



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All About Soul
Think About These Things
Philippians 4:8

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you spend the most
time thinking about?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Focus on what's true.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Anyone who lives without blame
walks away safely. But anyone
who takes a crooked path
will get caught."
Proverbs 10:9, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Integrity—Choosing to be
truthful in whatever you
say and do

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

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 ("Jesus I Will Trust You" from *This Love*, "You're the Reason" from *Press Play: Get in the Mix*, and "You Are Faithful" from *This Love*)
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 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



WEEK
FIVE
OCTOBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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Philippians 4:8

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Integrity—Choosing to be
truthful in whatever you
say and do**

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

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

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 (Formula 1 US Grand Prix, MLB World Series), 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: "Friends, I, [Name of Host], am so super-glad you are here! It's hard to believe that we have reached the final week of October! As we've learned what it means to be DRIVEN, we've played all sorts of car games, tested our car knowledge, and even constructed a race track out of PVC pipes! And today we have a game to top them all . . . this will require our contestants to have quick reflexes and a great attention span. Who wants to play a game I like to call 'The Last Checkered Flag'?! (Allow response)

SLIDE: "THE LAST CHECKERED FLAG" TITLE SLIDE

Host calls up five volunteers to the stage, introduces them, and has them stand by the table at center stage.

"Thanks for volunteering. Here's how you play. Actually, if you've ever played musical chairs, you might see some similarities. You've probably already noticed this table and the four checkered flags. When you hear music, the five of you will walk around the table with your hands behind your backs. As soon as the music stops, quickly grab a checked flag and wave it around like



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you just don't care. The first four of you to grab a checkered flag win that round. If you fail to grab a checkered flag, you'll return to your seat. After each round, we'll remove a flag from the table. This will continue until one person stands alone waving . . . you guessed it . . . THE LAST CHECKERED FLAG! Make sense? Any questions? (Get responses) Good! Let's play.

Host facilitates game. Each round, one player and flag should be eliminated from play. Host makes sure players don't get too rowdy on stage. Nobody should push, dive on, or disturb the table. If two individuals grab a flag at the same time, Host could intervene and have the two contestants settle the dispute with a quick round of rock, paper, scissors!

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

"This was absolutely amazing. Who knew you all had such quick reflexes?! All of our players exceeded my expectations, but one player proved to be a little more nimble! Let's go crazy for 'The Last Checkered Flag' CHAMP! (Allow response) Well done to all of our competitors. While we are at it, everyone stand up and get ready to sing out LOUD and worship God."

Host exits as Worship Leader enters.



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WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! It's so great to know that we can put our trust in Jesus. He is our Savior and our very best Friend. Even when times are tough, we can trust Jesus and believe that He is working in our lives. Let's give Him our trust today as we sing.

AUDIO: "JESUS I WILL TRUST YOU" / TRACK 2 FROM THIS LOVE

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "JESUS I WILL TRUST YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"Our relationship with Jesus is what fills our lives with joy, peace, and love. As we read in John 3:17: 'God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him.' (NirV) Jesus came to save us, and we belong to Him! We can put our hope in Him every day. Let's sing about that together.

AUDIO: "YOU'RE THE REASON" / TRACK 7 FROM PRESS PLAY: GET IN THE MIX

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "YOU'RE THE REASON" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"Worship helps us remember how good God is. It's a way that we can celebrate all the good things God has done in our lives. Our God is faithful and never, ever changes. Let's choose to sing and praise God together. Lift this up."

AUDIO: "YOU ARE FAITHFUL" / TRACK 6 FROM THIS LOVE

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "YOU ARE FAITHFUL" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Welcome, everyone. I’m really glad to see each of you today. I have a question I’d love for you to think about today. You don’t need to answer this out loud but just think about it for a moment. What is your biggest fear?”

“When I was your age, it was not cool to have fears! Friends expected us to act fearless in all situations. In fact, I remember a popular clothing brand in elementary school with the slogan ‘No Fear!’ The toughest kids wore an attitude and shirts screaming NO FEAR!

“But if I can be honest, I had lots of fears—and still do. When I was younger, the fears would consume my thoughts and at times affect my behavior.

Communicator tells a personal, age-appropriate story about a fear that consumed their thoughts and affected behavior. Use the following as a template.

“I was afraid of the dark. Every night I went to bed, I dreaded turning off my room lights because my night light was never bright enough! My family lived in an old house that made all kinds of noises! The noises were loudest the moment my room lights were turned off. The wind howled. The trees scraped against the roof. Critters seemingly had parties in the attic. The floorboards creaked. The shadows loomed on the walls.

“On one particular night, a storm blew through complete with thunder, lightning, and hail. My imagination was in overdrive. I had convinced myself there was a mob of rowdy monsters trying to tear into my house and take me away to their villainous lair. It was impossible to ignore my thoughts by singing a song, counting sheep, or praying! So I did the only thing that made sense—I hid under the covers. There was a problem in this moment. My house was entirely too hot to hide under the big covers. As I started to sweat profusely, I couldn’t stop thinking about the massive, nondescript monsters waiting to pounce as soon as I would rip off my covers to get cool. So I did the only thing that made sense to me at the time. I sweated under the covers until morning and didn’t get any sleep!”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Looking back on this experience, it is such a sad story! There were no monsters or villainous lairs. My fear of the dark mixed with my overactive imagination caused me to stay miserable all night long! My thoughts were completely consumed with a negative, made-up narrative and made me miserable.

“I’ve got a sneaky suspicion I’m not the only one here who knows this feeling! I’m sure there are at least a few others in the room who can focus on what’s going wrong even though we know it’s making us miserable. Some of you can get upset over not being selected first for the pick-up game at recess. The negative thought rolling through your head is telling you that ‘you’re not good enough.’ Maybe you compare your outfit to what others are wearing. In your head, you can’t shake the feeling of not liking any of the clothes you own. For others, you have people making fun of your size—you’re too tall or short. Your thoughts could be screaming, ‘I wish I was different.’

“It’s important for everyone to understand that how we focus our thoughts can affect our behavior and emotions. And when we choose to focus on negative thoughts, they can make us completely miserable! But what do we do about it?”



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Fear is real. Anger is real. Sadness is real. How can we feel those feelings without letting them control us? How can we trust God to help us deal with them and find hope and joy again? Wow, great questions, questions many of you have probably asked yourselves before.

"Thankfully, the writers of the Bible have a whole lot to say about questions like these. God inspired them to write down some amazing wisdom when it comes to how we can live an honest life with hope. Let's take a look at some of that wisdom right now!"

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Today we head to a part of the New Testament where we find letters written by a guy named Paul. You might have heard about him before. Early in his story, Paul was determined at all costs to stop the spread of a new movement called Christianity. At times, Paul arrested, harassed, imprisoned, and even had followers of Jesus sent to their deaths. However, this all changed when he encountered the Son of God on the road to Damascus.

"From that moment, Paul became a determined force to advance the story of Jesus with anyone willing to listen. As Paul traveled around the region, he built relationships with people, and through those relationships, he started churches. Paul spent several months in Philippi. While he was there, he started a church, and it began to grow.

"To stay connected with the different churches, Paul wrote letters. These letters were to teach what was true, correct false teaching, help solve problems, or encourage other Jesus followers not to give up practicing their faith in Jesus.

"Around 10 years after his stay in Philippi, Paul was arrested in Rome. It was during this time that Paul received a gift from the people of Philippi. He shared a special relationship with this church. To thank the people for their gift, he wrote them a letter. Toward the end of the letter, Paul reminded the believers how to keep growing in their peace and joy in Jesus!

"Paul wrote,

Open the Bible to Philippians 4:8 (NIV) and read.

"Finally, my brothers and sisters, always think about what is true. Think about what is noble, right and pure. Think about what is lovely and worthy of respect. If anything is excellent or worthy of praise, think about those kinds of things."

"What a great reminder! He was saying we should choose to fill our minds with all that is good from God. Let's see what this might mean for us. I need some help from a brave volunteer. Anybody interested in helping? (Allow response)

Communicator selects a volunteer and directs them to the stage. To speed up the process, consider prewriting a few examples on sticky notes.

"I want us to cover our brave volunteer with examples of what Paul was writing about in his letter to the Philippians! Let's consider what it means to think about what is TRUE. Each of us is surrounded by people who are afraid to tell me and you what THEY think about us, but just because it's spoken doesn't make it true. However, the Bible will tell you what is TRUE about you.



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Communicator reads off and hands TRUE examples about God's truth to the volunteer. Each example should be on its own sticky note. The volunteer, not the Communicator, should place the sticky notes on their arms or legs.

Examples could include: God made you. God loves you. God will never leave you. God forgives you. God gave you Jesus. As time permits, ask the audience for a few examples for each word in Philippians 4:8.

"It's not always easy to do what is NOBLE, RIGHT, and PURE. But there are some actions we can take to help us make the RIGHT CHOICE.

Communicator reads off and hands NOBLE/RIGHT/PURE examples to the volunteer. Each example should be on its own sticky note. The volunteer, not the Communicator, should place the sticky notes on their arms or legs.

Examples could include: Choose friends who make good choices. Study Bible stories of people who honored God. Look for what's right in your world. As time permits, ask the audience for a few examples for each word in Philippians 4:8.

"When walking around our school or neighborhoods, it doesn't take long to identify everything that's messed up. However, Paul suggested we look for everything that is LOVELY and WORTHY OF RESPECT.

Communicator reads off and hands LOVELY and WORTHY OF RESPECT examples to the volunteer. Each example should be on its own sticky note. The volunteer, not the Communicator, should place the sticky notes on their arms or legs.

Examples could include: Looking for beautiful fall leaves. Admiring the pumpkin patch. Pausing to notice the birds flying above. Listening to a really great song about God's love. Seeing your mom's hard work. As time permits, ask the audience for a few examples for each word in Philippians 4:8.

"Each of you was uniquely made by our powerful God! As a result, you are fully capable of using your God-given abilities and noticing the abilities of others. To do this, we should think and notice all that is EXCELLENT and WORTHY OF PRAISE.

Communicator reads off and hands EXCELLENT and WORTHY OF PRAISE examples to the volunteer. Each example should be on its own sticky note. The volunteer, not the Communicator, should place the sticky notes on their arms or legs.

Examples could include: Thinking about using your abilities to bless others. Planning ways to serve others. Praising other's talents. Complementing your teacher's teaching skills. As time permits, ask the audience for a few examples for each word in Philippians 4:8.

"Look at that! Our volunteer is covered with so many great examples! Each one of us could fill our heads with incredible reflections of God and what God wants for us, but often the good is overshadowed with the negative. We're quick to notice lies, flaws, and things that happen outside of our control. Thankfully, because of Jesus, we can focus on something different, something better. Let's read that verse one more time.



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25 MINUTES

Open the Bible to Philippians 4:8 (NIRV) and read.

“Finally, my brothers and sisters, always think about what is true. Think about what is noble, right and pure. Think about what is lovely and worthy of respect. If anything is excellent or worthy of praise, think about those kinds of things.”

Have volunteer return to their seat.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “It’s hard to believe Paul wrote to the Christians in Philippi nearly 2,000 years ago. The word of encouragement found in Philippians 4:8 still applies today. Whatever we choose to put into our hearts and minds will determine the words we speak and actions we take! Paul recognized the importance for followers of Jesus to consume and think about all the good that comes from God!

“To become more like Jesus, pay attention to your thoughts. When you start to worry or feel frustrated, you can choose what your mind focuses on. If your thoughts aren’t on the things that Paul listed in Philippians 4:8, you can feel trapped. However, you can replace them with something new or helpful! By focusing your thoughts on God, it can free your mind!

“I realize this is not an easy exercise, but God sends us Christians help! When we follow Jesus, God sends His Holy Spirit to help guide us. In fact, we need help from God’s Spirit to change what’s going on inside our heads. God’s Spirit can help us replace the negative with what’s true.

“Again, we need God’s help to change what’s going on inside our heads! Plus, it helps to pay attention to the things you’re watching and listening to, which includes music, video games, movies, websites, and even books. These can focus our minds on subjects other than what is TRUE, NOBLE, RIGHT, PURE, LOVELY, WORTHY OF RESPECT, EXCELLENT or WORTHY OF PRAISE!”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Sometimes it can be difficult to discern truth from fiction. It can be difficult to recognize who or what is worthy of respect. It can be hard to recognize what is right from wrong. This is why we believe it is important to spend time in the Bible and spend time with wise voices like your Small Group Leaders! Before we spend time with our leaders on this subject, we want you to noodle on this one question.

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

“What do you spend the most time thinking about?” What thoughts or subjects consume your mind at school? When you lay down in bed at night, where does your mind go? On your drive to practice, what are you thinking about? This is something you’ll talk more about in Small Group, but before you head out, let’s spend some time praying to ask God for help when we have trouble focusing our minds on what’s true!”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

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



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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. WELCOME/OPENER

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Five kid volunteers
- Four small checkered flags
- Table

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- High-energy music to use as kids enter the room
- Fun, upbeat music for the game

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
- "The Last Checkered Flag" 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® 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.
- 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 'The Last Checkered Flag,' set up a table at the center of the stage. If a round table is an option, it might work better than a rectangular table. The four checkered flags should be spaced evenly around the table to give as many people as possible a fair chance to grab one of the flags. Be sure to establish rules about NOT bumping into or jumping onto the table or swiping the flags onto the floor.

2. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leader(s)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "Jesus I Will Trust You" from *This Love*
- "You're the Reason" from *Press Play: Get in the Mix*
- "You Are Faithful" from *This Love*

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- "Jesus I Will Trust You" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "You're the Reason" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "You Are Faithful" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music 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
- Volunteer
- Prepared sticky notes (See *What You Do*)



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GETTING READY

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

- Extra sticky notes
- Fine tip marker

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- High-energy music to use as kids exit the room

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Key Question 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.
- 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.
- Some of the sticky note examples should be prewritten to save time. As time permits, ask the audience for a few examples for each word in Philippians 4:8.
 - TRUE: God made you. God loves you. God will never leave you.
 - NOBLE/RIGHT/PURE: Choose friends who make good choices. Study Bible stories of people who honored God. Look for what's right in your world.
 - LOVELY and WORTHY OF RESPECT: Admiring the pumpkin patch. Pausing to notice the birds flying above. Listening to a song about God's love.
 - EXCELLENT and WORTHY OF PRAISE: Thinking about using your abilities to bless others. Planning ways to serve others. Praising other's talents.

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