



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**The Greatest Gift**  
Jesus Is Born  
Luke 2:1-7

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you excited about giving?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is the greatest gift.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Today in the town of David  
a Savior has been born to you.  
He is the Messiah, the Lord.  
Luke 2:11, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,  
God's greatest gift

### 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

**15**  
MIN

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

Just for Fun  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

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

Welcome/Opener  
Worship ("Joy to the World (Glory to the King)," "Greatest Gift (Remix)," and "O Come All Ye Faithful" from *Have a Fancy Yancy Christmas*)  
Bible Story (Communicator Script)  
Key Question  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

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

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot  
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and Discussion Questions  
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You  
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**The Greatest Gift**  
Jesus Is Born  
Luke 2:1-7

**TODAY'S KEY QUESTION**

What are you excited about giving?

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is the greatest gift.

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

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a Savior has been born to you.  
He is the Messiah, the Lord.  
Luke 2:11, NIV

**MONTHLY VIRTUE**

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,  
God's greatest gift

**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 STUDENTS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

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

Host enters . . .

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

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

**WELCOME**

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

**OPENER**

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! What a month it is! Can you believe Christmas is next week? But we don't have to wait until then to celebrate. We're celebrating God's best gift to us all month long. And in the spirit of giving, I have a few gifts I would like to give to a few of you in a game called The Big Give Away.

**SLIDE: THE BIG GIVE AWAY**

"This will be fun! I need SIX volunteers!

Host chooses six volunteers and introduces them to the rest of the group.

"Alright let's have you line up in a row, right here on the stage.

Six volunteers line up. Host asks the kid on both ends to guess the number in their head between 1-10. Whoever is closest is the start of the line and the game will begin with them.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
DECEMBER 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“Alright, we’ll start on THIS end (*pointing to the volunteer that guessed the number*) and work our way down the line. I’ll choose a present and hand it to the first person. You may choose to keep it or pass it. If you keep it, you may open it and it is yours. If you pass it, the next person in line must make the same choice. Unfortunately, being at the end of the line here has its disadvantages. If everyone passes to you, you’re basically stuck. Sorry! Make sense? Alright, let’s begin!

**AUDIO: FUN CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

*First person is handed a present. If they keep it, they open it. If they pass it, the second person decides to keep it or pass it. This happens until someone keeps it and opens it. Start each new present at the first person in line without a present yet.*

“(After the game) Those are some special gifts! That was a lot of fun! Now let’s stand up and sing some Christmas songs to worship God together!”



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

10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Hi, everyone! I love to sing these Christmas songs with all of you. You might say I’m full of JOY to praise Jesus today. He is what this season is all about. We have so much to celebrate, so let’s get started!

**AUDIO:** “JOY TO THE WORLD (GLORY TO THE KING)” / TRACK 1 FROM JOY TO THE WORLD (GLORY TO THE KING) SINGLE

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** “JOY TO THE WORLD (GLORY TO THE KING)” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

“One of the reasons I love this time of year is because of the gifts we give to our family and friends. But there truly is nothing like the love of God and the gift God gave us in Jesus! I love how this song tells the whole Christmas story. It reminds us of the greatest gift we’ve been given. Sing this with me.

**AUDIO:** “GREATEST GIFT (REMIX)” / TRACK 1 FROM GREATEST GIFT (REMIX) SINGLE

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** “GREATEST GIFT (REMIX)” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

“It’s really cool to read in Matthew, chapter 2, how the wise men came to visit Jesus: ‘When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him.’ (Matthew 2:10-11, NIV) I love that. When the wise men saw Jesus, they bowed and worshipped Him. That’s like what WE’RE doing today. We sing as a way to honor Jesus and show how much we love Him. Sing this with me!”

**AUDIO:** “O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL” / TRACK 9 FROM HAVE A FANCY YANCY CHRISTMAS

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** “O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL” LIVE LYRICS VIDEO



GET WRAPPED  
UP IN  
CHRISTMAS

WEEK  
**THREE**  
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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey, everyone! Looks like you’ve been having a great morning so far. I loved seeing all of those gifts being shared, even if some of them were . . . not so great.

“In the spirit of gifts and giving, let me ask you—and be honest now—how many of you would say you enjoy giving gifts more than you enjoy receiving gifts? Anyone? *(notice response)* Ok, a few of you. That’s great. I mean, there’s something fun about picking out or even making a gift for someone, something that maybe they didn’t even think about for themselves, and then seeing their face when they finally open it. It is pretty cool, right? Maybe someone has done that for you?”

*Tell a personal story of a time when someone gave you a gift that you were not expecting and it really surprised you (in a good way), or when you did that for somebody else. Something like the following story. Optional: Use this story as a hypothetical situation.*

I remember this one Christmas when I was in sixth grade. All I wanted was a Walkman . . . think of it like a really early version of listening to music on your smart phone—except it didn’t make phone calls, take photos, connect to the internet, or anything other than play one cassette tape full of music at a time, though some could connect to radio stations. But since we didn’t have smart phones or iPods or iPads, this was it. And I wanted one, and not just any Walkman. I wanted the Sony Sport, Waterproof, bright yellow Walkman with in-ear headphones. But I never thought my parents would get it for me. Honestly, I was just hoping for a simple Walkman of my own. By now, I’m sure you know where this is going, but . . . Christmas morning, under the tree was a present with my name on it. I tore into it, and yes! My parents surprised me with the Sony Sport! I spent the rest of the day listening to all of my cassette tapes. Best. Christmas. Ever!

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “But let’s get serious for a moment. As great as that Christmas was, would it have still been great if my parents had only been able to get me a simple Walkman or didn’t get me a Walkman at all? Of course, you probably only give gifts that people love! But truth be told, we don’t always get what we asked for, or sometimes we give something the person already had, and sometimes even the gifts we absolutely LOVE on Christmas morning get lost under the bed or in a closet the next month. Too often I think this happens with the BEST gift that any of us has been given—Jesus.

“We take a whole month to celebrate that Jesus came. We have holidays that help us remember that Jesus came to make a way for us to be with God forever. We think about that gift during certain times of year or maybe on Sundays when we come to church. But how can we make a habit of remembering God’s Big Give when Jesus came?”

“That’s a great question! Maybe it’s one you’ve thought about before, or maybe you’ve never wondered that. And that’s okay, too. With Christmas a week away, today is a great time for us to think about questions like this. And like we say at a lot around here, when we have questions, the Bible is a great place for us to start to find some answers—especially when it comes to our questions about Jesus! Let’s head there now and unwrap some answers . . . literally.”



WEEK  
**THREE**  
DECEMBER 2022



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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25 MINUTES

*Communicator takes out first present.*

## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Okay . . . I have my first gift here. Let's see who this is for . . ."

*Communicator looks at the tag and reads out loud.*

"To Caesar Augustus . . ."

"Is Caesar Augustus here? Yeah . . . didn't think so. Well, how about we get one of you to help me open this and see what is inside!"

*Communicator calls on a volunteer to help them open the first present. They pull out the contents.*

"So, what is it?"

*Volunteer responds. It's a long list of names. The volunteer may be confused. Volunteer can go back to their seat.*

"Oh, you know what this is? This list of names is a census! A census is when the ruler of the country or region counted all of the people to see how many lived there. Check this out, and this list should make more sense."

*Open the Bible to Luke 2:1, 3-4 (NIV) and read.*

*"In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world . . . Everyone went to their own town to be listed . . . So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was."*

"Okay, get it? Caesar Augustus, the ruler of the Roman Empire at the time was counting people to show his greatness and to see who should be giving him taxes. And to do so, everyone had to return to the place of their family's heritage. Enter Joseph. As in Mary and Joseph. Joseph was living in Nazareth, which was in northern Israel, but his family was FROM Bethlehem, which was in southern Israel."

"I have another present here. Let's check the tag."

*Communicator looks at the tag.*

*(Reading tag)* To David. David? Like David and Goliath? That David? Okay, can someone else come and open this up since I'm guessing David is also not here."

*Communicator chooses a volunteer to open the present, revealing a king's crown.*

"A crown? Any thoughts on why he's getting a crown?"

*Allow for responses.*



WEEK  
**THREE**  
DECEMBER 2022



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

25 MINUTES

"Right . . . KING David. David was seen as the greatest king Israel ever had. Plus, did you catch what it said about Bethlehem, the town where Joseph was returning to for the census? It was the TOWN OF DAVID. This might have been a small place . . . but it was a place where royalty had come from!

"Alright, so because of the census, Joseph and a pregnant Mary traveled almost 70 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. That might be easy to read but that would have been a challenging trip.

"I have another present here . . . let's check the tag.

*Communicator looks for the tag.*

"(Reading tag) To Mary and Joseph? Hmmm . . . anyone want to open this one?

*Volunteer opens the present and reveals the contents.*

"(Communicator holds up strips of cloth) Any guesses on what these are? (Allow for responses) Or why there is hay in the bottom of the box? (Picks up a handful of hay) What a mess!"

"Let's keep reading.

*Open the Bible to Luke 2:6-7 (NIV) and read.*

"While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth (holds up the cloths). Then she placed him in a manger (holds up the hay). That's because there was no guest room where they could stay."

"Ah, you see what this is? This is to show us how Jesus came into the world. The strips of cloth. The crib in the manger. It really was quite a mess. But it was into this mess, our mess, that God sent Jesus! Just imagine sending your only Son into this mess, but that's what God did for us!

"In fact, it looks like we have one more present here. Maybe this will help make some sense of everything . . .

*Communicator searches for a tag and finds one.*

"(Reading tag) To Everyone. Everyone? That is not very specific. Who can help me with this?

*Communicator chooses a volunteer to open the present. They reveal the contents.*

"(Looking into the box) I don't really see anything. Oh, there's a note here at the bottom . . ."

*Communicator opens the note and has the volunteer read.*

**VOLUNTEER:** "(Reading the note) Dear reader – I love this world so much. I created it and everything in it. Most importantly, I created you. I know this world needs rescue . . . I know YOU need rescue. And now, I am sending My Son, who I love so much. There is no greater way for Me to show you My love than to give you Him. His name is Jesus."



WEEK  
**THREE**  
DECEMBER 2022



25 MINUTES

**SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE**  
**SLIDE: DECEMBER WEEK 3 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.*

### APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "This was the first Christmas. Jesus is God's one and only Son, and God sent Him into this messy world to save us. There may be some pretty cool gifts you receive this next week, but make no mistake . . . THIS is how God gave us the GREATEST gift ever.

"Two thousand years ago, God gave the greatest gift. But now we have the opportunity in so many ways to show God's love and share it with others. And this is not just something we do in December. Anytime we have the chance to give gifts—actual presents or acts of service or just simply showing up for people who need a listening ear—we can show God's love to others. The birth of Jesus doesn't just matter during the Christmas season, it matters throughout the entire year. It matters in your classroom, on the basketball court or dance studio, it matters in your home and with your friends, it even matters for people you haven't even met yet. This is the GREATEST gift . . . all year long!"

### LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Today as you head to Small Group, think about this question:

**SLIDE: KEY QUESTION**

**"What are you excited about giving?"** How can what you give to others reflect how much God gave to you already? How can you share the love of Jesus this Christmas and all throughout the year? These are important questions to think about, and you'll have a chance to chat about them with your Small Group. Before we go to groups, let's pray and thank God for sending the greatest gift ever, Jesus! Let's pray."

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Dismiss students to their small groups.*

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

**SLIDE: THEME**

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





WEEK  
**THREE**  
DECEMBER 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

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. WELCOME / OPENER

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Wrapped presents See What You Do

##### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

##### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
- The Big Give Away Game Slide

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

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- 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](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com).
- **The Big Give Away Game:** Wrap a variety of prizes, some good (candy, Five Below novelties, etc.), some bad (can of soup, deodorant, socks, etc.). They should be undistinguishable so kids can't guess what's inside. Students will end up with different prizes randomly.

#### 2. WORSHIP

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leader(s)

##### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "Joy to the World (Glory to the King)" from *Joy to the World (Glory to the King) single*
- "Greatest Gift (Remix)" from *Greatest Gift (Remix) single*
- "O Come All Ye Faithful" from *Have a Fancy Yancy Christmas*

##### OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- "Joy to the World (Glory to the King)" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video (available through [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com))
- "Greatest Gift (Remix)" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video (available through [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com))
- "O Come All Ye Faithful" Live Lyrics Video (available through [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com))

##### 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](http://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](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com).

#### 3. COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Presents (See What You Do)
  - Caesar Augustus present: census
  - David present: crown
  - Mary and Joseph present: strips of cloth and hay
  - Everyone present: letter
- December Week Three Timeline Image, printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF



## GETTING READY

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

- Clothesline and Clothes pins (or however you are hanging your timeline images)

### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Key Question Slide
- God's Big Story Timeline Slide
- December Week Three Timeline Image
- December Week 3 Timeline Image (printable)

### 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.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- Wrap four separate presents with the following items inside, with the following tags on each present.
  - GIFT TAG: "To Caesar Augustus" PRESENT: census (Copy and paste lots of random names on paper, print and staple together.)
  - GIFT TAG: "To David" PRESENT: royal crown inside
  - GIFT TAG: "To Mary and Joseph" PRESENT: strips of cloth (swaddling cloth) and a few handfuls of hay in the bottom
  - GIFT TAG: "To Everyone" PRESENT: letter with the following written – *"Dear Reader, I love this world so much. I created it and everything in it. Most importantly, I created you. I know that this world needs rescue. I know that YOU need rescue. And now, I am sending my Son, who I love so much. There is no greater way for me to show you my love than to give you him. His name is Jesus."*

**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)

### 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