

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

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 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship ("Yes I Am" from Everything to Me, "At the Top of My Lungs" from Live It Out!)
- Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jonah

Jonah 1-3

Conversation Starter

What keeps people from doing what's best?

Bottom Line

God knows what's best.

Memory Verse

“Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.”

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-cancelling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

① Welcome

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video → Theme Loop

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown

Optional Video → Theme Intro

Optional Video → Theme Loop

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

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everyone! Welcome to Bedrock—where we're building confidence, block by block. I'm so glad you're here. We've got a ton planned, so make sure you're ready to jump in and have some fun.

"If you're new, today's a perfect day to check us out—we've got music, a wild story, and a game that's all about meeting new people and getting to know each other.

"Before we go any further, let's kick things off with a game. And trust me, you don't have to be athletic or know any random Bible facts—this one is for everyone. It's called Human Bingo!

"Here's how it works. Each of you will get a bingo card filled with random descriptions—like 'has been to another state,' 'has a pet,' or 'likes pizza.' Your mission? Move around the room, talk to as many different people as you can, and get someone's name in each square. Try to fill every space with a different person! You can use a person's back to bear down on and help you write!

"First one to get five in a row (**OR FILL THE WHOLE CARD FOR LARGER GROUPS**) yell 'Bingo!' If you finish early, keep helping other people fill up their cards. Let me give everyone a bingo card and something to write with!

→ Give each kid a bingo card and a pen. Explain any additional rules as needed.

"Okay, is everyone ready? (**MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS A BINGO CARD AND A PEN.**) Great! On your mark, get set ... GO!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

- Walk around with the Small Group Leaders, encouraging connections and jumping in on the fun.

"Okay! Bring it back in. Give yourselves a round of applause—if you learned something new about somebody, let them know!"

"I love seeing all the connections and the energy in this room. You know, one of the hardest things in life isn't always what you do, but why you do it. Sometimes, even when we know what's best, we don't actually do it."

"Our story today is about a guy who ran in the exact opposite direction from what God told him to do. Let's dive into that true story from the Bible after we worship God and tell Him that we love Him!"

② Worship

- Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! I love getting to worship God through music with you each week! God loves us so much, and I love telling Him that we love Him back with you!"

"This month, we've been learning that we'll face life with more confidence when we live out the truth that God, the strongest, is with us. You are a child of a Father who loves you! The strongest is always with you, so you go through everything with Him. Let's sing about that truth right now!"

AUDIO → "Yes I Am" track 1 from Everything to Me
Optional Video → "Yes I Am" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"Awesome singing, children of God! Let's sing one more song together. God is so good, so amazing, so powerful, and He wants to be our friend forever! So let's sing about how much we love Him and praise Him at the top of our lungs! This song is called 'At the Top of My Lungs!' Let's get loud!"

AUDIO → "At the Top of My Lungs" / track 6 from Live It Out!
Optional Video → "At the Top of My Lungs" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video

Great job, everyone! God gave us the Bible to teach us about who He is and what is true in the world! We try to put a little bit of truth in our heads each month—that's what our Memory Verse is! This month, our Memory Verse is Isaiah 40:31! I'll read it out loud, and then we can say it together!

SLIDE → Memory Verse

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: "Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength.

They will fly as high as eagles.

They will run and not get tired.

They will walk and not grow weak. —Isaiah 40:31

"Let's say it together!

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength.

They will fly as high as eagles.

They will run and not get tired.

They will walk and not grow weak. —Isaiah 40:31

WORSHIP LEADER: "Way to go, you guys! God loves you so much that He wants to give you strength as you go through life! God's strength is like a power-up that fills your heart, so you can face your life stronger. That's awesome! We'll try to put that truth in our hearts all month.

"This week we're going to look at the story of a God-follower named Jonah who learned that following God and His ways is always best. Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

③ Bible Story (Communicator Script)

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everyone! Today I have a big story to talk about, but before that, I want to talk to you about one thing—are you ready?"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: Alright, everyone. Take a seat, breathe, and let's lock in for a second. I want to start with a big question—a real one, not just for today, but for life!

"Think about it: Why is it so hard to actually do what you know is right?

"Sometimes it's fear—we don't do what's right because we're afraid of what people will think, or afraid it'll cost us something.

"Sometimes it's just ... not wanting to give up being comfortable. Maybe we don't trust that doing what's best will actually work out. And sometimes, honestly? We don't want to. We want to do our own thing.

"Hold that thought, because today's story is about a guy who literally ran in the exact opposite direction from what God asked. His name was Jonah. Maybe you've heard the story, but today, let's look at it like it's brand new.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Let's see what we can learn about God—the One who does the impossible—even when we're not at our best.

"But before we dive into our story, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're going through the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we going through the Bible? Is it because we really want to learn more about the Bible? Well, not exactly. Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him. He could have kept who He is a secret from us, a big mystery of the universe. But He didn't! He wants us to know Him, so He gave us the Bible. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is that we'll learn about Him!"

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

COMMUNICATOR: "We're going to go through God's Big Story! (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"Each week, we'll look at a story from God's Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we've been in the Bible as we journey along. (GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)

"Let me bring you up to speed on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made everything! He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore! It was so sad.

"And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way! So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Many years later, Abraham's great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn't know about Joseph. He saw how many of God's people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

"God's people cried out to God for help. He answered! God brought His people out of Egypt into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"After some time living in the Promised Land, God's people wanted a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (**AND ONE QUEEN**) followed. Sadly, the nation of God's people split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

"During this time, there were prophets in both kingdoms who spoke and taught on God's behalf. God would guide and direct the prophets to tell others about Him and His heart.

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: ""So Jonah—a real person, living during the time the nation of God's people was split in two, the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Israel.

"Jonah lived in the northern kingdom of Israel. All of the kings of the northern kingdom were evil, so it was not a great era for God's people. And Jonah wasn't exactly a model prophet. A prophet was supposed to deliver God's messages. And, well, let's just say Jonah was kind of bad at his job. You'll see. One day, God gave Jonah a very specific message. God said:

→ **Open the Bible to Jonah 1:2 (NIV) and read.**

"Go to the great city of Nineveh. Preach against it. The sins of its people have come to my attention."

"Now, pause there. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria—basically the number-one enemy of Jonah's people. And God wanted Jonah to go there and speak out? You can probably imagine how Jonah felt.

"Instead of obeying, Jonah did the complete opposite. He went down to the harbor at Joppa and bought a ticket to Tarshish—the ship's destination was pretty much as far as you could get in the other direction. It's almost like Jonah heard God say, 'Go east,' and Jonah sprinted west!

SLIDE 1 → Jonah Sleeps During Storm

"While Jonah was hiding out and literally sleeping below deck, a huge storm hit. On deck, the sailors were panicking—shouting out to the false gods they worshipped, trying to save the ship. But the storm only got worse.

"The captain finally found Jonah sleeping and said:

Open the Bible to Jonah 1:6 (NIV) and read.

"How can you sleep? Get up and call out to your god for help!"

"Eventually, Jonah admitted to the sailors on the boat: 'I'm the reason for this storm. I'm running away from God. The only way to calm the sea is to throw me overboard.'

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE 2 → Jonah Gets Thrown Overboard

"Can you imagine? The sailors didn't want to, but the storm just kept raging. So—finally—they picked up Jonah and tossed him into the waves.

"The sea instantly grew calm. And just when Jonah probably thought it was all over—God did something totally unexpected. A gigantic fish—maybe the only one in history with a taste for runaway prophets—swallowed Jonah whole!

SLIDE 3 → Jonah Inside the Big Fish

"For three days and three nights, Jonah was inside that fish. In the absolute darkness, totally powerless, Jonah finally did what he hadn't done so far in his story—he prayed.

"Jonah cried out to God, admitting how desperate he was. This is what he prayed:

Open the Bible to Jonah 2:2, 6 (NIRV) and read.

"When I was in trouble, I called out to the LORD.
And he answered me. ...
I thought I had died
and gone down into the grave forever.
But you are the LORD my God.
You brought my life up
from the very edge of the pit of death."

"At the end of three days, God made that fish—yep—spit Jonah out onto the shore! Jonah had probably never been more grateful to be covered in fish guts.

SLIDE 4 → Jonah on the Shore

"So there was Jonah. Alive, but probably smelling like fish, lying on the sand. But before he could even catch his breath—God spoke to Jonah again.

Open the Bible to Jonah 3:1 (NIRV) and read.

"Go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce to its people the message I give you."

'This time, Jonah didn't run away from God. He obeyed.

"Now, Nineveh wasn't just big—it was massive. It would take three days to walk from one side to the other. As soon as Jonah arrived, he started delivering God's message, shouting as he walked through the busy streets:

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE 5 → Jonah Speaks in Nineveh

→ Open the Bible to Jonah 3:4 (NIV) and read.

"In 40 days Nineveh will be destroyed."

"Imagine the looks he got—this guy just showed up out of nowhere, talking about destruction and warning everyone to turn to God."

"And here's where the story took a wild turn: The people of Nineveh actually listened. Even the king was shaken. He took off his royal robes, sat in the dust, and sent out a message to everyone:

→ Open the Bible to Jonah 3:8-9 (NIV) and read.

"All of you must call out to God with all your hearts. Stop doing what is evil. Don't harm others. Who knows? God might take pity on us. He might not be angry with us anymore. Then we won't die."

"And that's exactly what happened. The people of Nineveh—famous for being the bad guys—humbled themselves and turned to God. They stopped doing what was wrong and asked for mercy."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "When God saw their hearts had changed, He showed them mercy. God did not destroy Nineveh."

"You'd think Jonah would be thrilled, right? But instead ... Jonah sulked. He was angry that God would show love to people Jonah thought didn't deserve it."

"Jonah missed something huge: God's love is for everyone—even our enemies. God always knows what's best, even when it doesn't make sense to us."

"Even when Jonah thought it wasn't worth it. God knew what was best. And because of that, thousands of people chose to follow God."

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!"

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here on the path of God's Big Story after this picture of David being anointed and before this picture of Daniel. We're on the path, journeying along in God's Big Story!"

"This week, we talked about Jonah. Jonah was a prophet who lived during the time when God's kingdom was split in two—the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom. Jonah lived in the northern kingdom of Israel, but God wanted him to speak to the people of Nineveh. God's message was what He often said: 'Come back to Me! Come back to Me!'

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

Sadly, the northern kingdom of Israel that Jonah lived in never came back to God. It was destroyed. But God didn't give up on His promise! He wants us to be His close friends again! So He faithfully saved a remnant, a small group of people mostly from the southern kingdom of Judah. And from this little remnant that God protected, many, many years later would come Jesus! And Jesus would rescue us all!"

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE 2 → 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.

→ **"This week we talked about Jonah!"**

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "The story of Jonah isn't just a story about running away or about giant fish and ancient cities. It's about what happens when we let fear, anger, or pride make us forget who God is and what He can do. Jonah knew all about God, but he struggled to believe that God's ways were really best—especially when they felt impossible or unfair. And honestly, that's something we all wrestle with. It's easy to want to do our own thing, to run from what's hard, or to believe that some people just aren't worth our effort or God's love. But God keeps inviting us back. He's patient, and He's always ready to give second chances—not just to 'them,' but to us too."

"This week, maybe you'll face something that feels impossible. Maybe it's a challenge at home, at school, or inside your own heart. Maybe you'll feel like running the other way or giving up. When that moment comes, remember Jonah. Remember that God's love is bigger than your biggest mistake, and His power is greater than whatever stands in your way. You can have confidence—not because you have all the answers, but because God is with you and for you. The question we're left with is the same one Jonah had to face:

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "What keeps people from doing what's best?

SLIDE → Theme Background

"Let's chew on that question as we head to our Small Groups. Now, let's pray together."

Preteen

Large Group

November — Week 2

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, sometimes it's easier to run away than to trust You—especially when things feel impossible or when we don't want to do what's right. Thank You that You never give up on us, even when we mess up or when we're afraid. Give us courage to follow You. Help us believe that Your ways are best, so we always follow them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Welcome/Opener

What You Need

- Host
- "Bingo Cards" Activity Page (printable), one bingo card for each kid
- Pens, one for each kid

Music and Sound Effects

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos

- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme Intro

What You Do:

- 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 and/or sound effects on an authorized basis from a resource such as Apple Music®, Amazon Music®, and/or a sound effect library and have it ready to play. Or, if you choose to stream music, refer to the terms and conditions of your streaming service. Note that you will likely need a commercial license in order to stream music publicly. Also confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform music and sound effects in your kids' environments, such as a blanket PERFORMmusic™ license from CCS. Note: Legally a song and/or sound effect 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. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song and/or sound effect.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- "Yes I Am" from Everything to Me
- "At the Top of My Lungs" from Live It Out!

Optional Videos

Available for purchase.

- "Yes I Am" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "At The Top of My Lungs" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from *Amazing Kids Worship* and *Orange Kids Music*. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at [store.ThinkOrange.com](http://thinkorange.com) or for free with APlay.

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

- 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 Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many *Orange Kids Music* songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- Visit the Orange Store for Music Scope and Cycle purchases. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

Optional for God's Big Story

- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- God's Big Story Slide
- Week 2 Timeline Image Slide
- We recommend that you create a timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed timeline images in order, week by week. We'll provide a timeline image for each week of curriculum. The timeline image is listed as a slide, but can be printed. A [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

Optional Videos

- Theme Loop

What You Need:

NOTE: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!

If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session on its own as a standalone, without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer."

Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend. Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!

- Communicator
- Bible

Music and Sound Effects

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- Theme Background Slide
- Conversation Starter Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Theme Slide
- Bible Story Images, containing:
 - "1 Jonah Sleeps During Storm" Slide
 - "2 Jonah Gets Thrown Overboard" Slide
 - "3 Jonah Inside the Big Fish" Slide
 - "4 Jonah on the Shore" Slide
 - "5 Jonah Speaks in Nineveh" 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.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- As the script prompts, add a line of red tape onto the ground.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

Optional for God's Big Story

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- God's Big Story Slide
- Week 2 Timeline Image Slide
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Optional Videos

- Theme Loop

Video Enhancements for Your Environment

Available in your media files and APlay.

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):

- StoryLab: Invite elementary kids to engage with inquisitive young hosts as they explore core biblical truths and stories in a STEAM-inspired setting.

For 252 Preteen (4TH AND 5TH GRADE):

- The So & So Show: Guide preteens to explore questions of faith through a YouTube-style show full of humor and lots of zany fun.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Themed transitions
- Countdown videos (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with APlay! [JoinAPlay.com](#) is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. APlay gives you more time to focus on what truly matters — more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.