

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Rise Again Crucified and Risen John 18:12–20:23 (John 16; Matthew 26)

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How do you celebrate Easter?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because Jesus is alive.

MONTHLY 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

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP



SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction 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 ("Happy Day Remix" from Happy Day Remix single, "How Amazing" from Everything to Me, and "Who You Say I Am" from Who You Say I Am single) Bible Story (Communicator Script) Key Question Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect Application Activity: Take a Snapshot Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension 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



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I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

25 MINUTES

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 . . .

10 MINUTES

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN 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 (Masters Golf Tournament), movie opening (<u>The Super Mario Bros. Movie</u>), 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: "Happy Easter! Looks like everybody is here! All of you look absolutely RADISHING! If you are new or it's been a minute, welcome to [Name of Environment]! Or as my friends at the farm would say, 'Howdy!' This is not a place to MOSS around. I doubt you'll find any PEAS and quiet. But it is a place where there's never a DILL moment. We look for opportunities to TURNIP the volume and have some fun. Okay. I'll stop with the garden puns. That's a bit MULCH, right? But it is true, there's no place like [Name of Environment], even if you look all CLOVER the world or TURF the net. True story.

"For the longest time, I was not a huge fan of gardening, but I planted a few seeds, and it GREW on me. In fact, I've had to HERB my enthusiasm. As I think about gardening, sure my mind goes to carrots and potatoes and squash and green beans and watermelons. But I can't help but celebrate the mascot of ALL gardens. Anybody know what I'm talking about? (Allow response) That's right, The RABBIT! A day in the LEAF of a rabbit includes being adorable and eating their fill of Mr. McGregor's Garden.



"Because today is Easter, I thought we could pay homage to the all the little cotton-tailed gardening mascots of the world by playing a game called Root Cellar Rabbits!

SLIDE: ROOT CELLAR RABBITS

"Anybody want to play? (Allow response) We need four volunteers who are comfortable with a t-ball stand and swinging a bat.

Host selects four volunteers who would be comfortable swinging a bat. Host brings the four volunteers to the stage. Host places a large Easter Basket in the back of the room and asks the crowd to move to the edges of the room.

"The game is simple. Your goal is the help the rabbits get to the root cellar where all the veggies are stored. The large Easter basket in the back of the room will represent the root cellar. Our rabbits will be Peep Bunnies. To get the Peep Bunnies to the root cellar, our volunteers must hit the Peeps with a T-ball bat. The Peep that lands the closest to the Root Cellar is the Root Cellar Rabbits Champion! Any questions? (Allow response) Great! Let's play.

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Host facilitates Root Cellar Rabbits. Host encourages everyone in the audience to move to the sides of the room to avoid getting hit by a rogue flying Peep. The game ends when all four volunteers have had a chance to hit. If time permits, allow each volunteer to hit two Peeps.

"YES! Amazing job to all our volunteers! I've never seen such a glorious Easter sight as when I saw each of those Peeps launch into the sky toward the root cellar. Well done. However, there can only be one champion. All other competitors will need to BERRY the hatchet and accept their loss. Let's give a round of applause to our Root Cellar Rabbit Champion! (*Allow response*) I'm going to get off this stage and allow [Name of Worship Leader] to get up here. Let's sing and worship our amazing God because Jesus is ALIVE!"

Host exits as Worship Leader enters.



WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Well, today is truly the best day ever for us to sing and celebrate in worship! Happy Easter Sunday to you today. Get on your feet. Jesus is alive. Let's use all of our energy to praise Him today! Don't hold anything back. With a smile on your face, let's sing because today is a 'Happy Day'!

AUDIO: "HAPPY DAY REMIX" / TRACK 1 FROM HAPPY DAY REMIX SINGLE OPTIONAL VIDEO: "HAPPY DAY REMIX" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO

"Yeah! That's it. So, so good. Come on-make some noise because Jesus is alive! (*Get a response.*) The love of God is absolutely amazing. Let's sing now and thank God for loving us. Sing this with me.

AUDIO: "HOW AMAZING" / TRACK 6 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME OPTIONAL VIDEO: "HOW AMAZING" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"Today is a special day to remember how much God loves us. God sent Jesus for us . . . and Jesus died on the cross, then came back to life. That's why we're celebrating today! As we read in Romans 3:24: 'The free gift of God's grace makes us right with him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free.' (NIrV) Today, let's give thanks as we worship Jesus. He paid a great price to give us freedom. Our worship is a gift of love and thanks we can give to honor Him. We are the children of God! Sing this from your heart in worship."

AUDIO: "WHO YOU SAY I AM" / TRACK 1 FROM WHO YOU SAY I AM SINGLE OPTIONAL VIDEO: "WHO YOU SAY I AM" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO



COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "HAPPY EASTER, everybody! Let's have a show of hands. How many of you are big fans of Easter? (*Allow response*) I agree with all of you! Easter is one of my favorite holidays because, after all, Jesus is alive! But Easter also gets me excited because of how my family has traditions to celebrate this special day.

Communicator tells a personal Easter tradition from when he or she was younger. Match the idea in the following example story.

"My family is large and always looking for occasions to meet together. As a child, Easter was one of the days everybody gathered at my grandmother's house after church. On the table were the usual Easter dishes like homemade rolls, deviled eggs, and glazed ham. The food was good, but we always looked forward to the postmeal activity! Following the meal, we would gather in the front yard for a massive Easter egg hunt. Does anybody else do Easter egg hunts? (*Allow response*) My grandmother would hide plastic eggs all around the house. Inside the eggs we'd find all kinds of glorious candy! However, the prized egg was the golden egg. Inside this treasure was always three movie tickets—one for the person who found it and two for my grandparents! I have great memories going to the movies with my grandparents without my siblings or cousins!

"I'm sure lots of you have your own Easter traditions as well! Take a moment to turn to your neighbor and quickly share your favorite Easter activity.

Communicator allows small groups to take a moment to share their favorite tradition. Communicator calls on several volunteers to share with the entire group.

"I love all the different ways you celebrate Easter. Did you know Easter is so much bigger than our town or state or even our country? People all over the world celebrate Easter in all sorts of different ways. For example, if you were to travel to the island of Bermuda, you'll find lots of people flying homemade kites. There's a story about a teacher in Bermuda explaining to a group of kids that Jesus' ascension to heaven looked like a kite climbing high in the sky. The community embraced this and started flying lots of kites. Pretty cool, right?

SLIDE: IMAGE OF BERMUDA KITEFEST

"In Florence, Italy, locals celebrate with a bang! They have a large, ornate cart packed full of fireworks. Someone leads it through the streets to a large cathedral while families dress in colorful 15th century costumes. A priest lights a long fuse and fireworks erupt from all sides of the cart! I love a good costume party with pyrotechnics!

SLIDE: IMAGE OF SCOPPIO DEL CARRO

"Or how about this! If you travel to Poland for Easter weekend, you'll find a country-wide water fight. People try to soak each other with water-guns, buckets of water, water hoses, and anything else they can get their hands on during the Easter holiday! It's called Wet Monday, and wow! That sounds like a whole lot of fun!"



25 MINUTES

SLIDE: IMAGE OF WET MONDAY

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "When I hear about the different traditions in this crowd and all the ways Easter is celebrated across the globe, I remember that we're a part of something big! I mean HUGE! It's bigger than my family's Easter egg hunt. It's bigger than kites being flown in Bermuda. And it's bigger than the largest Polish water balloon battle. Easter celebrates something that happened for every single person, everywhere!

"Some of you are new to church. You might not know how Easter is a celebration of a Person named Jesus. And that's totally fine; we are SO excited you are here today. Now for many of you, you've heard the Easter story before, sung songs that remember what Jesus did for us, and some have even acted out the events of that first Easter. Those who have come to [Name of Environment] for some time have heard us talk about the story before. Many of you know Jesus died on a cross, was buried in a tomb, but didn't stay dead! And we LOVE how so many of you believe this to be true.

"However, something really important can get lost each year in the mix of Easter egg hunts, pretty dresses, and resurrection rolls. It's a question we forget to ask ourselves to remind us of the importance of the holiday. The question is this: why is Easter so important?

"It's a big question, one that the people who wrote down the stories about Jesus answered time and again. Let's take a look at what they tell us about that first Easter."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "To help bring this story to life, I need help from every person in this room. I'll split this room into three sections, and each section will have a sound effect. When I point to your section, you're going to speak your assigned sound. Make sense? (Allow response)"

> Communicator assigns section 1 with "BOOO"—like a crowd booing a bad call in a football game. Communicator assigns section 2 with "HOORAY"—like a crowd celebrating a player's performance at a soccer game. Communicator assigns section 3 with "OOOH"—like a crowd responding to a nasty blocked shot at a basketball game. Communicator allows each section to practice their sounds by pointing at the sections.

"Last week, we talked about how Jesus entered Jerusalem. The people were celebrating and ready to make Jesus their King! However, at the same time, the religious leaders were making plans to get rid of Jesus. They saw Jesus as a nuisance who was undercutting their authority! Well, after sharing one last meal with His close friends, Jesus and His disciples traveled outside of Jerusalem, across a valley to the Garden of Gethsemane. While Jesus was praying, Judas, one of His disciples, was leading a group of soldiers and guards to the garden to arrest Jesus."

Communicator points to section 1 prompting them to "BOOO."

"Jesus knew why they had come, and He didn't try to run. The soldiers bound Jesus and took Him to the religious leaders, including the high priest, Caiaphas. A couple of the disciples followed Jesus at a distance, while the others ran away for fear of a similar fate."

Communicator points to section 3 prompting them to "OOOH."



"While in custody, the religious leaders were looking for false evidence to bring against Jesus so He could be put to death! Because they could not find any real evidence to bring against Him, false witnesses came forward with lies."

Communicator points to section 1 prompting them to "BOOO."

"The high priest questioned Jesus. Caiaphas wanted Jesus to tell the audience if He is the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus replied,

Open the Bible to Matthew 26:64 (NIrV) and read.

"'"You have said so," Jesus replied. "But here is what I say to all of you. From now on, you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One. You will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven."'

Communicator points to section 2 prompting them to "HOORAY."

"Jesus spoke the truth when He claimed to be the Messiah. The religious leaders wanted to hear Jesus say this. For a man to declare Himself equal with God was considered a great crime and was punishable by death. But of course, in Jesus' case, everything He said was true.

Communicator points to section 3 prompting them to "OOOH."

"But the Jewish people weren't allowed to kill anyone. Since, at the time, Jerusalem was under Roman rule, they needed the Roman Governor, Pilate, to find Jesus guilty and to be the one to have Him killed. Following a conversation with Jesus, Pilate found Jesus guilty of nothing.

Communicator points to section 2 prompting them to "HOORAY."

"Instead of releasing Jesus, Pilate brought Him before the crowd. A crowd had, days earlier, cheered for His arrival into the Holy City. Now a different crowd wanted Jesus dead! So Pilate had Jesus beaten, whipped, and mocked. They forced a crown of thorns on His head and wrapped Him in a purple robe. The crowd, including the religious leaders, wanted Jesus to be crucified.

"Pilate, trying to keep the religious leaders happy, released Jesus to the mob. Jesus carried His own heavy cross through the streets of Jerusalem. Outside the city walls, Jesus was nailed to a cross between two criminals and hung to die. Though most of Jesus' followers were hiding, His mother, Mary, and several others stood near the cross. At noon, darkness settled over the land. At last, Jesus called out,

Open the Bible to John 19:30 (NIrV) and read.

"'It is finished.'

"At that moment the temple curtain tore in two pieces and the earth shook.

"It was the darkest moment the world has ever known. God's very own Son had chosen to give up His life. Meanwhile, one of Jesus' followers took Jesus' body, prepared Him for burial, placed His body in a new tomb, and sealed the entrance with a heavy stone.



"Three days later, Jesus' friend, Mary Magdalene, traveled to the tomb to place spices on Jesus' body, but she noticed a problem. The stone in front of the tomb was rolled away. In a panic, she ran to tell Jesus' disciples.

Open the Bible to John 20:2 (NIrV) and read.

"'So she ran to Simon Peter and another disciple, the one Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb! We don't know where they have put him!"'

Communicator points to section 1 prompting them to "BOOO."

"Peter and John rushed to the tomb to find Jesus' body was gone, and the linens used to wrap Jesus were lying inside. Not knowing what to do, the disciples left while Mary stood outside the tomb crying. Then she noticed something unexpected. As she peered back into the tomb, she noticed two angels where Jesus' body had been.

Communicator points to section 3 prompting them to "OOOH."

"After the angels asked why she was crying, Mary explained Jesus' body was gone! As she turned around, Mary saw someone behind her. The man asked Mary,

Open the Bible to John 20:15 (NIrV) and read.

"'"Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. So she said, "Sir, did you carry him away? Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him.""

"Then the man called her name, Mary. In that moment, Mary realized she was talking to Jesus!

Communicator points to section 2 prompting them to "HOORAY."

"Mary rushed toward Jesus and cried: 'Teacher!' Jesus said,

Open the Bible to John 20:17 (NIrV) and read.

"'"Do not hold on to me. I have not yet ascended to the Father. Instead, go to those who believe in me. Tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"'

"So Mary ran to the disciples to tell them all the things she had seen and heard!"

Communicator points to section 2 prompting them to "HOORAY."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "I've heard this story all my life, and it never gets old!"

SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE SLIDE: WEEK 2 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.

"Jesus, the Son of God, chose to become a human and lived without sinning! Jesus walked here on earth to experience everything we do—joy and sorrow and pain and temptation, but He never did anything wrong. He was arrested on false charges. Even Pilate could find no crime committed by Jesus. The religious leaders wanted Jesus gone! With the snap of His fingers, Jesus could have had an army of angels protect Him from all harm. Regardless, Jesus chose to die in an incredibly painful way—on a cross. However, Jesus didn't stay dead. Rather, He came back to life!

"It's true—we are celebrating the fact that Jesus came back to life, proving He's the Son of God! But it's bigger than that. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the debt of our sins! When we believe in Jesus, God accepts Jesus' perfect life in place of all the wrong we've done! There is nothing we've done to earn this gift. It's not about our grades or our clothing or our athletic ability or our family. God offers eternal life for all who believe Jesus is the Son of God and commit their lives to following Him! As a result, we don't have to be afraid of death anymore! It means every wrong will one day be made right again! This is reason to celebrate!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Each of us celebrate different occasions—birthdays, winning the tournament, dance recitals, or passing your science test! Each of those are special days to throw a party. As we get ready to head to our Small Groups, I want you to reflect on the Easter story you heard. Think about this one question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"How do you celebrate Easter? Is it all fun and games? Do you gather with your family? Do you take the time to consider the significance of the story? Like I said earlier, I'm really excited you are here and for the conversations you are about to have with your Small Groups! Let's pray together and praise God that Jesus is ALIVE!"

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT. SLIDE: THEME OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



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
- Large Easter basket
- T-ball stand
- Plastic baseball bat
- One or two packages of bunny Peeps

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat game music

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
- Root Cellar Rabbits Title Slide

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

- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- 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.
- To play Root Cellar Rabbits, place the t-ball stand at the center of the stage. If your large group space is

small, consider pulling the t-ball stand to the back of the stage. Move your audience to either side of the room to protect them from flying peeps. Place the Easter basket in the back of the large group room. The closest peep to the basket wins.

2. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

• Worship Leader(s)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "Happy Day Remix" from Happy Day Remix single
- "How Amazing" from Everything to Me
- "Who You Say I Am" from Who You Say I Am single

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- "Happy Day Remix" Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "How Amazing" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "Who You Say I Am" Live Lyrics Video (available through 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.
- 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. COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Week 2 Timeline Image, printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room



GETTING READY

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

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

• Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Key Question Slide
- Worldwide Easter Celebration Slides (Not Included See What You Do)
- God's Big Story Timeline Slide
- Week 2 Timeline Image Slide
- Week 2 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.
- Worldwide Easter Celebration Slides: The introduction to the Communicator Script includes several examples of how different countries throughout the world celebrate Easter. Search Google Images for the following:
 - Bermuda Kitefest Easter Celebration
 - Scoppio del Carro Easter Celebration
 - Wet Monday Easter Celebration
- Truth Bible Story Crowd SFX: The sound effects that the crowd adds to the story do not need to be evenly distributed. General sections or grades will work great to get the audience involved.

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