



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Three Small Group Leaders
- Noise-canceling headphones for the Leaders to wear while they wait (*optional*)
- Craft paper/fishing line Bible timeline and Today's Story Image (*optional*)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Humility Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Upside-Down Charades Slides
- Timeline (*optional*)—CG or printed
- Today's Story Image (*optional*)—CG or printed

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 and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG 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.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Three pre-selected adults (or older students) to play the parts of Peter, John, and Mary
- Four printed scripts (for reference) for Storyteller, Peter, John, and Mary
- Biblical-style costumes for Peter, John, and Mary
- Bible
- Counter-height table
- Two chairs or stools for the table

Large Group Visuals:

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- The One Big Story Intro Video is available with the monthly download. You can find it in the "Prelude" folder under "Monthly Planning."
- Recruit three other adults to play the parts of Peter, John, and Mary. Give them their lines far in advance so they can memorize them. Take time to practice with them and the Storyteller, so their timing can be natural and so they can read the lines with the right tone and emotion.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Above All

Bible Story: Above All (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18:12–20:23 (Supporting: John 16, Matthew 26)*

Bottom Line: Jesus put us first.

Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* Philippians 2:3 (NirV)

Life App: Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Host welcomes the kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everybody! Happy Easter! I'm so excited that we get to celebrate this SUPER-special day together.

"I love Easter because of the candy, the egg hunts, and, of course, spending time with my friends and family. But there's an even BIGGER reason why Easter is such an important day. On Easter, we celebrate the greatest thing that has ever happened in the history of the world—when Jesus rose from the dead! We're celebrating because He is alive.

"What Jesus did for us is the BEST example of humility.

CG: *Humility Slide*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Theme Transition to Life App*

"Humility is putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.

CG: Theme Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

“When we show humility, it’s like we’re turning things upside down. Instead of saying, ‘Me first,’ we’re saying, ‘You first.’ We’re choosing to give someone else a turn. We’re thinking about what someone else needs instead of what WE need.

“To kick things off today, I thought it would be fun for us to play a special Easter edition of one of my favorite games: Upside-Down Charades! In normal charades, you act out something and everyone else has to guess what it is. But in Upside-Down Charades, everyone ELSE acts out something, and just a few contestants will try to guess what it is!

“Let’s get three Leaders to be our guessers.

Choose three Leaders and have them leave the room so they can’t hear what’s happening. Tell them to talk amongst themselves so they’re distracted. (Or you could give them noise-canceling headphones with music playing.)

(Lowering your voice) “Okay, we don’t want the Leaders to hear us. Really quickly, let’s go through the words you’ll be acting out. When the Leaders come back to guess, we can’t make any sounds. We can only use motions to act out each word. Got it? *(Pause for response.)* Okay, our first word is ‘bunny.’

For each word, do a motion to demonstrate what the kids can do. (They can do any motion they want, but this way they’ll at least have an idea.)

CG: Bunny Slide

“Can you all act like bunnies? Great! Let’s look at the others.

CG: Chick Slide

CG: Flower Slide

CG: Basket Slide

CG: Candy Slide

(Full voice) “All right. I think you’re ready. Let’s bring in the Leaders!

CG: Black screen

Bring in the Leaders.

(To contestants) “Welcome back, contestants. It’s time for you to try to guess the answers, based on what you see out here. *(Reference the audience.)* Make sure you can’t see the screens, okay?

Be sure to position the Leaders in front of the screens, facing the audience. That way they can't see the slides, but the audience can.

“The first one of you to guess each answer correctly gets a point. Just raise your hand and I'll call on you. The winner will be whoever gets the most points out of five rounds. Ready? Set? Go!

SFX: Fun music

CG: Bunny Slide

CG: Chick Slide

CG: Flower Slide

CG: Basket Slide

CG: Candy Slide

Keep track of points as you play the game. After the fifth round, declare the winner. Dismiss the Leaders to their seats.

CG: Theme Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme

“That was so great! Way to go! Great acting and great guessing. We really flipped charades upside down!

“Now let's take some time to sing to God and worship Him together. We can celebrate today and every day because Jesus is alive!”

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Setting up the story

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! We've been making our way through God's Big Story (*hold up Bible*), and EVERYTHING in God's Big Story has led up to the events of the very first Easter.

“But it was hard for Jesus' friends, the disciples, to see that at the time. Where we left off last week, things weren't looking so good. The religious leaders had been plotting against Jesus—making plans to try to stop Him from teaching people about God.

“One of Jesus' closest friends, Judas, told the religious leaders where they could find Jesus praying after the Passover meal. The leaders sent soldiers to arrest Jesus, and Jesus allowed the mob to take Him. Jesus' closest friends were scared and confused. They all ran away.

“At this point in the story, everything seemed so sad. Sometimes it can be hard to understand what it would have felt like to actually be there when these things were happening. Obviously we know that these events in history happened so long ago that none of those actual people could be here with us today. But I've asked a few friends to try to help us imagine what it might have been like to actually be there as it all happened.

“First, I'd like to introduce you to my friend [volunteer's name] who will be helping us understand Peter's point of view. Peter was one of Jesus' disciples—one of His closest friends. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Peter. (*Applaud.*)

“Peter” enters, wearing a biblical costume. He and Storyteller sit at the table together.

Because of the serious content, the tone of these interviews shouldn't be silly. The idea is to help the kids follow the story from three different perspectives.

Note: Have printed scripts available on the table; the Storyteller and actors should have their parts memorized, but they can glance at their lines if needed.

Peter's interview

STORYTELLER: “Hi, Peter! (*Big wink at the audience.*) Welcome to [your environment's name]. Thanks so much for being with us today!”

PETER: “Thanks! It's great to be here.”

STORYTELLER: “So, Peter, when Jesus was taken captive and brought to the high priest's courtyard, I've heard you and John followed behind at a distance. Is that true?”

PETER: “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: “And, as you waited in the courtyard, is it true that a woman came and asked you if you were one of Jesus' followers, and you said no?”

PETER: “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: “They took Jesus inside to question Him. Then, two more times, when someone asked you if you knew Jesus, you said you didn't know Him?”

PETER: “Yes. That's true.”

STORYTELLER: “Wow. What can you tell us about that?”

PETER: “Well, after the third time I denied knowing Jesus, I heard a rooster crow. That’s when I realized that what Jesus had said was true. You see, earlier, I had told Jesus that I would never leave Him. But Jesus told me I would deny knowing Him three times before the rooster crowed. And that’s exactly what happened. I couldn’t believe it! How could Jesus have known that it would go this way?”

“I couldn’t understand it then. But I can see it now. Jesus was changing everything.”

STORYTELLER: “Thanks for joining us, Peter. Next up, let’s hear from another one of Jesus’ disciples: John.”
(*Applaud.*)

Peter exits the stage as “John” enters, dressed in a biblical costume. He and Storyteller sit at the table together.

john’s interview

STORYTELLER: “Hi, John! (*Wink at the audience.*) Welcome. Thanks so much for joining us.”

JOHN: “Thanks! I’m glad to be here.”

STORYTELLER: “So, John, we’re talking with you and a couple other people who can give us the story of what happened with Jesus. We’ve been told that soldiers took Jesus away to the Roman governor, Pilate, and that Pilate asked the religious leaders what crimes Jesus was being charged with. Is that true?”

JOHN: “Yes. That’s true.”

STORYTELLER: “Okay. And then I’ve heard that Pilate took Jesus away to question Him and even have Him beaten, but Pilate couldn’t find any reason to punish Him. Is that true?”

JOHN: “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: “I think we’ve got a quote here in the Bible. Let me just read it now.

Open the Bible to John 19:6 (NIRV) and read.

“As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw [Jesus], they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. I myself find no basis for a charge against him.”

“Wow. That seems unbelievable! And is it true that Pilate then gave Jesus over to the soldiers, and they forced Jesus to drag His own cross to Golgotha, a hill outside the city?”

JOHN: (*Heartbroken*) “Yes. After that, they nailed Jesus to the cross and they raised it up high with a sign that said ‘King of the Jews.’”

“Jesus’ mother Mary, her sister, and Mary Magdalene were there. Jesus told me to take care of His mother. Then, Jesus said: *“It is finished”* (*John 19:30 NIRV*), and He bowed His head and died.

“It was the absolute worst moment of my life. But now I can see something that I couldn’t see then. Jesus was changing everything.”

STORYTELLER: “Wow. Thanks for sharing your story with us, John. Next, let’s hear from another one of Jesus’ very close friends: Mary Magdalene.

John exits the stage as “Mary” enters, dressed in a biblical-looking costume. She and Storyteller sit at the table together.

mary’s interview

STORYTELLER: “Hi, Mary. (*Wink at the audience.*) Up to this point, the news was very sad. Jesus, the Son of God, had DIED. You and the others must have been so confused. I imagine you must have wondered how this could possibly be part of God’s plan.”

MARY: “That’s right.”

STORYTELLER: (*Smiling*) “But the story wasn’t over yet.”

MARY: (*Smiling*) “That’s right.”

STORYTELLER: “Mary, the day Jesus died, there were two men—Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus—who placed Jesus’ body in a tomb. There was a huge stone there, blocking the entrance. Is it true that you followed the two men there?”

MARY: “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: “And then, early Sunday morning, did you return to the tomb?”

MARY: “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: “Can you tell us what happened next?”

MARY: “Of course! When I arrived at the tomb, the heavy stone that had been blocking the tomb had been rolled away. I couldn’t believe it!

“I ran to the home where the disciples were staying, and I told Peter and John, and then THEY ran to the tomb.”

Peter and John peek out from backstage.

PETER: “She’s right.”

JOHN: “We did.”

PETER: “The tomb was empty!”

Peter and John disappear backstage again.

STORYTELLER: “Right. And then, Mary, YOU looked inside the tomb?”

MARY: “Yes. Two angels were sitting where Jesus' body had been! They asked me why I was crying.

“Then I turned and saw another man. I thought it was the gardener. I asked him if he had taken Jesus away . . . and then . . . He said my name. I realized that it was Him—it was Jesus! I ran to tell the rest of the disciples the best news ever. I had seen Jesus . . . ALIVE!

“That’s when I knew that Jesus was changing everything.”

STORYTELLER: “Amazing! Thank you, Mary!” (*Applaud.*)

Mary exits.

wrapping up THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Wow! Can you imagine just how excited Mary and the rest of Jesus’ friends were? I mean, just days earlier, they had seen Jesus die. And now He was alive! Jesus chose to enter death for those He loved, and He defeated it. Jesus conquered death! He is alive! It’s the best news ever—for everyone.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “**Jesus put us first.** He knew how much we needed a Rescuer. He knew that we couldn’t rescue ourselves from our sins—from the things we’ve done wrong. He paid the price for our sins so that we could be forgiven. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we can believe and have the promise of eternal life.

“When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved that He really is God’s Son and the Savior of the world.

“Let’s pray and thank God for sending us Jesus.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for knowing how much we needed a Rescuer. Thank You for sending Jesus! It’s amazing to think how **[Bottom Line] Jesus put us first**—how He made a way for us to have a relationship with You that will last forever. When we imagine how the disciples must have felt, it helps us remember that You are always in control—even when we can’t always see it. Help us to **[Basic Truth] trust You no matter what** and remember all that You’ve done for us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “It cost Jesus EVERYTHING to put us first. Jesus died so He could pay the price for our sins—so we could be forgiven. It was the only way we could have a relationship with God. And because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can have a relationship with God that lasts forever!”

CG: Timeline

“Everything that had happened before was all leading up to this moment.

“Before Jesus died for us, it was like sin had built a wall between us and God. (*Show a ‘wall’ with your hands.*) But when Jesus paid the price for that sin by dying on the cross, He tore down the wall. (*Show this with your hands.*) He made a way for us to become part of God’s family!”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Jesus put us first.

CG: Today’s Story Image

Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.

“And when Jesus came back to life, He proved once and for all that He is more powerful than death. He is God’s Son and our Savior!”

“Some of you have already put your faith in Jesus. You’ve already decided that you believe that this is true. Some of you may still be thinking about it. Remember, you can always talk to your parents, your Small Group Leader, or another adult you trust about how YOU can have a relationship with Jesus, too.

“Happy Easter, have fun in Small Group, and I’ll see you later, okay?”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

CG: Theme Slide

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop