

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 ("Brave" and "Yes I Am")
- Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Conversation Starter
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Verses to Take with You
4. Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH
↓



Today's Bible Story

Joshua and the Spies

Numbers 13-14

Conversation Starter

When is it hard to trust God?

Bottom Line

God can give you courage when others are afraid.

Memory Verse

"When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you"
Psalm 56:3



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: "What's up, everyone! Welcome back! We're continuing our journey this month talking about COURAGE and being 'On the Move'! Sometimes moving forward means facing some tricky obstacles, like figuring out how to cross a giant raging river . . . or maybe just a section of this floor!"

"That's right, it's time for a challenge that will test your teamwork and your strategy! Get ready for the 'Cross the River Challenge'!"

SLIDE → Cross the River Challenge

"Let's get into your small groups. Can you do that? (**PAUSE WHILE THE KIDS GET IN THEIR SMALL GROUPS.**) Great!"

"Let me give you your 'rafts.' I'll explain more about these 'rafts' in a second.

→ **Give each small group a small, identical number of "rafts"—e.g. 3-4 carpet squares, poly spots, or pieces of cardboard.**

"So, do you see these tape lines right here? This is a river! You and your entire small group are on this side of the river!"

→ **Point to starting side of the tape line and instruct all of the small groups to arrange themselves behind the tape line.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Your goal is to get EVERYONE safely to the other side (**POINT TO FINISH LINE**). The catch? You can ONLY travel using these magic rafts! (**GESTURE TO A RAFT ITEM.**) You cannot touch the dangerous river water—a.k.a. the floor—at any time while crossing. If anyone touches the floor, that person has to go back to the start. You only have these few rafts, so you'll need to figure out how to get them back and forth to shuttle your whole team across. It takes planning! It takes teamwork! It takes courage! First team to get everyone across wins! Ready . . . set . . . CROSS THAT RIVER!"

→ **Start the game. Play upbeat background music. Host provides commentary, encourages strategy, and enforces rules. Celebrate the winning team.**

AUDIO → Play high-energy music

"Whew! Nice work, small groups! That required some serious brainpower and working together! Sometimes the biggest obstacle isn't the river itself, but figuring out how to trust the plan and work together, especially when things look tricky."

"Today we're hearing about a time God's people faced a huge obstacle, and got some very different reports about what to do next. Let's get ready to worship the God who is always with us and guides us through every obstacle!"

② Worship

→ **Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.**

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everybody! What's up? It's SO good to see all of you here today! That last game looked like a ton of fun—you guys were crushing it! Now, we get to switch gears just a little bit and do something super-important, something that helps us connect with God, the One who gives us strength and courage for all those challenges. That's worship! This is our time to sing, to shout, to focus on how amazing God is, and to tell Him how much He means to us. Are you ready to make some noise and give God your best today? Awesome! Let's get started!"

AUDIO → "Brave" / track 7 from Everything to Me
Optional Video → "Brave" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video

"Awesome! Let's say our Memory Verse together. It's Psalm 56:3."

SLIDE → Memory Verse

"Let's read it together:"

WORSHIP LEADER and KIDS: "When I'm afraid. I put my trust in you. — Psalm 56:3"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: "Trusting God! That's key. When we trust God, we can have confidence no matter what others say, because we know and believe that what He says about us is more true than what anyone else says! You are a child of a Father who loves you!"

AUDIO → "Yes I Am" / track from Ready, Set, Move!

Optional Video → "Yes I Am" Dance Moves Video (**MEDIA PACKAGE**) or Live Lyrics Video

"Wow, that was incredible worship, you guys! I love hearing your voices and seeing you connect with God like that. Now, let's get comfortable, find our seats, and get ready to dive into God's Word to hear an amazing true story from the Bible!"

③ Bible Story (Communicator Script)

SLIDE → Theme Background

- Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.
- Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit. Has a table set up with two clear jars on it: one labeled "FEAR" and one "FAITH/COURAGE." Also has items ready in a box on the table so the audience can't see the contents, which are: zip-top bags of large rocks, small pebbles, large plastic grapes/ colorful pom-poms/large fruit representation, colorful craft gems/shiny objects, a container of murky water, and a container of clear water.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey guys! Great job in worship, declaring who God is. Trusting Him is essential, but let's be real, sometimes it's easier said than done, right?"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Quick question—and just think about this in your head for a sec. If our whole group here had to decide right now on ONE topping for a giant pizza to share, what do you think would win?

"Pepperoni or pineapple?"

- Pause briefly for mental consideration.

"Okay, let's do a quick vote just for fun."

"All in favor of 'pepperoni,' raise your hand!"

- Count roughly.

"Okay, hands down. All in favor of 'pineapple'?"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ **Count roughly.**

"Looks like **(STATE THE WINNER)** wins!

"Now, for something fun like pizza toppings, going with the majority is usually no big deal. But what about bigger things? Can you think of a time when maybe going along with the crowd, doing what most people are doing or saying, might not be the best or wisest choice?

→ **Pause for thought, maybe take one or two brief answers if time allows.**

"It can be tough to stand apart from the crowd—especially if the crowd seems really sure about something, or maybe really afraid of something. It takes courage to trust what you know is right, or to trust God, when everyone else is panicking. So my question to you is: 'When is it hard to trust God?'

"Think about that. When is it hard to trust God? Maybe especially when the people around you are full of fear or doubt? Our story today is about a time exactly like that."

→ **Move to the table with the jars.**

"Before we jump into that story, let me tell you about something really amazing we're doing this year—we're going through the entire story of the Bible. One of the reasons God gave us the Bible is to get to know Him. So as we go through the story God is telling, our intention is that we get to know Him better!

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

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

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"Each week, we'll go through a story in the Bible that's part of the big story God is telling. We'll add that week to our timeline. **(GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)**

"But before we dive into today's story, let's catch up to see what has happened so far in God's Big Story!

"Adam and Eve were the first people God made. God made them to be His close friends! But they sinned, and it pulled them away from God. God wanted them to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore! God didn't go away, but people's hearts did. It was so sad. And everyone who was born after Adam and Eve was born with the same problem—they couldn't be close friends with God either.

"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 started His great rescue plan. And this great rescue was going to come through a family!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

So God started His great rescue with a man named Abraham. God chose Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. God grew and grew and grew Abraham's family, and they became a whole bunch of people—God's people. Eventually, God's people were enslaved in Egypt. It was so sad and difficult. But then God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt to freedom! And he did! And that's where we are in God's Big Story. God's people were free!"

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Today we're moving right along in the Bible to the fourth book, Numbers. (**HOLD UP BIBLE.**)

"This book of the Bible is called Numbers because it talks about counting God's people as they were traveling.

"God had a home prepared for His people, but they had to travel through the wilderness to get there. After about two years traveling through the wilderness, learning to trust God (**SOMETIMES!**), God's people finally arrived at the edge of the land God had promised them—Canaan! This was the land God had promised Abraham generations ago. It was time to move in! God told Moses:

→ **Open the Bible to Numbers 13:2 (NIRV) and read.**

"Send some men to check out the land of Canaan. I am giving it to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of Israel's tribes."

"So, because there were twelve tribes of Israel, twelve spies went into Canaan. They explored for forty days. When they came back, they reported back on what they found. The land was super-fruitful, but there were powerful people living there—they even saw giants! And the land was filled with cities with huge walls.

"Then the spies gave two different responses to what they found in the land, based on what they chose to focus on.

→ **Hold up the "FEAR" jar, then put it back on the table.**

"Ten of the spies came back and said this:

→ **Open the Bible to Numbers 13:31-33 (NIRV) and read.**

They said, "We can't attack those people. They are stronger than we are."

→ **Put a large rock into the "FEAR" jar.**

The men spread a bad report about the land among the Israelites. They said, "The land we checked out destroys those who live in it."

→ **Add another rock to the "FEAR" jar.**

"All the people we saw there are very big and tall. . . . We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes. And that's also how we seemed to them."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

- Pour some murky, cloudy water into the “FEAR” jar, making it hard to see through it clearly.
- Hold up the murky “FEAR” jar.

“The ten spies spread and spread and spread the fear in their response. The crowd listened to the fearful report. Panic spread like wildfire!

- Open the Bible to Numbers 14:2-4 (NIRV) and read.

The whole community said to them, “We wish we had died in Egypt or even in this desert. Why is the LORD bringing us to this land? We’re going to be killed by swords. Our enemies will capture our wives and children. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” They said to one another, “We should choose another leader. We should go back to Egypt.”

“But two spies, Joshua and Caleb, saw the same land with the same challenges, and focused on something different.

- Hold up the “FAITH/COURAGE” jar.

“They came back and said:

- Open the Bible to Numbers 14:7-9 (NIRV) and read.

“We passed through the land and checked it out. It’s very good.”

“The land really was plentiful! The grapes were so huge that it took two men to carry one single bunch on a pole!

- Place large plastic grapes or colorful pom-poms representing fruit into the “FAITH/COURAGE” jar.

“If the LORD is pleased with us, he’ll lead us into that land. It’s a land that has plenty of milk and honey. He’ll give it to us.”

- Add some colorful gems representing God’s promises.

“But don’t refuse to obey him. And don’t be afraid of the people of the land. We will swallow them up. The LORD is with us. So nothing can save them. Don’t be afraid of them.”

- Pour clear water into the “FAITH/COURAGE” jar. Place the two jars side-by-side.

“Look at these two reports. Same land, same exploration trip. But two totally different perspectives. One focused only on the scary giants and high walls—the FEAR.

- Point to “FEAR” jar.

“The other acknowledged the challenges but focused on something else! They knew God was with them, was bigger than those scary giants, and had promised them the land! This report from Joshua and Caleb focused on God’s presence, His strength, and the goodness of His promise—FAITH and COURAGE.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ **Point to “FAITH/COURAGE” jar.**

“Now, who do you think God’s people listened to? The two guys full of faith, or the ten guys full of fear?

→ **Allow responses—likely “the ten.”**

“You got it. In fact, they even asked to kill Joshua and Caleb instead of focusing on what was true.

→ **Add more murky water and maybe small pebbles representing complaints to the “FEAR” jar.**

“They completely forgot that God was with them! They forgot that God is stronger than those giants—they had seen God’s power that rescued them from Egypt and provided for them in the wilderness. But they had forgotten. And God was hurt.

“Suddenly, God’s glory appeared. God was so hurt that the people didn’t trust Him after everything He had done. Moses prayed for the people, and God forgave them.

→ **Open the Bible to Numbers 14:20-23 (NIRV) and read.**

The LORD replied, “I have forgiven them, just as you asked. You can be sure that I live. You can be just as sure that my glory fills the whole earth. And here is what you can be just as sure of. Not one of these people will see the land I promised to give them. They have seen my glory. They have seen the signs I did in Egypt. And they have seen what I did in the desert. But they did not obey me. And they have tested me ten times. So not even one of them will ever see the land I promised to give to their people of long ago. The person who has not respected me will never see it.

“So now they would wander in the wilderness until they all passed away. Only their children, and the two faithful spies, Joshua and Caleb, would get to enter the land.

→ **Hold up the “FAITH/COURAGE” jar.**

“The people were devastated when they heard this. Then they tried to rush in and take the land anyway, thinking they could do it on their own now. But it was too late. They disobeyed again, and they were defeated. Their fear led them to distrust God, and they missed out on His promise for them.

“But Joshua and Caleb? They held onto courage because they trusted God, even when the vast majority around them were terrified. They focused on God’s power and promises. They focused on the truth that He was with them and nothing is stronger than Him.

→ **Point to the “FAITH/COURAGE” jar.**

“They didn’t focus on the scary giants.

→ **Point to the “FEAR” jar.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"And that's the key—what you choose to focus on. Even though Joshua and Caleb were facing the same tough things as the other spies—there really were powerful giants living in the land in cities that were strong—they chose to focus on God. And what they focused on made all the difference. Their view of God got bigger and bigger, and their fears got smaller and smaller. They trusted God, and He gave them the courage to face the tough things.

"They got courage to face the scary things that were in front of them because they focused on God—on His presence and on His power. They were brave because they knew the strongest of all was with them.

"Joshua and Caleb showed us something so important:

SLIDE → Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] "God can give you courage when others are afraid."

"It's easy to get swept up in the fear of the crowd. When everyone else is panicking or saying, 'It's impossible!' it takes real courage to stand firm, focus on God, and trust Him. But Joshua and Caleb showed us it's possible.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Think about your own life. Maybe it's trying out for something new, and your friends say, 'Don't bother, it's too hard, you'll never make it.' Maybe it's seeing someone treated unfairly and everyone else just walks by, afraid to get involved. Maybe it's just pressure to go along with something you know isn't right because 'everyone else is doing it'."

"In those moments, it can be really hard to trust God, right? It feels easier, maybe safer, to just go with the flow, to let the fear . . .

→ **Point to the "FEAR" jar.**

" . . . dictate your choices. But God invites us to choose a different way. He invites us to focus on Him—His promises, His presence, His power. The things that fill up our 'Faith and Courage' jar. The strongest, God Himself, always goes with you.

→ **Point to the "FAITH/COURAGE" jar.**

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

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

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"In God's Big Story, we're a little bit after the picture of God working through Moses to part the Red Sea. We're traveling on this path right here—we're traveling, just like God's people were! (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"This week we talked about Joshua and Caleb and the ten other spies who went to scope out the land God had promised to His people—the Promised Land! God, once again, took care of His people. Every need that came up on their journey, God met it. If they were thirsty, He got them water! If they were hungry, He delivered them food! Even the land that was going to be their future home that they spied into was awesome—the Promised Land. Every step of the way, God took care of this family. He took care of this family because He is good, but also, as we'll see in God's Big Story, because He was bringing His great rescue through this family. By taking care of this family, God was also taking care of us. Because Jesus, our great rescue, would come from this family!

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

SLIDE → Week 2 Timeline Image

→ **If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.**

"This week we talked about Joshua and Caleb and the other spies!

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "When we think about Joshua and Caleb and the other spies, we can remember that God is always, always more powerful than anything we face. And if we think and think and think about God's strength and His power, our view of Him will grow bigger and bigger until the thing we're afraid of will get smaller and smaller in our minds! What we focus on matters. Other people might be scared, and that's okay. We can be brave because we know God is with us and He is more powerful than anything! God is the strongest!"

"We can ask the Holy Spirit inside of us for help when we need a reminder that we're not alone, or if we need a reminder that the God who is with us is bigger and stronger than anything we'll face."

"So as you head to Small Groups, let's ask this question:

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "When is it hard to trust God?"

"Talk about those specific times with your group. When does the fear of the crowd, or the size of the challenge, make trusting God feel really difficult? And how can remembering that God is with us—the strongest of all—help us be courageous? Let's pray."

Preteen

Large Group

September — Week 2

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Prayer

HOST: "God, thank You for showing us through Joshua and Caleb that courage comes from trusting that You are with us and that You are stronger than everything—not from listening to the fears of others. Help us to see situations through the eyes of faith, focusing on Your goodness and Your presence with us—because Your presence with us is what's really true. Help us to trust You no matter what the powerful things in our life look like. Help us to remember that You are the most powerful of anything and You go with us. 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
- Painter's tape (to create a clearly marked "river" area—see "What You Do?")
- Carpet squares, poly spots, or cardboard pieces—3-4 for each Small Group to create "rafts"

Music and Sound Effects

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

Large Group Visuals

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- "Cross the River Challenge" Slide

Optional Videos

Available for purchase.

- 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.
- Using tape or fabric strips, clearly mark a wide "river" area on the floor. (Like a long starting line and finish line.)
- *NOTE: If you have a larger group, you might need to play several rounds of this game, with an equal number of Small Groups "crossing the river" in each round.*

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- "Brave" from Everything to Me
- "You Are My Hope" from Every Beat

Optional Videos

Available for purchase.

- "Brave" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "You Are My Hope" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

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.
- 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

Available for purchase.

- Theme Loop
- Theme Transition to Virtue
- Virtue Transition to Theme

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Two clear, identical jars/containers
- Labels (two, one to be put on each jar: "FEAR" and "FAITH/COURAGE")
- Items for the "FEAR" jar, and should fit inside of it:
 - Large rocks
 - Small pebbles
- Items for "FAITH/COURAGE" jar and should fit inside of it:
 - Large, plastic grapes or other fruit representation or colorful pom-poms (representing fruit)
 - Colorful craft gems or shiny objects (representing God's promises)
- Zip-top bags for large rocks, small pebbles, colorful pom-poms (if using for representation of grapes), craft gems (or shiny objects)
- Container of murky water
- Container of clear water
- Table
- Box to hold all items for jars

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

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).
- Prepare two clear, identical jars or containers. Write "FEAR" on one label, and place the label on one jar. Write "FAITH/COURAGE" on the other label, and place the label on the other jar.
- Put large rocks, small pebbles, colorful pom-poms (if using), craft gems (or shiny objects) in separate zip-top bags.
- Place all of the items (including their zip-top bags) for both jars in a box so the audience can't see the contents of the box.

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.