

LARGE GROUP K-5 STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

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

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
Table
Prop box, containing:
Globe
Two baby dolls (boys, if possible)
Some sort of rough/hairy cloth
Several fake grasshoppers
Bottle of honey
Large container of water with a lid
Towel
Plastic megaphone
Crown
Jail bars (see What You Do)
Wall calendar
Question mark sign (on posterboard)
Exclamation point sign (on posterboard)

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.
For the jail bars, you can buy cardboard ones to stand on the table, such as these: https://bit.ly/3P9zlxH; or simply use two PVC pipes.

- Decorate the question mark sign and exclamation point signs with lots of color. These signs should look cool and memorable so that the kids remember the importance of asking questions to gain knowledge.

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)



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**K-5**  
STARTER

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

## GETTING READY

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

### 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



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SMALL GROUP **K-5** STARTER

## 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

#### Help Me

John the Baptist in Prison  
Matthew 11:1-6 (James 1:5)

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

If you don't understand something, ask.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth."  
Proverbs 2:6, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

### BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

### 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**  
MIN

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

Early Arriver  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
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#### **STORY:** Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP:** Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener  
Worship  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
Prayer  
Closer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

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

Bible Story Review: The Big Five  
Application Activity: Who Knows?  
Memory Verse Activity: One, Two, Three, Go!  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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**K-5**  
STARTER

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



*Before kids arrive, pray for your few that as the "rubber meets the road," they will start to put what they know about God into practice. Ask God to meet kids where they are when they have questions about Him. Pray that kids would be encouraged today to share their questions about God with those who might be able to answer them and that they would learn more about God by asking their questions.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Help Me

John the Baptist in Prison  
Matthew 11:1-6 (James 1:5)

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container and small object

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Welcome kids by name to Small Group.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- As kids arrive, play a hiding game.
- Direct one kid to close their eyes.
- Quietly hide a small object somewhere in the room.
- Instruct the kid to open their eyes and try to find the object.
- Invite the rest of the group to help them by saying "warm" or "cold" when the kid is closer to or farther from the object.
- When the kid finds the object, direct them to choose another kid to go next.
- Direct the next kid to close their eyes as the kid who found the object hides it.
- Play as long as time allows.

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**If you don't understand something, ask.**

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"The Lord gives wisdom.  
Knowledge and understanding  
come from his mouth."  
Proverbs 2:6, NIV**

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I need to make the wise choice.**





PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

WEEK FIVE JANUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP K-5 STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Play a guessing game.
• Choose one kid to go first.
• Instruct that kid to think of a person, place, or thing.
• Direct the rest of the group to ask up to 20 "yes or no" questions to discover the answer.
• Instruct the kid who guesses the correct answer to come up with the next person, place, or thing.
• Play as long as time allows.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Some of these were easy to guess, but some of these took a lot of questions! [Transition] Let's go hear about one important question in our Bible story today."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Help Me

John the Baptist in Prison
Matthew 11:1-6 (James 1:5)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

WEEK FIVE JANUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP K-5 STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



1. THE BIG FIVE [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared inflated balloons, markers, music player, and music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to stand in a circle.
Make sure one of the questions is written on each balloon (Who? What? Where? When? Why?).
Start the music.
Instruct the kids to keep all five balloons in the air while the music plays.
Stop the music.
Direct the kid closest to each balloon to grab it.
Set out the markers.
Instruct the kids who have a balloon to answer the question on their balloon in regards to the Bible story.
'Who?' could be answered with Jesus, John the Baptist, John's followers, King Herod, the crowd, etc.
'Where?' could be answered with the wilderness, the palace, jail, the Jordan River, in the crowd, etc.
'What?' could be answered with baptism, locusts, honey, questions, laws, etc.
'When?' could be answered with Bible times, when Jesus was healing people, when John was in jail, when Herod was king, after Jesus grew up, etc.
'Why?' could be answered with to point the way to Jesus, to baptize people, to heal people, to ask Jesus, to help John, etc.
Once everyone has said and written an answer, start the music again.
Play a few rounds and make sure everyone has a chance to write on at least two balloons.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Help Me

John the Baptist in Prison Matthew 11:1-6 (James 1:5)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

If you don't understand something, ask.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

'The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.' Proverbs 2:6, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

'You've probably all heard these big five questions before: Who, What, When, Where, Why? You got to answer some of them from our Bible story today. John had a big WHO question, but it was really a WHY question. He sent his followers to ask if Jesus was really the Messiah. But he wanted to know if he'd done what God had told him to do and Jesus was going to rescue His people. He wanted to know why he was stuck in jail and why he was going through such a difficult time. He wanted to know why, if Jesus is REAL and God LOVES us, do bad things happen?

'I've had that question before, and I'd guess that you have, too. (Raise your hand and encourage kids to do the same.) In fact, everyone I've ever known, and probably everyone you know, has had that question. And there are no easy answers. That's hard to understand.



PUT YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE  
TO THE TEST

WEEK  
**FIVE**  
JANUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP  
**K-5**  
STARTER

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (1. THE BIG FIVE, CONTINUED)

“But the great thing is that even with this big question, and all the questions you’ll have about big subjects as you grow up, **if you don’t understand something, ask.** God is not upset about that question or any other. You can ask God anything. You may not get an answer the way you want, but God may send a friend to talk with you or put a verse on your mind. He might remind you of a song or story or remind you of the Holy Spirit’s presence. Just remember that **if you don’t understand something, ask.**”



PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

WEEK FIVE JANUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP K-5 STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



\*2. WHO KNOWS?

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Who Knows?" and "Who Knows? Answers" Activity Pages; pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the "Who Knows?" Activity Page and pens or pencils. Keep the "Who Knows? Answers" Activity Page to yourself. One by one, read through the questions on the grid of the "Who Knows?" Activity Page and ask the kids if they know the answer. If a kid knows that answer, let them sign that square. See if you have enough kids, leaders, etc., to have each person sign only one square. Otherwise, try to limit kids to signing two squares maximum.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Help Me

John the Baptist in Prison Matthew 11:1-6 (James 1:5)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

If you don't understand something, ask.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"We have a lot of knowledge in this group! You all know important things and some not so important things. How did you get all this knowledge? (Invite kids to share.) One way is by asking questions, either from people or even searching online.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth." Proverbs 2:6, NIV

"If you want knowledge, you have to start with questions! If you don't understand something, ask! You might feel silly about asking questions, but it's usually better to ask and find out than to wonder. When might you feel a little shy about asking a question?" (Invite responses—in class, during practice, in church, in a crowd, at the dinner table.)

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time you felt a little shy about asking a question but you're glad you did. Maybe it was at a work orientation or training, in school, asking directions in a new place, etc. Have you ever had to ask a question in a language you don't speak well while on a trip or vacation? What was that like? What happened when the person answered your question? How did they treat you?)

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Is there a question you're afraid to ask God? Why? Who could you talk to about the questions that feel big or scary?



PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

WEEK FIVE JANUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP K-5 STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



3. ONE, TWO, THREE, GO! [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO: Look up Proverbs 2:6 and read it out loud using the navigation tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Help Me

John the Baptist in Prison Matthew 11:1-6 (James 1:5)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

If you don't understand something, ask.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth." Proverbs 2:6, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

Finding verses with a multi-age group: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd-3rd grade) to find "Proverbs" in the list under "Old Testament." When the kid finds Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Ask older elementary kids (4th-5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their Bibles. When they all find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 2, and give time for all the kids to turn the pages to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers, and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 6 in chapter 2. Then, read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers; or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.

- Play a matching game. Call up two kids and have them stand back-to-back. When you say, "One, two, three, go!" direct both kids to say one word from the verse at the same time. They can say any word from the verse they want. The words don't have to be in order. If they say the same word, that word is "retired." Play until all of the words have been said. Kids can go multiple times if necessary.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This was a pretty random way of saying our verse! How could you have done this in an easier way? (Invite responses.) One way would be to ask your partner what they were planning to say. This game proves that if you don't understand something, ask!"

"We've talked before that this verse reminds us that God has all the knowledge, wisdom, and understating in the universe and that God is willing to give us what we need. When you ask God for knowledge or wisdom, the answer might not look like you expect. How do you think God might answer you? (Invite responses—through the Bible, by words a friend says, lyrics from a song, an understanding of a situation that you didn't have before, with His closeness, etc.)"

"Be ready to bring God all of your questions, and if you want to try them out first, feel free to ask me or other church leaders as you feel comfortable."



PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

WEEK **FIVE** JANUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP **K-5** STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

**MADE TO REFLECT**

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



**4. PRAY AND DISMISS**  
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Inflated balloon and markers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
- Set out the markers.
- Direct the kids to pass the balloon around the circle.
- As each kid holds the balloon, say, "[Kid's name], **if you don't understand something, ask!**"
- Remind them that this group is a great place to ask questions.
- As you say that to each kid, invite each kid to sign the balloon with their names and a question mark underneath.
- Make sure you add your name to show that you have questions, too!
- Close your group time in prayer.

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**Help Me**

John the Baptist in Prison  
Matthew 11:1-6 (James 1:5)

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, we know You have all the answers. Please help us be brave enough to ask questions and kind enough to share the answers we know with others. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

**If you don't understand something, ask.**

As adults arrive to pick up, see if they can sign any squares in the "Who Knows?" Activity Page.

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

**"The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth."**  
Proverbs 2:6, NIV

**MONTHLY VIRTUE**

**Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do**

**BASIC TRUTH**

**I need to make the wise choice.**



PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

WEEK FIVE JANUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP K-5 STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

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

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story. (Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
Small object

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

1. THE BIG FIVE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Five inflated balloons
Markers
Music and music player
Before group time, write one of the following words on each balloon: WHO?, WHERE?, WHAT?

- WHEN?
WHY?

\* 2. WHO KNOWS?

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Who Knows?" Activity Page on paper, one for each small group.
Print "Who Knows? Answers" Activity Page on paper, one for each small group.
Pens or pencils

3. ONE, TWO, THREE, GO!

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Inflated balloon
Markers

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
Tell parents about our additional family resource: Parent Cue app.

How many flavors are in a Starburst® pack?

What is the capital of South Dakota?

Who was the 16th President of the USA?

What are the four directions?

How fast can a cheetah run?

What is the largest animal in the world?

How do you find the area of a rectangle?

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?

What is H<sub>2</sub>O?

How many states are in the USA?

How many inches are in a foot?

What sport did Peyton Manning play?

**What to Do:**

Print on paper, one for each small group.

**"Who Knows?" Activity Page**

January 2023, Week 5, K-5 Starter

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Answers:

Four; Pierre; Abraham Lincoln;

North South East West; 50-80mph; blue whale

width times length; SpongeBob SquarePants™; water;

50; 12; American football

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**What to Do:**

Print on paper, one for each small group.

**"Who Knows? Answers" Activity Page**

January 2023, Week 5, K-5 Starter

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