



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus teaches us that God loves us, no matter what.

**PRODIGAL SON**  
LUKE 15:11-24

### MEMORY VERSE

"The crowds were amazed at his teaching."

**MATTHEW 7:28, NIV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who teaches you important things?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus teaches me important things.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### 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

*Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.*

Let's Go Shopping!  
Match It Up  
School

### LARGE GROUP

20  
MIN

#### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

#### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"My Forever Friend" and "Love Like Jesus"


Bible Story  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

25  
MIN

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

*Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.*

Memory Verse with Motions  
Story Toys  
Coin Impressions   
Parachute Celebration!  
Story Circle  
Journal and Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home  
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)  
Parent Cue App



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.



PRELUDE      SOCIAL      **WORSHIP**      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

10 MINUTES

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus teaches us that God loves us, no matter what.

**PRODIGAL SON**  
**LUKE 15:11-24**

**MEMORY VERSE**

“The crowds were amazed at his teaching.”

**MATTHEW 7:28, NIV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who teaches you important things?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus teaches me important things.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**LARGE GROUP**

ENGAGE CHILDREN’S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**WORSHIP**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Matthew 7:28, NIV. You need a music player and this month’s worship song, “My Forever Friend,” which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves video for “My Forever Friend” is available on OrangeKidsMusic.com or in your media package if you subscribe. You also need “Love Like Jesus,” which is available on the Love Like Jesus CD, iTunes®, and Spotify®. The dance moves video for this song is available on the Love Like Jesus Dance Moves DVD and on OrangeKidsMusic.com.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Hello, everyone! It’s my favorite time—WORSHIP time! This is when we sing and dance and praise God together! God sent Jesus to teach us important things. When I ask, ‘**Who teaches you important things?**’, I want you to say, ‘**Jesus teaches me important things.**’ **Who teaches you important things?**”

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** “**Jesus teaches me important things.**”

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “That’s right! **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Stand up and sing this out with me!

*Lead children in singing “My Forever Friend,” this month’s worship song.*

“So fun! Jesus is a good, good friend! He teaches us so many important things. Great job, friends. **Who teaches you important things?**”

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** “**Jesus teaches me important things.**”

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “That’s right! **Jesus teaches me important things!** The Bible teaches us that ‘The crowds (*arms out and around*) were amazed (*hands to eyes like binoculars then open and close*) at his teaching (*hands to mouth*),’ Matthew 7:28. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let’s learn our memory verse together. Are you ready? Listen to me say it and watch me do the motions, then you can do it with me!” (*Repeat.*)

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** “‘The crowds (*arms out and around*) were amazed (*hands to eyes like binoculars then open and close*) at his teaching (*hands to mouth*),’ Matthew 7:28.” (*Open hands like a book.*)



WEEK  
**ONE**  
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS  
STAGE

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      **STORY**      GROUPS      HOME

10 MINUTES

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “We can be like Jesus when we listen to what He teaches us! I want to love others like Jesus loves me! Sing this out with me.

*Lead children in singing “Love Like Jesus.”*

“All month long, we will learn about the important things Jesus teaches us. I can’t wait! Thanks for worshipping with me, friends.”

### INTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Several blankets, one fluffy blanket, fun-shaped pillow, two or three additional pillows, backpack, and books

**WHAT YOU DO:** Preset blankets and pillows to create a “book nook” in your storytelling area. Put the books in the backpack.

*The Host, very excited, walks out carrying the fluffy blanket, fun shaped pillow, and backpack.*

**HOST:** “Hello there, friends! I’m [your name]. And I am SO excited to set up a cozy book nook! (Drop everything in a heap.) I just LOVE to curl up with a good book. (Look at the heap.) First, we need a bunch of soft pillows. (Pick up fun-shaped pillow.) This is my (describe pillow). It makes me feel so bright and cheerful!

*Nuzzle pillow then set it in your book nook area.*

“Next, we need . . . some cozy blankets!

*Quickly arrange two or three blankets over and around the pillows. Pick up the fluffy blanket and drape it around your shoulders.*

“I LOVE my super-fuzzy [color/pattern] blanket. It is SO soft and fluffy and warm.

*Walk around, surveying the book nook.*

“Let’s see . . . we have pillows. We have blankets. What else do we need for our book nook? (Stumble over the backpack.) Oh, of course! Shout it out if you know what else we need for the book nook. (Listen.) Yes! We need books.

*Sit down, open the backpack, and start pulling out books.*

“I love, love, LOVE books! There’s so much we can learn from stories.

*Show each kind of book as you talk about it.*

“I have picture books. I have chapter books, too. (Empty the bag completely.) Hold on a second. I forgot the most



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10 MINUTES

IMPORTANT book. I'll be right back!"

*The Host quickly exits, leaving everything behind in the book nook area.*

## BIBLE STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, play money, backpack, over-sized sunglasses, brightly colored boa, and prop box;  
*Optional Story Images*

**WHAT YOU DO:** Place the sunglasses and boa inside the backpack. Put everything but the Bible inside the box.

*The storyteller enters carrying a Bible and box of props.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and you know what? I LOVE to read, too.

*Set the box of props on the floor next to you. Hold up the Bible.*

"Stories are the best! Today, I want to look at a story from the Bible that Jesus told that teaches us about God's love! He loves us, no matter what. So are you ready to hear it? If your are, say, 'I'm ready!'"

**CHILDREN:** "I'm ready!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Great! The story Jesus told was about a father and his son. The father had saved a LOT of money.

*Take the play money out of the box and hold it up, fanned out, so the children can really see it.*

"Now, he saved this money to give to his son when he was MUCH older.

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)*

"But one day, the son asked his dad to give him all the money, RIGHT NOW. What do you think the Dad did? Do you think he gave him the money? If so, let me see a thumbs-up. *(Pause.)*

"You're right. The dad gave it to him. The son took the money. *(Shove money in your pockets.)* And the son left, to go far away from home.

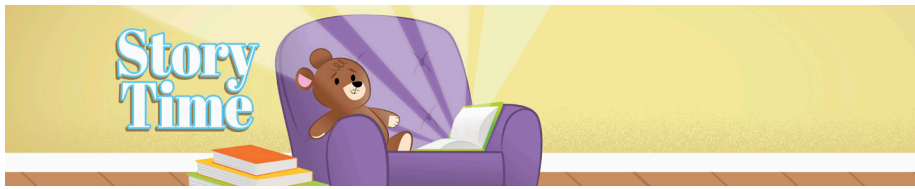
*Throw backpack over your shoulder and walk back and forth across the storytelling area.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)*

"The son took his dad's money and spent it on everything.

*Take the sunglasses and boa out and put them on.*

"He bought fancy clothes. He ate fancy food. He spent and spent and spent.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

*Fan out the money, then toss it over your shoulder as if spending it.*

"He spent his father's money until it was all GONE. Everyone say, 'All gone!'"

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)*

**CHILDREN:** "All gone!"

**STORYTELLER:** "There was no more money. The son didn't know what to do. He didn't have a bed to sleep in or any food to eat. He was so hungry that he even thought about eating pig food! Everyone say, 'EWWWWW!'"

**CHILDREN:** "EEWWWWW!"

*Take off the boa and sunglasses and toss them into the box.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Yeah, he was REALLY hungry. The son knew he had made a lot of bad choices. He was so sorry, and he wanted to go home. But he didn't know if his dad would let him come home. Since he had nowhere else to go, the son went home.

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 04)*

"When his dad saw him coming, he ran to his son and hugged him. Then he threw a BIG party to celebrate! Everyone say, 'YAY, the son is home!'"

**CHILDREN:** "Yay, the son is home!"

**STORYTELLER:** "That's how the dad felt. He was SO glad the son had come home. The dad loved his son so much, even though the son had made back choices and spent all the money.

"I'm so glad we have a friend like Jesus to teach us important things. He teaches us that God loves us, no matter what, just like the father loved his son in this story. When I ask, '**Who teaches you important things?**', you say, '**Jesus teaches me important things!**' Ready? **Who teaches you important things?**"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "**Jesus teaches me important things!**"

**STORYTELLER:** "**Who teaches you important things?**"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "**Jesus teaches me important things.**"

**STORYTELLER:** "That's right! Okay friends, it's time to pray. Let's close our eyes and talk to God together."

## PRAYER

**STORYTELLER:** "God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. We know that Jesus teaches us important things. Thank You for loving us, no matter what. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."



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10 MINUTES

"Thanks for being such great listeners, friends. See you later!"

### OUTRO SKETCH

What You Need: Children's Bible

*The Storyteller exits with box of props.*

*The Host enters carrying a children's Bible.*

**HOST:** "I found it! My favorite book—the Bible! You can read this story Jesus told about the father and the son right here in the Bible. The father loved his son, just like God loves me and you. Wow! Jesus told such a great story and taught us that God loves, us no matter what. I think I got the story. If you got it, say, 'Got it!' Get it?"

**CHILDREN:** "Got it!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Good! (Search through the Bible.) Oh, here's the story Jesus told about the dad and the son, right here. See you next time, friends!"

*Host waves to children as they dismiss.*