



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Homecoming**  
The Story of the Lost Son  
Luke 15:11-32

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God will always forgive you.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Put up with one another.  
Forgive one another if you  
are holding something against  
someone. Forgive, just as the  
Lord forgave you."  
Colossians 3:13, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Forgiveness—deciding that  
someone who has wronged you  
doesn't have to pay

### 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**

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 ("All of the Ways" from *Everything to Me* and "Who You Say I Am" from *Who You Say I Am single*)  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
Prayer  
Closer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

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

**Bible Story Review:** Prop It Up (*k-1st grade*), Keep Up, Drop Down (*2nd-3rd grade*)  
**Application Activity:** Forgiveness Match-Up (*k-1st grade*), Paper Battle (*2nd-3rd grade*)  
**Memory Verse Activity:** God Loves Me THIS Much (*k-1st grade*), Better with Letters (*2nd-3rd grade*)  
**Prayer Activity:** Pray and Dismiss

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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**Homecoming**  
The Story of the Lost Son  
Luke 15:11-32

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God will always forgive you.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Put up with one another.  
Forgive one another if you  
are holding something against  
someone. Forgive, just as the  
Lord forgave you."  
Colossians 3:13, Nlrv**

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Forgiveness—deciding that  
someone who has wronged you  
doesn't have to pay**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### Bible Verses

- Luke 15:11 (Nlrv)
- Luke 15:12 (Nlrv)
- Luke 15:13 (Nlrv)
- Luke 15:13-14 (Nlrv)
- Luke 15:15-16 (Nlrv)
- Luke 15:17-20 (Nlrv)
- Luke 15:20 (Nlrv)
- Luke 15:21-24 (Nlrv)
- Luke 15:31-32 (Nlrv)

### Host Supplies

- Week 4 Timeline Image printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room

### Story Supplies

- Three male volunteers (one older boy, two adult leaders)
- Prop box containing:
  - Fake beard
  - Clip-on tie
  - Two baseball caps
  - Two backpacks
  - Posterboard sign that says "COUNTRY FAR AWAY"
  - Two-liter bottle of soda
  - BIG bag of candy
  - Stuffed pig
  - Royal-looking robe
  - Pizza box
  - Handful of confetti



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
MARCH 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

**AUDIO:**

## 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**

*Host enters.*

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

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

## OPENER

**HOST:** "Hey, everybody! I'm glad to see you. This month at [your environment's name], we're talking about forgiveness.

**SLIDE: VIRTUE**

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

**"Forgiveness means deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

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

"It can be pretty tough to forgive someone when you FEEL like getting even. It's not easy to give someone a do-over when they've messed up or hurt your feelings. But remember, you're not on your own. God is always there to help you!

"I'm SO excited about today because we're playing one of my very favorite games: FREEZE DANCE! You never know . . . there might be some forgiveness that comes into play!

"If you haven't played "Freeze Dance" before, or if it's been a while, here's how it works. We'll play some super-fun music. While the music plays, you dance! Show us your best dance moves! Then when the music stops, you have to freeze and not move. If you're moving when the music stops, a Small Group Leader will tap you on the shoulder to let you know you're out, and you'll have to go sit against the wall. We'll probably all end up sitting down at some point, but see how far you can get. Got it? (Pause.) Okay! Let's play our first song and DANCE!



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
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LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

10 MINUTES

**AUDIO: FUN DANCE MUSIC (A DIFFERENT SONG EACH TIME)**  
**AUDIO: STOP THE MUSIC ABRUPTLY, AT RANDOM TIMES, TO CUE THE KIDS TO FREEZE**

*Play the game and encourage the kids to use big dance moves. Make it really easy at first by cueing the kids that the music is about to stop. ("I bet the music is about to stop, so get ready!") Then make the game harder and harder by varying the length that you play each song, etc.*

*Get the Small Group Leaders to help you by tapping kids who don't freeze right when the music ends. Guide these kids to sit against the wall. Try to soften this so the kids don't feel bad about it. ("I think I would have been out there, too.")*

*After you've done several rounds and several kids are sitting down, shout "REDO! Everybody's back in!" Do this every few rounds so the kids have a hope of getting to play again after they get out. Play as long as time allows.*

"That was SO fun! I loved all of your dance moves, and I'm glad no one was really out for too long. It sure feels good when you get a redo, doesn't it? Let's keep dancing and singing as we praise and worship God together. What do you say?"

## **WORSHIP**

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

**AUDIO:**



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
MARCH 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

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

10 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

*SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND*

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, friends! For months and months now, we've been making our way through God's Big Story.

*If you're using a Bible timeline on your wall, you can reference it here.*

"We've looked at stories throughout the Bible (*hold up Bible*)—from when God created the world to when God promised to bless the world through Abraham's family. We've seen how God worked in the lives of the Israelite people and brought them out of slavery in Egypt. We've seen how God spoke through prophets about the Savior who would come when the time was right.

"God's Son, Jesus, was born in Bethlehem. When Jesus grew up, He taught amazing things about God and healed people who were sick. Everyone wanted to hear what Jesus had to say!

"Today, we're looking at another parable Jesus told. You might remember that a parable is a short story that has a lesson we can learn to help us live for God. And in this story, we can discover just how much God loves us and forgives us."

### THE FATHER AND THE TWO SONS

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus told this story as He was teaching a group of tax collectors and other people who didn't really fit in. The religious leaders and teachers of the law were upset that Jesus ate with people they considered sinners. They didn't like how Jesus chose to spend time with people who had made mistakes or done wrong things.

"That day, Jesus told a series of parables. He told one story about a lost sheep and how the shepherd would do anything to find it. He told another story about a woman who had lost a valuable coin and how she would search and search her house until she found it.

"The third story Jesus told was about a lost son. That's the story I'm here to tell you today. And I'd love to get a little help from you as I tell it. Let me see if I can find a few volunteers.

*Choose an older boy to play the father and two adult leaders as the two sons. Give the fake beard and clip-on tie to the kid playing the father. Help him put them on. Put the forward-facing baseball cap on the "older son" and the backward-facing baseball cap on the "younger son."*

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:11 (NirV) and read.*

*"There was a man who had two sons.*

*"Yes. Here we have the father (reference the boy) and his two sons (reference the two leaders). They seem to be very big sons. Back to the story!*



25 MINUTES

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:12 (NirV) and read.*

*"The younger son spoke to his father. He said, 'Father, give me my share of the family property.' So, the father divided his property between his two sons.*

*"Okay, this was kind of a big deal back then, because the younger son (reference the 'younger son') was asking for part of the money and things the father owned. Normally, these things would be given to the sons after the father died. But the son said that he wanted his share of the money right then and there. Jesus' listeners would have thought this was a very rude and selfish thing to do. But, as Jesus said, the father gave what he owned to his sons.*

*Give the two backpacks to the "father." Whisper in his ear to give a backpack to each "son." After he does this, motion to the sons to put the backpacks on their backs.*

*"Jesus continued the story.*

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:13 (NirV) and read.*

*"Not long after that, the younger son packed up all he had. Then he left for a country far away.*

*(to the younger son) "All right, younger son, you can head over there, to the far side of the room. (Reference the 'COUNTRY FAR AWAY' sign.) That's the country far away.*

*The younger son walks across the room toward the sign.*

*(to the father) "Father, you're very sad that the younger son is going away. I mean, you LOVE your son. You can go ahead and wave goodbye."*

*The kid waves.*

**THE COUNTRY FAR AWAY**

**STORYTELLER:** "The younger son decided he would do all the things he wanted to do!

*Hand the two-liter soda bottle and bag of candy to the younger son.*

*"As Jesus said . . .*

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:13-14 (NirV) and read.*

*"There he wasted his money on wild living. He spent everything he had. Then the whole country ran low on food. So the son didn't have what he needed.*

*"Oh, NO! The son wasted all of his money on things that wouldn't last. And before long, he had no money left at all. He didn't have a place to stay or food to eat.*

*Take the soda, candy, and backpack from the younger son.*





25 MINUTES

“So what did he do?”

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:15-16 (NIRV) and read.*

*“He went to work for someone who lived in that country. That person sent the son to the fields to feed the pigs. The son wanted to fill his stomach with the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything.*

“Gross! The son went to work feeding pigs.

*Give the stuffed pig to the younger son.*

“He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the slop that the pigs were eating. It was at this point that the son came to his senses. Jesus said . . .

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:17-20 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Then he began to think clearly again. He said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough food! But here I am dying from hunger! I will get up and go back to my father. I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven. And I have sinned against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ So he got up and went to his father.*

“I think that was a really good decision. How about you? The son decided he would just admit that he had been wrong and ask if his father would allow him to work as a hired servant. So he started the journey home.”

*Take the stuffed pig from the younger son and cue him to walk back toward the father on stage. Stop him when he’s about halfway there.*

**FORGIVEN!**

**STORYTELLER:** “Just listen to what happened next!

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:20 (NIRV) and read.*

*“While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

“Amazing! The father saw his son coming, and his heart filled with joy! Come on down, [kid’s name]. You can give the son a fist bump.

*Cue the kid to walk over to the younger son and give him a fist bump.*

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:21-24 (NIRV) and read.*

“The son said . . .

*“‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.’*



25 MINUTES

*“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him.*

*Give the robe to the kid and cue him to put it on the younger son.*

*“‘Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. . . . Let’s have a feast and celebrate. This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.’ So they began to celebrate.*

*“Wow! The father loved his son so much and was so happy he had come home that he decided to have a big feast and celebrate!*

*Give the pizza box to the kid. Throw a handful of confetti in the air over the two actors.*

*“As you can imagine, this was a huge surprise to the younger son. He expected his father to be angry with him for leaving and wasting all that money. But the father loved and forgave his son. He welcomed his son home with open arms!*

*“Hold on, though, because Jesus wasn’t quite finished with His story. Remember the older son?*

*Walk back to the “older son” on stage.*

*“The older son was angry. (to the older son) Older son, let’s see you put your hands on your hips and make a frowny face.*

*Older son puts his hands on his hips and frowns.*

*(to audience) “The older son was upset that his younger brother had been so foolish and so mean and had made so many mistakes. But now their father was CELEBRATING him! The older son refused to come to the party. He missed the chance to FORGIVE because he was so angry with his brother. This is what the father said to the older son.*

*Open the Bible to Luke 15:31-32 (NIV) and read.*

*“My son . . . you are always with me. Everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad. This brother of yours was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.*

*“Let’s give our volunteers a big hand as they head back to their seats.”*

*Collect the props as you dismiss the actors to their seats.*

**WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** *“Jesus didn’t tell the crowd what happened next in His story. I wonder if the older brother might have come inside to celebrate with his brother. Or maybe he held onto his anger and stayed outside, alone. We DO know that it was clear from Jesus’ story that God is always there to forgive us. God is like the father in the story. No matter what we’ve done, God is always there to welcome us home.*

*“This is so important to remember.*





WEEK  
**FOUR**  
MARCH 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

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

25 MINUTES

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**“God will always forgive you.**

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

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

**PRAY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You for this incredible story that Jesus told. It makes us feel so happy to know how much You love us! I know all of us can feel like the younger son when we’ve messed up. But You always forgive us like the father in the story. Thank You for the forgiveness You offer us through Jesus. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
MARCH 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      **STORY**      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME

25 MINUTES

## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** "Jesus told His story of the father and the two sons to show us what God is like.

**SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE**

**SLIDE: WEEK 4 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.*

"Remember what [Storyteller's name] said, God is like the father in the story. No matter what, we can always come back to God, and we can know that God will forgive us. I hope you always remember that.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**"God will always forgive you.**

"You can talk to God when things are going great in your life. You can talk to God when you're feeling sad or alone. You can even talk to God when you've done something you wish you hadn't. That's a time when it's so, SO important to talk to God. **[Basic Truth] You can trust God no matter what.**

*Hold up the baseball cap that the younger son was wearing. Put it on backward.*

"Sometimes, we might feel like the younger brother. We mess up, then we need to be forgiven.

*Turn the baseball cap around so it's forward-facing.*

"But sometimes we're like the older brother. We feel angry and jealous when we need to forgive someone ELSE. That can be hard to do, but Jesus gave us the very best example of how to forgive.

*Take the baseball cap off.*

"The reason we can forgive is because we know that God always forgives US. That's what we read in our memory verse for this month, Colossians 3:13. Let's say it together."

**SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE**

**KIDS AND HOST:** "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13, NIV)

**HOST:** "Great job! Now, let's head to Small Group and talk some more about God's amazing love and forgiveness."

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
MARCH 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

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

25 MINUTES

**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. OPENER/CLOSER

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Week 4 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
- Fun dance music for the game (several songs that the kids will know—cued up to the most recognizable part of the song)

**LARGE GROUP VISUALS:**

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- God's Big Story Timeline Slide
- Week 4 Timeline Image Slide
- Week 4 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.
- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software such as ProPresenter® have a countdown clock built into the program that you can overlay on a still image.*
- 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).
- Check in with your tech team to talk through how often you will pause the music for the game and what cue they'll need to know when to start it up again.

#### 2. WORSHIP

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Worship Leader(s)

**MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:**

- "All of the Ways" from *Everything to Me* (In *Get Reel* there is a *Live Loud* video you can show to help teach and encourage worship in our everyday lives. Consider using this segment before doing "All of the Ways.")
- "Who You Say I Am" from *Who You Say I Am* single

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

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- "All of the Ways" Live Lyrics Video (available through [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com)) or Dance Moves Music Video (available through [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com) or the 252 Media Package)
- "Love Like You" Live Lyrics Video (available through [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com))



## 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](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. BIBLE STORY

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Three male volunteers (one older boy, two adult leaders)
- Prop box containing:
  - Fake beard
  - Clip-on tie
  - Two baseball caps
  - Two backpacks
  - Posterboard sign that says "COUNTRY FAR AWAY"
  - Two-liter bottle of soda
  - BIG bag of candy
  - Stuffed pig
  - Royal-looking robe
  - Pizza box
  - Handful of confetti

### 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.
- It might be a good idea to choose the two Small Group Leaders in advance so you can let them know the general idea and ask them to overact for their parts.

- Hang the poster sign on the wall where you want the "country far away" to be.

**VIDEO ENHANCEMENTS FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT**  
AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AT [STORE.THINKORANGE.COM](http://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



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
MARCH 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

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

## GETTING READY

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

- 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