



WEEK
ONE
SEPTEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

It Takes Two
Two People Are
Better than One
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose your friends carefully.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when
trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Friendship—Using your
words and actions to show
others you care

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

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 ("Love One Another" from *Make a Move*, and
"Say It Again" from *My Life for You*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: The Power of Three (*k-1st grade*),
We Can Help! (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Application Activity: Statues (*k-1st grade*), Build-a-Friend
(*2nd-3rd grade*)

Memory Verse Activity: Proverbs Pantomime (*k-1st grade*),
All in Motion (*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



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

It Takes Two
Two People Are
Better than One
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose your friends carefully.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when
trouble comes."**
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Friendship—Using your
words and actions to show
others you care**

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

BIBLE VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 4:9
Ecclesiastes 4:10
Ecclesiastes 4:12

HOST SUPPLIES

- Toy and Inflatable instruments—as many as possible (drum(s), keyboard, trumpet, guitar, microphone, bass, harmonica, kazoo, pots and pans, etc.)
- Rubber bands, bungee cords, etc. to attach the instruments to the Host (see "What You Do")

STORY SUPPLIES

- Storyteller
- Two Small Group Leaders (pre-selected if possible; see "What You Do")
- Kid volunteer
- Bible
- Three lengths of rope, about six feet long each
- Rubber band that can fit around the three ropes together
- Device with a tutorial video for braiding a rope with three strands

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



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:

Host enters, carrying or wearing several toy or inflatable instruments (like Bert from Mary Poppins).

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: Hi, everybody! It's great to see you.

"Check it out. I've got all these awesome instruments, and I wanted to play them for you. I thought it would be fun if I could play them ALL at the same time! Are you ready? (Pause.) Great! Here we go!

AUDIO: FAMILIAR KIDS SONG

Struggle to play along with the music, using all the instruments in a comical way. Try a few times before giving up as you drop one or two of the instruments.

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

"Hmmm . . . Well, that didn't really work like I thought it would. I guess I can't play everything myself. Wait! I've got an even better idea! I could get some of YOU to come up here, and we can play these instruments together. Raise your hand if you want to play!

AUDIO: BRING UP MUSIC AGAIN

As the music plays, choose a few kids (and leaders) to come up and pretend to play the toy/inflatable instruments with you. Bring up the kids one at a time, and give each of them a few seconds to be the center of attention. If they're not sure what to do with the instrument you give them, show them how to "play." Encourage everybody else in the audience to stand and clap or sing along.

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

"That was so epic! Great job everybody! Let's give our band a hand as they head back to their seats.

Collect the instruments as you dismiss the kids to their seats.



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10 MINUTES

"That was the perfect way to start out our time together, because this month we're talking about friendship. Friendship is such an amazing gift that God has given us! Raise your hand if you're thankful for your friends. (*Raise your hand.*) Raise your hand if you want to BE a good friend. (*Raise your hand.*) That's so great!

"Here's what we mean when we talk about friendship.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"You all used your actions to show me you care when you helped me play that song just now. I certainly couldn't do it all by myself!

"I'm so thankful that God has given us friends to share life with. Friends add harmony to our lives so we don't just have to handle all of life's ups and downs by ourselves. What do you say we keep the music going? Let's all jump up on our feet and get ready to sing and worship God together."

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:



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BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Our story today comes from the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) Ecclesiastes was written by someone called 'the Teacher,' who many people believe was King Solomon. We know that Solomon asked God for wisdom, and God gave it to him. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon shared what he had learned about life. And he had something important to say about friendship.

"Before we get into it, I'll need two Small Group Leaders to come up here and help me with a little project.

Choose two pre-selected leaders to come on stage. Have them stand where you've laid out the three parallel ropes on the floor of the stage.

(Hold up one of the ropes.) "As you can see, we have three ropes. [Leaders' names], I'll need the two of you to start braiding these ropes together into one big rope. Can you do that while I explain what Solomon wrote about friendship? *(Pause.)* Great!"

Set the rope down so the three ropes are parallel and fairly close together. Then have the leaders start braiding the three ropes into one. They can work on this while you continue the story.

Note: If the leaders haven't had a chance to practice ahead of time, make sure you have a video tutorial pulled up on a device to show them what to do.

TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE

STORYTELLER: "In Ecclesiastes, chapter 4, Solomon described a person who worked hard and got a lot of things done in their life. But that wasn't enough. This person wasn't happy because they didn't have any friends to share their life with.

"Then Solomon said this.

Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NIRV) and read.

*"Two people are better than one.
They can help each other in everything they do. (NIRV)*

"Say that with me. 'Two people are better than one.'" *(Hold up two fingers then one finger.)*

AUDIENCE: "'Two people are better than one.'"

STORYTELLER: "If you focus on yourself and choose to go through life alone, that can leave you feeling pretty empty. We are designed to be friends—with God and with each other."

Quickly check on the leaders' progress with the rope and encourage them to keep going.



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FRIENDS CAN HELP

STORYTELLER: "Like Solomon said, friendship is one of God's greatest gifts to us! Solomon went on to explain how friendship can help us.

Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIRV) and read.

"Two people are better than one.

They can help each other in everything they do.

Suppose either of them falls down.

Then the one can help the other one up.

But suppose a person falls down and doesn't have anyone to help them up.

Then feel sorry for that person! (NIRV)

Walk through the audience.

"Okay, let's say two friends are walking along, and one of them falls down.

*Nod to a kid who you know will love being the center of attention. Cue them to "fall down."
(You may need to repeat the line for the kid to understand.)*

"What do you think the other friend would do? Would they walk away? (Start to walk away.) No way! If your friend falls down, you help them up! (Reach out your hand and help the kid up.)

"That's true if you actually fall down. But it's also true anytime you're going through something tough. Your friends are there to help you and encourage you.

"Solomon also said this.

Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIRV) and read.

"One person could be overpowered.

But two people can stand up for themselves.

(to the same kid) "Show me how you might look if you were overpowered, [kid's name].

Pause for the kid to respond. You may need to demonstrate a cowering pose first.

"Don't worry, [kid's name]! I'm your friend. (Strike a heroic pose.) I'll stand up for you when you feel overwhelmed and alone. I know you'd do that for me, too."

Motion for the kid to sit down. Go back on stage.

THREE CORDS AND THE TRUTH

STORYTELLER: "Solomon then used a word picture to explain why friendship is so important. He said . . .

Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIRV) and read.



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"A rope made out of three cords isn't easily broken.

"Okay, I know most of us don't make rope very often, but this is something people would have easily understood back in Solomon's time. You make a rope by braiding different cords together—kind of like what our friends [leaders' names] have been doing back here.

(to the two leaders) "Can you show us what you've made, [leaders' names]?"

The two leaders use the rubber band to "close up" the loose end of the rope. Then they hold it up so the audience can see.

"Go ahead and give it a tug. *(They do.)*

(to the audience) "If you make a rope this way, it's much stronger. It doesn't break easily.

"That's what Solomon meant when he said, 'A rope made out of three cords isn't easily broken.' (NIV)

"In case you're wondering, Solomon wasn't just talking about rope. He was still talking about friendship! If one friend can help, encourage, and stand up for you, a group of THREE friends can do that even better!

Take the rope from the leaders.

"Some people think that Solomon wasn't talking about another person here, but that he was actually talking about God being one of the three cords. In other words, if you and your friend both trust God and are choosing to follow God every day, your friendship will be even stronger. *(Tug on the rope to show how strong it is.)* You can encourage each other to grow and be more like Jesus in everything you do.

(to the leaders) "Thanks for your help today, [leaders' names]. You really helped us understand what Solomon meant about friendship!"

Dismiss the leaders to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: *(Hold up Bible.) "As we read these words from Solomon, we can see that he had learned some important things in his life. He had found wisdom that he wanted to pass on to other people. Solomon realized that he didn't find joy from having money or being famous. He realized that his friendships with other people were incredibly valuable. They were a true gift from God!*

"That's also how we should look at our friendships today. God gives us good friends for a reason. Our friends can encourage us when we're feeling down. Our friends can help us grow stronger in our relationship with God. It's important that we spend our time with friends who follow Jesus and who will encourage us to do that, too.

"Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE



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25 MINUTES

"Choose your friends carefully.

"Let's pray and thank God for giving us friends."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You so much for the wisdom You gave Solomon. Thank You for giving us friends who can encourage us as we follow You and live Your way each day. Help us remember to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and choose our friends carefully. And please show us how we can be wise friends for the people in our lives, too. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Solomon had some really amazing wisdom from God! He understood just how important our friendships can be. He understood that God has given us people who can support us, care for us, and help us follow God each and every day.

"God made us to live in friendship with other people. And so it's important that we choose friends who will be there for us, just like we'll be there for them.

"I hope you'll remember how important it is to do this.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Choose your friends carefully.

"Jesus showed how important friends are when He chose the 12 disciples to be His closest friends and followers. If Jesus needed friendship, then we definitely do, too!

"So let's choose the kind of friends who will stand up for us and help us. Let's choose friends who act with kindness. Let's choose friends who make wise decisions.

"I know you might not think too much about choosing your friends at your age, because mostly you just hang out with whoever you see at school or in your neighborhood. But this will become more and more important as you continue to grow. Just remember that God can help you **choose your friends carefully**. And remember to BE a good friend to the people in your life, too!

Share a personal story about a time when you found a good friend who was helpful to you.

"Our memory verse for this month is Proverbs 17:17.

SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes. (Proverbs 17:17, NIV)

"It's been great to hang out with you, my friends! You can head to Small Group and talk some more about choosing your friends carefully."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



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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:

- Host
- Toy and Inflatable instruments—as many as possible (drum(s), keyboard, trumpet, guitar, microphone, bass, harmonica, kazoo, pots and pans, etc.)
- Rubber bands, bungee cords, etc. to attach the instruments to the Host (see “What You Do”)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Familiar song for the kids to pretend to play along to

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

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®

or Amazon Music® and have it ready to play. If your church has a license agreement with a streaming service, please refer to the legal coverage of the license. *Note: Legally a song belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. Usually, but not always, PROs give general permission for performances in worship services. We recommend you obtain permission from the PRO representing the song or the publisher of the song you wish to play. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. For a list of PROs in your part of the world: www.iamusic.com. Look at the copyright on the CD or sheet music to discover the PRO or publisher of the song. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song.*

- 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.
- Gather all the toy and inflatable instruments and figure out how the Host can enter while wearing and carrying all of them. Use rubber bands and bungee cords as needed. You want the physical comedy of seeing the Host trying to be a “one-person band” like Bert in Mary Poppins.

2. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leader(s)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- “Love One Another” from *Make a Move*
- “Say It Again” from *My Life for You* (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 “Say It Again.”)

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- “Love One Another” Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)



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GETTING READY

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

- "Say It Again" Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com) or Dance Moves Music Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com or the 252 Media Package)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.
Note: Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:
"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe
©2000 Good Music Co.
CCLI License # 0000
- 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. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Two Small Group Leaders (pre-selected if possible; see "What You Do")
- Kid volunteer
- Bible
- Three lengths of rope, about six feet long each
- Rubber band that can fit around the three ropes together
- Device with a tutorial video for braiding a rope with

three strands, such as [this one](#) (if needed)

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.
- Set out the three lengths of rope, parallel, on the stage floor. Attach the three ropes together at one end so the leaders will be able to braid them. Have a rubber band available so they can secure the other end of the finished rope once it's braided.
- Pre-select two Small Group Leaders to braid the rope. Make sure they have a chance to practice the braiding in advance. If you don't have a chance to pre-select the leaders, have a device ready with a video tutorial so they can see what to do in the moment.

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



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

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

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)

Kids can let their friends know what they appreciate about them with this set of colorful guitar picks. After all, God made us to have good friends—and to BE good friends! The set includes five picks that kids can give to friends who show different qualities of friendship (encouragement, honesty, kindness, helpfulness, and wisdom) . . . plus one pick for them to keep with a nod to this month's verse, Proverbs 17:17.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AT STORE.THINKORANGE.COM.

MONTHLY WIDGET*: FRIENDSHIP GUITAR PICKS

Each month, we offer a unique item that helps kids and families apply what they're learning at home. Available at Store.ThinkOrange.com.

***widg-et [wij-it]** –noun

1. Something unspecific whose name is either forgotten or not known.
2. A device that is very useful for a particular job
Origin: 1925–30; perhaps an alternative form of gadget