

WEEK

ONE

Preteen | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 1

Bible Story: The Story of the Farmer • *Matthew 13:1-23*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says.

Conversation Starter: What are you going to do with what you've heard?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 Nlrv

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-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

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

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

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



Bible Story

The Story of the Farmer • *Matthew 13:1-23*

Bottom Line

God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says.

Conversation Starter

What are you going to do with what you've heard?

Monthly Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17 Nlrv

10 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

Setting the Tone for the Experience

What You Say:

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, 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 back to Kingdom Quest! I'm your host, [Your Name], and I'm seriously so glad you're here. Whether your week was awesome, weird, stressful, or you barely made it out of bed this morning, you made it here, and that's a win.

"You're stepping into a room full of people who are on a mission this month, not to find pirate treasure, not to level up in a video game, but to discover the greatest adventure ever: living in God's kingdom!

"But what is God's kingdom? It's anywhere God reigns as King. And He is loving, trustworthy, good, and lots of other awesome things. God's kingdom is full of the good qualities of God's character because it's where He reigns as King.

"We want this kingdom to spread everywhere. We want everyone to submit their hearts to Him as King.

"This month, we're talking all about God's kingdom. We're going to explore what it's like, how it grows, and what it means for YOU. The full name of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.' And we've got a pretty epic day ahead.

"BUT before we jump into the adventure, we're kicking things off with a challenge. And not just any challenge—this will challenge your ability to not throw things wildly across the room.

"

What You Say:

5 min

Large Group Game | The Landing Zone!

What You Need

No supplies needed

Today's game is called 'The Landing Zone!'

SLIDE: "The Landing Zone!" Title

"Okay, here's how the game works. Four volunteers will stand behind this line right here.

(Gesture to the start line.)

"Across the room, you'll see our four Landing Zones.

(Gesture across the room to the Landing Zones.)

"Each person will get one frisbee. Your goal is to toss your frisbee so it lands inside one of the Landing Zones. If it lands in, great! If it misses, no problem. Just run and grab it, come back to the start line, and try again.

"Everyone else in the room, your job is simple: cheer loudly, of course!

"Let's pick our volunteers! Raise your hand if you'd like to play!

(Pick four volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised, line them up side by side behind the start line, and give each kid a frisbee or paper plate.)

"Volunteers ready? Crowd, are YOU ready? When I say, 'GO,' start aiming for the Landing Zones!

"Here we go in: 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... GO!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

"Ooh, that was close! Nice throw! We've got some serious aim happening over here!

(Play the game until one of the kids successfully throws their frisbee or paper plate into one of the Landing Zones. Declare the winner.)

"YES! That one's in the Landing Zone! Excellent job! Let's hear it for our winner!

(As time allows, continue with more rounds. Pick four new volunteers at the start of each round. If you use paper plates, give each player a new one as needed.)

"Awesome job! Let's give a big hand for all our volunteers! You can head back to your seats.

"Now it's time to check out our Bottom Line for today! Let's take a look.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says. Can you say that with me?"

KIDS AND HOST: *[Bottom Line]* "God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says."

HOST: "This is huge! Jesus shows us what God's kingdom is really like—how it works, how it grows, and how we get to be part of it. We'll unpack more of this soon! Thanks for playing our game with me today, friends!"

10 min

Worship | Amazing Music

5 min

Closer | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Over & Over Again | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

Inviting People to Respond to God

What You Say:

AMAZING MUSIC

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today! Go ahead and stand up with me. Let's dive into worship. No matter what's happened this week, we can know God is with us. He is aware of everything and walks with us.

"This first song is called 'Closer.' As we sing, let's put away all distractions.

SONG: "Closer" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"That was awesome! Let's keep worshipping! It's time to sing a song called 'Over & Over Again.' Let's remember Jesus is real, He's present, and we can keep coming to Him over and over again. Let's jump in and sing it!

What You Say:

SONG: "Over & Over Again" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"I love getting to worship with you all. Worship isn't just something we do; it's something that prepares our hearts to hear from God. And today, God wants to speak to you!

"Let's take a look at our Memory Verse. We're going to be learning it all month! Let me give you a little background about it. In it, Paul was addressing something going on in the Roman church. Some people were focusing on what other people were eating and drinking, and saying, 'You can't be a follower of Jesus if you eat a certain way.'

"But Paul answered, 'No, God's kingdom isn't about that silly stuff. It's about things of God—righteousness and joy and peace. And that stuff is going to be like air, all around you, as you spend time with God. The Holy Spirit will just produce that stuff. That's what God's kingdom is about!

"Let me read you this month's Memory Verse. It's Romans 14:17!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: *"God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV)."*

"Now let's all say it together!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV)."*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Nice job! I love this verse because it reminds us that God's kingdom is just like He is—full of righteousness, peace, and joy! God's kingdom is good like He is! Thanks for worshipping with me today!"

15 min

Bible Story

5 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

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).
- Place the noise-cancelling headphones and bag of larger seeds on the table for the Communicator to use during the teaching.

5 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

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).
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5 min

Bible Story (Live)

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Say:

BIBLE STORY (COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT)

SLIDE: Theme Background

(Things to have ready: Set up the table at the front of the teaching area so the Communicator can place their Bible on it and read from it. Noise-cancelling headphones and bag of seeds on the table.)

Introduction

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, friends! I'm so excited to be here with you today! Let me ask you something really quickly. Have you ever had someone talk to you, and your brain was like ...

(Freeze with a blank stare on your face.)

"Yeah, nothing's happening up here."

"Or maybe someone gave you instructions—a teacher, coach, or parent—and as soon as they walked away, you realized you remembered exactly zero percent of what they said.

"Anybody relate?"

"Or maybe you've had the opposite moment when someone said something, and it just ... stuck. Something registered. You kept thinking about it. Maybe it even changed your mood or your day.

"We all hear things differently. Sometimes we're paying attention. Sometimes we're not. Sometimes life is loud, distracting, crowded, or just a lot.

"And the people who followed Jesus around? They were the same way. Huge crowds came out to hear Him, but not everybody walked away with the same experience.

"One day, Jesus looked at this huge group of people—some curious, some confused, some ready, some not—and He told them a story.

"It wasn't dramatic. It wasn't long. It wasn't complicated. But it made everybody listening think.

"And today ... we're going to hear that same story."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "When Jesus started talking about God's kingdom, people had a certain picture in their minds. They expected something big. Something obvious. Something that looked exactly like what a kingdom should look like.

"They imagined power. Huge crowds. Lots of soldiers. A massive throne. They pictured a king who looked the part—strong, impressive, impossible to ignore.

"But that's not what they saw when they looked at Jesus. There was no crown. No castle. No army marching behind Him. No giant flag waving over the hills.

"And honestly? A lot of people didn't get it.

"They wanted God to show up in a big, dramatic way. They wanted something they couldn't miss. Something that would make them go, 'THERE it is! THAT'S God's kingdom.'

"But instead, Jesus kept describing God's kingdom in ways that were nothing like what they expected.

"And that left people confused. If God really had a kingdom ... where was it? Why didn't it look powerful? Why didn't it look important?

"The people were waiting for something huge. But Jesus was about to flip their expectations.

"What He said next surprised everyone. It might surprise you too. Let's take a look at what Jesus said."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "One day, as more and more people gathered near the Sea of Galilee, Jesus got into a boat, sat down, and told them a story, a parable, to help them understand something huge about God's kingdom.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 13:3-4a NIV.)

Then he told them many things using stories. He said, "A farmer went out to plant his seed. He scattered the seed on the ground."

(Throw some seeds on the ground as you speak.)

"Picture this: a farmer reaching into his pouch and throwing handfuls of seed out in wide, sweeping motions. The seeds land everywhere. Some land where they can grow. Some land where they can't.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 13:4b-9 NIV.)

"Some fell on a path. Birds came and ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky places, where there wasn't much soil. The plants came up quickly, because the soil wasn't deep. When the sun came up, it burned the plants. They dried up because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and crowded out the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It produced a crop 100, 60 or 30 times more than what was planted. Whoever has ears should listen."

"Let's start with the first soil Jesus talked about, the path. The path is hard and packed down. Nothing can sink in. The seeds fall on it, but nothing really happens.

"Jesus was describing people who hear God's words, but their hearts are closed off, like wearing these.

(Put on the pair of noise-canceling headphones.)

"When you're wearing headphones like these, you can see someone talking ... but you can't hear a thing. Nothing gets through. The truth is spoken, but it doesn't stay. And before long, it gets snatched away.

(Take the noise-cancelling headphones off.)

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 13:19 NIV.)

"People hear the message about the kingdom but do not understand it. Then the evil one comes. He steals what was planted in their hearts. Those people are like the seed planted on a path."

(Throw more seeds on the ground as you speak.)

"Let's look at the second soil Jesus talked about.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 13:20-21 NIV.)

"The seed that fell on rocky places is like other people. They hear the message and at once receive it with joy. But they have no roots. So they last only a short time. They quickly fall away from the faith when trouble or suffering comes because of the message."

"Some people hear God's words and get excited. They love the idea of following Jesus ... until life gets hard. Trouble comes. Stress hits. Things don't go their way. And because nothing ever grew deep, the excitement fades fast.

(Throw more seeds on the ground as you speak.)

"Next is the third soil.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 13:22 NIV.)

"The seed that fell among the thorns is like others who hear the message. But then the worries of this life and the false promises of wealth crowd it out. They keep the message from producing fruit."

"People can have a crowded heart, a distracted heart. Worry, stress, drama with friends, screens, and so many other things that want people's attention can lead to a distracted heart.

"There might be something good growing, but everything else grows faster. God's voice gets quieter and quieter until it's barely heard at all.

(Throw more seeds on the ground as you speak.)

"And finally, we have the fourth soil Jesus talked about.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 13:23 NIV.)

"But the seed that fell on good soil is like those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop 100, 60 or 30 times more than the farmer planted."

"This is the open heart—the heart that makes space for God. Open, willing, and ready to listen and respond. And Jesus said that when God's words land in a heart like this, they grow. They produce fruit way beyond what you'd expect.

"This story wasn't just about farming. It wasn't about gardening. Jesus was talking about God's kingdom and the kind of heart it takes for His truth to grow. And the question for every person listening that day ... and for you ... is this: What kind of soil are you?"

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Think about this: The farmer threw seed on all types of soil. God speaks to everyone, and He wants everyone in His kingdom. And honestly, we've all been every kind of soil at different times.

(Put the noise-cancelling headphones on.)

"Some of you know what it's like to feel like the path. You hear truth, but it doesn't stick. Sometimes life gets loud, and you don't even realize you've put up walls that keep God's voice out.

(Take the noise-cancelling headphones off.)

"Some of you have had rocky soil moments. You get excited about Jesus, and you want to follow Him! But then, things get hard. Something happens at home. School gets overwhelming. Friends change. And suddenly, that excitement disappears, and you feel like you're starting all over again.

"And some of us, we can have a crowded heart. Not because we don't care about God. Not because we're running in the opposite direction. But because life is full. Really full.

"We want to be people who apply what God says when He speaks. But when the thorns take over ... the seed stops growing.

"But here's the part I love: You're not stuck as one type of soil forever. We can make a decision to say, 'God, I want to hear You. I want to do what You say.' And when you do that? Something amazing happens. The kingdom grows in you. And then it grows through you.

"So maybe today, you recognized something. Maybe you've been closed off. Maybe you've been on and off. Maybe you've been crowded. Maybe you feel ready, really ready to let God grow something real in you.

(Throw more seeds on the ground as you speak.)

"And here's the good news: God already knows your soil. He's not discouraged by it. He's not mad about it. He doesn't toss you aside and look for someone else. He actually keeps planting, again and again and again, because He wants you to grow closer to Him and for His kingdom to grow in your life."

10 min

Closing

5 min

LANDING

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

What You Say:

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today, we learned that the parable of the farmer isn't really about dirt; it's about people. Some people don't let God's words in. Some people start strong but fade when life gets hard. Some people are too crowded with other things to make room for God. But here's the amazing part: God's kingdom grows when we hear His words and actually do what He says. It starts in your heart, and it can grow through you to make a difference in the world around you.

"And that's what our Bottom Line today is all about! Let's check it out.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says. Can you say that with me?"

What You Say:

PRAYER

COMMUNICATOR: "Dear God, thank You for speaking to us today. Thank You for planting Your truth in our hearts. Help us hear You, really hear You, even when life gets loud or distracting. Grow Your kingdom in us. Grow Your peace, Your joy, Your courage, and Your love in us. And when You speak ... help us not just hear what You say, but actually do it. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

(Dismiss kids to Small Groups.)

AUDIO: Play calm music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

Getting Ready | Preteen Large Group

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

APlay

APlay is your all-in-one presentation, preparation, and curriculum ecosystem that saves you time and money. APlay is free with your curriculum subscription! APlay offers powerful tools that build media playlists, compile curriculum documents, auto-update supply lists by child count, cast media to screens, and so much more.

Built to work in harmony with your curriculum, APlay Service Builder allows leaders to drop in, toggle on and off, or customize teaching plans, worship elements, and media assets in seconds. For even more value, upgrade to Amazing+ to unlock the parent app, Parent+.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (25 minutes)

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Floor tape
- 4 frisbees or 4 paper plates (If you use paper plates, have enough for multiple rounds in case some get crushed during the game.)
- 4 kid volunteers (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)
- *Optional: 4 Hula Hoops®*

Music and Sound Effects:

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- "The Landing Zone! Title" Slide
- Bottom Line 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.*
- Set up a start line with floor tape on one side of the game area.
- Directly across from the start line, set up the four "Landing Zones." You can do this by making four large circles with floor tape or laying four Hula Hoops® on the floor.
- Place the four frisbees or four paper plates on the start line.

2. Worship and Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Closer" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Over & Over Again" - available on APlay with Amazing Music

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

What You Do:

- If you are utilizing the suggested songs from **Amazing Music-**, search for your desired video resource for each song under the Worship section on APlay and add to your service!
- You can access Amazing Music's Dance Motion, Lyric, and Instrumental Videos in APlay under the Worship section.
- Amazing Music Song Trainings are available in Amazing Leaders and FREE on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@AmazingKidsMusic>

- *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 \

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3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Table
- Bag of larger seeds (Seeds should be visible by the audience.)
- Noise-cancelling headphones

Music and Sound Effects:

- Calm music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Conversation Starter Slide
- Theme Slide

Optional Video:

- Theme Loop

Optional Video: (available in 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 variety show full of humor and biblical truth.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

What You Do:

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- Place the noise-cancelling headphones and bag of larger seeds on the table for the Communicator to use during the teaching.

Supplies:

- Host
- Floor tape
- 4 frisbees or 4 paper plates (If you use paper plates, have (enough for multiple rounds in case some get crushed during the game.))
- 4 kid volunteers (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)
- Optional: 4 Hula Hoops®
- Music and Sound Effects
- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use for the game
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Slide
- "The Landing Zone! Title" Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Optional Videos
- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme Intro
- Worship Leader(s)
- Music and Sound Effects
- "Closer" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Over & Over Again" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Communicator
- Bible
- Table
- Bag of larger seeds (Seeds should be visible by the audience.)
- Noise-cancelling headphones
- Music and Sound Effects
- Calm music to use as kids exit the room
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Conversation Starter Slide
- Theme Slide

- Optional Video
- Theme Loop
- Optional Video: (available in APlay)
- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

WEEK

TWO

Preteen | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 2

Bible Story: The Parable of the Bags of Gold • *Matthew 25:14-30 NIV*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.

Conversation Starter: "What has God given you?"

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

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-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

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

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

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



Bible Story

The Parable of the Bags of Gold • *Matthew 25:14-30 NIV*

Bottom Line

God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.

Conversation Starter

"What has God given you?"

Monthly Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17 NIV

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

Setting the Tone for the Experience

What You Say:

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, 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 back to Kingdom Quest! How's summer going so far? If you've already forgotten what day of the week it is at least once ... raise your hand.

(Pause while kids respond.)

"Yep. That's when you know it's officially July!

"We're deep into summer now—long days, late nights, sunscreen that never works, and hopefully, you've run through the sprinklers at least once. But whatever your summer has been like—awesome, boring, chaotic, or surprisingly chill—I'm really glad you're here!

"This month, we're talking about what it looks like to actually live in God's kingdom. The name of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

"But what is God's kingdom? Well, it's anywhere that God reigns! It's anywhere where He is seen as King and His good ways are lived out. God is loving, joyful, patient, kind, honest, trustworthy—all of these amazing things. God's kingdom is good because He is so good! We want His good kingdom everywhere. That's the Kingdom Quest we're on—to show off God's good kingdom!

"And today's Bible Story is all about something God has entrusted you with as you live in His kingdom.

"But before we go there, we need to warm up! I've got a challenge that looks easy ... until you're the one doing it. Today, we're going to play 'Balance Battle!'

SLIDE: Balance Battle! Title

"I need four volunteers who think their summer reflexes are on point. If you've spent July waking up at noon ... we're about to find out how that's working for you.

"Raise your hand if you want to volunteer!

(Pick four kids from the ones who have their hands raised, and invite them to the game area.)

"Here's how the game works: Each of you gets a pool noodle. You're going to balance it vertically on your hand—just your flat, open palm. No gripping. No pinching. No leaning it on your body. Palm only.

(Demonstrate balancing one of the pool noodles with a flat hand.)

"If you drop your pool noodle or it falls, you're out! Whoever balances their pool noodle the longest wins! Sound good?

(Line up each player in a straight line facing the audience, and give each player a pool noodle.)

"Players ready? Audience, are you ready to cheer them on? Let's do this!

"3 ... 2 ... 1 ... Balance!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

"Okay, okay, strong start!

(Play the game. Encourage the players, and involve the audience.)

(If the game is too easy, instruct the kids to stand on one foot, hop on one foot, jump up and down, or walk around the game area as they're trying to balance the pool noodles.)

"Oh, that one went down fast! It's alright, dramatic exits are welcome. Look at this concentration! Absolute legends up here.

(Play until there's only one kid left balancing their pool noodle. Declare the winner.)

"And ... we have a winner! Give it up for [Kid's Name]!

(As time allows, continue with more rounds. Pick four new volunteers at the start of each round.)

"Awesome job! You can all take your seats.

"Looks like it's time to check out our Bottom Line for today! Let's see what it says.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you. Can you say that with me?"

KIDS AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you."

HOST: "Nice job! Now let's get ready to learn more about God's kingdom together!"

10 min

Worship | Amazing Music

5 min

Closer | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

King Of My Heart | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

Inviting People to Respond to God

What You Say:

AMAZING MUSIC

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today. We're going to jump straight into worship! This is our chance to pause, breathe, and remember who God is—right here, right now, in the middle of summer, in the middle of whatever kind of week you had. If you don't know the words to this song, that's okay! You can follow along—what's important is for you to acknowledge that God is on the throne and worship Him. Here we go!

SONG: "Closer" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"That was awesome! Our next song is 'King Of My Heart.' This one is a reminder of who God is. He's steady. He's good. He's trustworthy—even when life feels confusing or frustrating. So as we sing this, think about the places in your life where you need God to lead you and guide you.

What You Say:

SONG: "King Of My Heart" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"So good! Let's try something this week: Every day, tell God, 'God, You are the King of my heart, and You have control.' If you start praying that, wow, get ready! You'll start to see some major changes in your life.

"Let's look at something really important—our Memory Verse for this month! This verse isn't just something to memorize—it's about what God's kingdom is really like. I'll read it out, then we'll say it together.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV).

"Now let's all say it together!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV)."*

WORSHIP LEADER: "These are words Paul wrote about God's kingdom. He shared that God's kingdom is full of what's right, peace, and joy. It is full of good stuff because God is good!"

"And we can get these good things in our own lives, but we don't get them by trying harder ... we get them because they're gifts from the Holy Spirit. As you keep in step with the Spirit, your life will be filled with righteousness, peace, and joy. God's Spirit will grow these good things because He is good!"

"Thanks for worshiping with me today, friends!"

15 min

Bible Story

5 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

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).
- Place the instrument in the game area, and plug it into your area's sound system if necessary.
- Pre-determine a leader or kid who knows how to play the instrument to come up at the end of the teaching and play the instrument.

5 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

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).
- Place the instrument in the game area, and plug it into your area's sound system if necessary.
- Pre-determine a leader or kid who knows how to play the instrument to come up at the end of the teaching and play the instrument.

5 min

Bible Story (Live)

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Say:

BIBLE STORY (COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT)

SLIDE: Theme Background

(Things to have ready: Set up the table at the front of the teaching area so the Communicator can place their Bible on it and read from it. Instrument in the teaching area and plugged in to your area's sound system if necessary. Pre-determined leader or kid to come play the instrument at the end of the teaching.)

Introduction

COMMUNICATOR: "Hi, friends! I'm so excited to be with you all today! Alright, I need to show you something. I thought it would be cool to bring something on stage that I've always wanted to be good at. Now, I've never really practiced, but let me give it a shot.

(Pick up the instrument, and hold it like you mean business.)

"I mean ... how hard can it be, right? You just ... play it.

(Attempt to play something. Your playing should purposely be bad.)

"Okay. Yeah. That did NOT sound like it did in my head.

(Try one more time. Your playing should purposely be bad again.)

"Yikes ... that did not sound pretty. Can you guys still hear? Well, here's the thing about this instrument: It has everything it needs to make music. It's designed for something amazing. But that doesn't happen automatically. Someone has to actually use it. Someone has to practice, learn, take a risk, try, fail, keep going ... and then eventually? It becomes something that can fill a whole room.

"Right now, though? In my hands? You heard it. Not great.

"Let me ask you guys something: Have you ever been given something, and you weren't really sure what to do with it? Maybe it was a school project, a job in your house, a spot on a team, and you froze. You weren't sure if you could do it. You weren't sure if you'd mess it up. And you started to freak out a little."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "For some of us, when we think about the things we're good at or the gifts we have or even the things God might want us to do ... we get nervous. We think, 'What if I mess this up?' 'What if I'm not good enough?' 'What if everyone else is better?'

"And when we feel that way, we tend to do a couple things.

"First, some of us try to pretend we don't have anything special at all. Like ... 'Nope, not me. I don't play. I don't lead. I don't speak. I don't help. I don't pray. I don't practice. I don't have anything God could use.' We decide ahead of time that our contribution 'doesn't matter' ... so we don't even try.

"And then others of us? We do know we have something—a talent, a skill, a way we could help—but we freeze. We're afraid to do anything wrong, so we do nothing at all. We hide the thing we've been given, because hiding feels safer than risking.

(Hold up the instrument again.)

"It's like being handed something valuable and thinking, 'What if I mess it up?' And instead of learning to use it, we just ... set it down. We never try. We never begin. We never discover what it could do."

"Jesus once told a story about people who were given something valuable. He told what they did with it ... and what happened when one of them was too afraid to use what he had. Let's dive into the story."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Jesus told this parable during the week leading up to His death and resurrection. He wanted His disciples to understand something huge about living in God's kingdom: God gives His people real responsibility, real gifts, and real opportunities. And what we do with those gifts matters.

"Let's see how Jesus started the story.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 25:14-18 NIV.)

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money."

"Jesus said the master entrusted his wealth to his servants—not loaned it, not let them borrow it temporarily. He *trusted* them with something valuable. And each servant received a different amount, not because some were more important than others, but because the master knew exactly what they could handle.

"The first two servants used what they were given. They didn't hesitate. They didn't compare. They didn't overthink it. They took what the master entrusted to them and put it to work. And it grew.

"But the third servant ... he buried his. He didn't lose it. He didn't destroy it. He just didn't use it. Let's see what happened next:

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 25:19-23 NIV.)

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

"These two servants weren't praised because they made the most money. They were praised because they were faithful with what they had. Their faithfulness brought joy to the master, and he invited them into that joy.

"Now the third servant:

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 25:24-28 NIV.)

"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

"So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.'"

"Jesus wasn't saying the master was cruel. He was showing how fear kept the servant from ever using what he was trusted with. The master believed in him. But fear made him bury everything.

"Remember this from earlier?

(Hold up the instrument.)

"When I tried to play it, nothing good happened. Not because the instrument was broken, but because I wasn't using it the way it was meant to be used.

"Some of you are holding gifts: abilities, personality, leadership, compassion, creativity. But maybe, because of fear, comparison, or uncertainty, you've buried them. Maybe you've hidden what God actually entrusted to you.

"Here's the thing: The instrument isn't the problem. It was made with potential. It was designed for something good. It just needs someone willing to actually use it.

"And I asked a friend to come and help show us what I mean.

(Invite the pre-determined leader or kid to the teaching area to play the instrument.)

"This is [Person's Name]. God gave them a gift, and they chose to use it.

(Pre-determined leader or kid plays the instrument.)

"Wow! That was beautiful! Notice the instrument didn't change—it was just put in the hands of someone who is using their gifting. Thank you so much, [Person's Name]! You can take a seat.

"Jesus told this parable because He wanted His followers, including YOU, to understand something huge: **[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you."**

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "When Jesus told this parable, He wasn't giving His disciples a lesson on investing or money management. He was showing them something much deeper. Each servant was trusted with something valuable. God has placed things in your hands too: your personality, your compassion, your creativity, your problem-solving, your leadership, your ability to notice people others overlook, your sense of humor, your musical talent, your courage. Some of you have gifts that everyone can see. Some of you have gifts that are quiet but powerful. And maybe you have gifts you don't know about or haven't even tried yet—they might just take a little work and practice!

"The opportunities and life events you face are gifts from God too! No one is in exactly the same spot as you are. God put you right there!

"How you respond to what God gives you matters. So today, I challenge you to not listen to fear. Fear whispers things like, 'You're not good enough,' or 'What if you mess up?' or 'What if people think you're weird?' And if we're not careful, fear buries things. It buries talent. It buries courage. God didn't give us gifts so they could stay hidden. He gave them to us so we could use them! He loves it when we use what He's given us. Like the master, He is so happy! And He does great things with the gifts He has given us.

[Bottom Line] "God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you. Not when you compare yourself to someone else. Not when you wait until you feel perfect. And not when you bury what you have because you're scared. God is the one who grows things. Your job is simply to trust Him enough to play the note you've been given.

"So maybe today, you realized something about your own life. Maybe fear has been holding you back. Maybe you've been hiding what God put inside you. Or maybe you're ready—really ready—to start using what God has already given you. The good news is this: God already knows your ability. He already sees your potential. He already believes in what He placed inside you. You're not responsible for the results, just the obedience. And when you say, 'God, I'm willing,' His kingdom starts to grow in you ... and through you."

10 min

Closing

5 min

LANDING

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

What You Say:

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Jesus told this story because He wanted His followers to understand something huge: God doesn't just give us gifts to have them. He gives them to us so we can use them for His kingdom. The servants in the story weren't all given the same amount of gold, but that's not the point. The point is what they chose to do with what they had.

"God has placed something in your hands: your personality, your ideas, your skills, your compassion, your voice, your opportunities. Not so it can sit quietly, but so His kingdom can grow.

"God isn't asking you to be perfect. He isn't asking you to be impressive. He's asking you to be faithful. To show up. To try. To use what He's given you. And He will do great, kingdom things when you do.

"And that's what our Bottom Line today is all about! Let's check it out.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

COMMUNICATOR: *[Bottom Line]* "God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you. Say that with me!"

What You Say:

PRAYER

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's pray together, friends.

"God, thank You for the gifts, talents, and abilities You've placed in each of us. Help us not to hide them or let fear stop us from using them. Give us courage to take risks, try new things, and be faithful with what You've entrusted to us. Show us how to use the things You've given us to honor You, help others, and grow Your kingdom. We love You, God, and we want to follow You and make You happy with all we've been given. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

(Dismiss kids to Small Groups.)

AUDIO: Play calm music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

Getting Ready | Preteen Large Group

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

APlay

APlay is your all-in-one presentation, preparation, and curriculum ecosystem that saves you time and money. APlay is free with your curriculum subscription! APlay offers powerful tools that build media playlists, compile curriculum documents, auto-update supply lists by child count, cast media to screens, and so much more.

Built to work in harmony with your curriculum, APlay Service Builder allows leaders to drop in, toggle on and off, or customize teaching plans, worship elements, and media assets in seconds. For even more value, upgrade to Amazing+ to unlock the parent app, Parent+.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (25 minutes)

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- 4 half-size, curved pool noodles (2 full-size, curved pool noodles cut in half; use new pool noodles if possible)
- Scissors or knife or X-Acto® knife (to cut the pool noodles in half)

Music and Sound Effects:

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- "Balance Battle! Title" Slide
- Bottom Line 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.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.

- Cut two pool noodles in half. Use new pool noodles if possible, and it helps if the noodles are curved, as they will be harder to balance.
- Place the four half-size pool noodles in the game area.

2. Worship and Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Closer" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "King Of My Heart" - available on APlay with Amazing Music

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

What You Do:

- If you are utilizing the suggested songs from **Amazing Music-**, search for your desired video resource for each song under the Worship section on APlay and add to your service!
- You can access Amazing Music's Dance Motion, Lyric, and Instrumental Videos in APlay under the Worship section.
- Amazing Music Song Trainings are available in Amazing Leaders and FREE on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@AmazingKidsMusic>
- *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

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3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Table

- Any type of instrument plugged into your area's sound system (guitar, keyboard, etc.)
- Pre-determined leader or kid who can play that instrument

Music and Sound Effects:

- Soft underscore
- Calm music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Conversation Starter Slide
- Theme Slide

Optional Video:

- Theme Loop

Optional Video: (available in 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 variety show full of humor and biblical truth.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

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).
- Place the instrument in the game area, and plug it into your area's sound system if necessary.
- Pre-determine a leader or kid who knows how to play the instrument to come up at the end of the teaching and play the instrument.

Supplies:

- Host
- 4 half-size, curved pool noodles (2 full-size, curved pool noodles cut in half; use new pool noodles if possible)
- Scissors or knife or X-Acto® knife (to cut the pool noodles in half)
- Music and Sound Effects

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use for the game
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Slide
- "Balance Battle! Title" Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Optional Videos
- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme Intro
- Worship Leader(s)
- Music and Sound Effects
- "Closer" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "King Of My Heart" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Communicator
- Bible
- Table
- Any type of instrument plugged into your area's sound system (guitar, keyboard, etc.)
- Pre-determined leader or kid who can play that instrument
- Music and Sound Effects
- Soft underscore
- Calm music to use as kids exit the room
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Conversation Starter Slide
- Theme Slide
- Optional Video
- Theme Loop
- Optional Video: (available in APlay)
- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

WEEK

THREE

Preteen | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 3

Bible Story: The Servant Who Had No Mercy • *Matthew 18:21-35*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Conversation Starter: What and who do you need to forgive?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 Nlrv

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-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

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

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

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



Bible Story

The Servant Who Had No Mercy • *Matthew 18:21-35*

Bottom Line

God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Conversation Starter

What and who do you need to forgive?

Monthly Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17 Nlrv

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

Setting the Tone for the Experience

What You Say:

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, 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 back to Kingdom Quest! This whole summer, we've been learning about God's kingdom, and the full name of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

"But what is God's kingdom? Well, God's kingdom is anywhere where He reigns! He is loving, joyful, kind, trustworthy, holy, and righteous—and all of these really great things. God's kingdom is good because the King is good. And we want God to spread this good kingdom everywhere because it is so good!

"We are right in the middle of summer, which means two things: One, it's hot enough outside to cook a whole breakfast on the sidewalk, and two, you could literally be anywhere right now. Swimming, sleeping till noon, eating popsicles for lunch ... but you chose to be here. And honestly? That already makes today better.

"I'm so glad you walked in! If this is your first time or your five-hundredth time, you belong here. We've got a fun game, some worship, and a story Jesus told that might just get you thinking—in a good way!

"But first ... we're starting with a game. A summer game. And everyone gets to play!

"It's time for ... 'Would You Rather? Summer Edition!'

SLIDE: Would You Rather? Summer Edition! Title

AUDIO: Upbeat music

"The game is simple: I'll show you two options, and your job is to walk to the side of the room that matches your choice. No wrong answers!

"You don't need to talk, run, climb, or flip—just move to the side that makes the most sense to you. It's summer, and we're keeping it breezy!

"Let's try it. Here we go!

Game Slide 1: Would You Rather? (Swim in a pool filled with JELL-O®? OR Swim in a pool filled with spaghetti?)

"Would you rather ... Swim in a pool filled with JELL-O®? Or swim in a pool filled with spaghetti? Go ahead and make your choice!

(Pause while kids move to either side of the room.)

"Okay, interesting choices! Let's do another one!

Game Slide 2: Would You Rather? (Eat only ice cream for a whole day? OR Eat only cheeseburgers for a whole day?)

"Would you rather ... Eat only ice cream for a whole day? Or eat only cheeseburgers for a whole day? Go ahead and pick!

(Pause while kids move to either side of the room.)

"Decisions, decisions ... I'm thinking either one sounds like a pretty great option! Let's do another one!

(Continue with more rounds as time allows. Use game slides 3-11 below for more rounds.)

Game Slide 3: Would You Rather? (Live at the beach for the whole summer? OR Live at a mountain lake for the whole summer?)

Game Slide 4: Would You Rather? (Have unlimited slushies all summer? OR Have unlimited pizza all summer?)

Game Slide 5: Would You Rather? (Have a giant water balloon fight? OR Have a giant slip-and-slide race?)

Game Slide 6: Would You Rather? (Never get sunburned again? OR Never get mosquito bites again?)

Game Slide 7: Would You Rather? (Spend a day at a water park? OR Spend a day at an amusement park?)

Game Slide 8: Would You Rather? (Have ice-cold air-conditioning everywhere you go? OR Have perfect weather outside every day?)

Game Slide 9: Would You Rather? (Build the world's biggest sandcastle? OR Win a cannonball contest?)

Game Slide 10: Would You Rather? (Have a pet dolphin for the summer? OR Have a pet turtle for the summer?)

*Game Slide 11: Would You Rather? (Have a popsicle that never melts?
OR Have a snow cone that never melts?)*

"You guys made some great—and interesting—choices! Love to see it!
Looks like it's time to check out our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God's kingdom grows when you forgive. Can you say
that with me?"

KIDS AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "God's kingdom grows when you
forgive."

HOST: "Great job, friends! We will learn more about that soon!"

10 min

Worship | Amazing Music

5 min

Closer | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Over & Over Again | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

Inviting People to Respond to God

What You Say:

AMAZING MUSIC

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today. Go ahead and stand with me. Before we do anything else, we're going to take a few minutes to focus in. Whatever your week looked like—good, messy, stressful, or somewhere in between—this is a moment to slow down and remember who God is. Let's sing together!"

SONG: "Closer" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"This next song, 'Over & Over Again,' is our chance to respond to God's love. We can choose to follow Him, not just when life is easy, but also when we're unsure, nervous, or figuring things out. Let's worship Him together.

What You Say:

SONG: "Over & Over Again" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"I love moments like this—moments when we come together as a church family and recognize that we always need God. Take this moment with you throughout the week.

"I want to take a minute to look at our Memory Verse for this month. Back when this was written, people argued a lot about rules—what you were allowed to eat, what you weren't allowed to eat, what made someone 'spiritual enough.' So Paul, one of Jesus' followers, wrote this verse to clear things up.

"I'll go ahead and read it, then we'll all say it together.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV).

"Here's what that means: God's kingdom isn't about stuff like eating and drinking—it's about being like Him! And that comes from staying close to God's very Spirit! Let's read our Memory Verse together."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV)."*

WORSHIP LEADER: "This verse teaches something huge: God's kingdom is a good, good place because He, the King, is good! And as we stay close to Him through His Spirit, He will grow those good things—like doing what is right, peace, and joy—in us!

"Thanks for worshiping with me today, friends!"

15 min

Bible Story

5 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

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).
- Print the 4 clouds that say, "Anger," "Bitterness," "Hurt," and "It's not fair." (Teaching Printables 1-4). Cut them out, and laminate them if you'd like to.
- Place the four cloud prints on the table for the Communicator to use during the teaching.

5 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

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).
- Print the 4 clouds that say, "Anger," "Bitterness," "Hurt," and "It's not fair." (Teaching Printables 1-4). Cut them out, and laminate them if you'd like to.
- Place the four cloud prints on the table for the Communicator to use during the teaching.

5 min

Bible Story (Live)

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Say:

BIBLE STORY (COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT)

SLIDE: Theme Background

(Things to have ready: Set up the table at the front of the teaching area so the Communicator can place their Bible on it and read from it. Four cloud prints that say, "Anger," "Bitterness," "Hurt," and "It's not fair."—Teaching Printables 1-4—on the table.)

Introduction

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everyone! Welcome back to our Kingdom Quest!

"This whole summer, we've been learning about God's kingdom, and the full name of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

"But what is God's kingdom? Well, God's kingdom is anywhere where He reigns! He is loving, joyful, kind, trustworthy, holy, and righteous—and all of these really great things. God's kingdom is good because the King is good. And we want God to spread this good kingdom everywhere because it is so good!

"But before we talk about God's kingdom today, go ahead and stand up for a second, and spread out so you've got some room. I'm going to describe a situation, and if it would annoy you a little, I want you to take one step forward. If it would annoy you a lot, I want you to take two steps forward. And if it wouldn't bother you at all, then stay right where you are. Got it? Okay, let's try it!

"First one: Someone takes the last slice of pizza ... but they already had two, and you only had one. One step? Two steps? Staying still?

(Pause while kids move or stay in place.)

"I see some of you are very passionate about pizza justice.

"Next one: You study for a test. Your friend doesn't study, but they get the same grade as you. Take a step if that bugs you.

(Pause while kids move or stay in place.)

"Uh-huh, I see that hit a nerve.

"Next one: Someone borrows one of your T-shirts... and returns it two days later ... smelling like their dog. Yikes! Go ahead and take your steps.

(Pause while kids move or stay in place.)

"Yes, that's fair. Very fair.

"Last one: Your sibling walks into your room without knocking ... again. Take your steps!

(Pause while kids move or stay in place.)

"Freeze right there. Now look around for a second. Looks like we all have moments when we get annoyed, right? Alright, everyone can sit back down.

"Here's the thing: All those moments were small. Just regular life stuff. But even small things can get under our skin. Someone says something, and it follows you the rest of the day. Someone hurts your feelings, and suddenly, you're replaying the moment over and over. Someone does something wrong, and forgiving them is the very last thing you feel like doing.

"And one day, one of Jesus' closest friends, Peter, had that same kind of moment. Something got to him. So he went to Jesus and asked, 'Okay, Jesus, seriously ... how many times am I supposed to forgive someone?' And you can probably guess this ... but Jesus told a story, and the story He told took forgiveness to a whole other level."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Keep this thought in your mind: Every time you took a step forward a minute ago, it was because something small got to you. Something that wasn't huge or life-changing ... but it still hit you in just the right spot.

"Here's the thing with offense: You might pretend you don't care, but you replay it later when you're trying to fall asleep. Someone makes a joke at your expense, everyone laughs, and hours later, it still stings. Someone said they'd be there for you, and they weren't, and it stays with you longer than you want it to.

"And before you know it, what started as a tiny moment becomes something heavy and something you carry. Or maybe you actually had something bigger happen to you, and you're really struggling to move past it.

"In those moments, it's hard to figure out what to do next. Do you stay mad? Do you wait for them to apologize? Do you just pretend it didn't happen? Do you forgive ... even when you don't feel like forgiving?

"We all hit that moment eventually—that point where the hurt builds up, and you think, 'Okay, seriously. How many times am I expected to let this go?'

"That's a real tension. And it's something people have been wrestling with long before any of us were born. Forgiveness sounds simple ... until you actually need to give it. Let's jump into today's Bible Story to see what Jesus had to say about forgiveness."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "One day, Peter came to Jesus, and he had forgiveness on his mind. Let's read what he asked Jesus.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 18:21-22 NlrV.)

Peter came to Jesus. He asked, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times."

"Peter thought he was being generous. Seven times felt like a lot. But Jesus didn't give Peter a limit. He wasn't saying, 'Forgive 77 times, and then stop forgiving.' He was giving an example: If you belong to God, you are a part of His kingdom. You are to live like Him. So forgiveness isn't something you measure. It's something you live. Jesus told a story to show what He meant.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 18:23-25 NlrV.)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to collect all the money his servants owed him. As the king began to do it, a man who owed him 10,000 bags of gold was brought to him. The man was not able to pay. So his master gave an order. The man, his wife, his children, and all he owned had to be sold to pay back what he owed."

"This man didn't just owe a little. He owed a debt so massive, it was impossible to pay back—ten thousand bags of gold! No person could ever work off that kind of debt. The king had every right to demand justice. This man's whole life was about to collapse ... until he fell on his knees.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 18:26-27 NlrV.)

"Then the servant fell on his knees in front of him. 'Give me time,' he begged. 'I'll pay everything back.' His master felt sorry for him. He forgave him what he owed and let him go."

"The king didn't give him more time. He gave him freedom. The impossible debt was gone. Completely forgiven. Imagine the relief! Imagine walking out of that room knowing everything you owed had been wiped away forever!

"But that's not where Jesus ended the story.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 18:28-30 NlrV.)

"But then that servant went out and found one of the other servants who owed him 100 silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he said."

The other servant fell on his knees. 'Give me time,' he begged him. 'I'll pay it back.'

But the first servant refused. Instead, he went and had the man thrown into prison. The man would be held there until he could pay back what he owed."

"This man had just been forgiven a debt so huge, it was impossible to count, yet he refused to forgive someone else's tiny debt. A few months' worth of wages. A fraction of what he had owed the king. And instead of showing mercy, he chose anger, control, and punishment.

(Open your Bible and read Matthew 18:31-34 NIV.)

"The other servants saw what had happened and were very angry. They went and told their master everything that had happened.

"Then the master called the first servant in. 'You evil servant,' he said. 'I forgave all that you owed me because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on the other servant just as I had mercy on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers. He would be punished until he paid back everything he owed."

"The king wasn't angry about the money. He was angry about the heart. The servant had been shown incredible mercy, but he refused to pass that mercy on. Jesus ended the story with this warning:

(Open your Bible and read Matthew 18:35 NIV.)

"This is how my Father in heaven will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

"Let's unpack what happens when we live in unforgiveness. I'm going to need five volunteers to help me show what this looks like. Raise your hand if you'd like to help me!

(Pick five kids from the ones who have their hands raised, and invite them to the front of the teaching area.)

(Give the "Anger," "Bitterness," "Hurt," and "It's not fair." cloud prints to Volunteers 1-4, and direct them to stand next to each other in a line facing the audience. Instruct Volunteer 5 to stand facing the audience a short distance in front of the line of four kids, so when you talk about the clouds Volunteers 1-4 are holding, they can hold up that cloud over Volunteer 5's head.)

"Let's start with 'Anger.' Go ahead and hold up the 'Anger' cloud over our friend's head.

(Volunteer 1 holds up the "Anger" cloud over Volunteer 5's head.)

"Anger shows up fast. It makes you feel like you're in control. But the longer you hold onto anger, the heavier it gets. You replay what happened over and over again. You think about what they said, what

they did, what they should've done differently, and the cloud just stays there, hanging over you everywhere you go.

"Okay, let's take down the 'Anger' cloud, and hold up the 'Bitterness' cloud over our friend's head.

(Volunteer 1 takes down the "Anger" cloud, and Volunteer 2 holds up the "Bitterness" cloud over Volunteer 5's head.)

"Bitterness is anger that didn't go away. It settled in. Bitterness changes the way you see people—you assume the worst, you stay distant, you stop trusting. The cloud doesn't just stay over you for one moment. It spreads into how you see everything.

"Up next is 'Hurt.' Let's take down the 'Bitterness' cloud, and hold up the 'Hurt' cloud over our friend's head.

(Volunteer 2 takes down the "Bitterness" cloud, and Volunteer 3 holds up the "Hurt" cloud over Volunteer 5's head.)

"Hurt is real. Something actually happened. Your feelings weren't just 'hurt'; something was done that left a mark. But unforgiveness keeps that hurt fresh, like a bruise that gets poked over and over. You can't move forward because the moment keeps replaying, and the cloud stays over your head.

"And finally, we have, 'It's not fair.' This is a big one. Let's take down the 'Hurt' cloud, and hold up the cloud that says, 'It's not fair.' over our friend's head.

(Volunteer 3 takes down the "Hurt" cloud, and Volunteer 4 holds up the "It's not fair." cloud over Volunteer 5's head.)

"This one feels reasonable. But using 'fairness' as the reason not to forgive keeps you stuck and keeps you under the cloud. You wait for things to feel fair before you let go, but fairness can't heal you. Forgiveness can.

"Okay, friends, go ahead and hold up all four clouds over our friend's head.

(Volunteers 1-4 hold up all four clouds over Volunteer 5's head.)

"This is what unforgiveness does. It crowds around you. It follows you. It hangs over every part of life, even when the person who hurt you isn't around anymore.

"Jesus' point was simple: God has forgiven us more than we could ever repay, so we should be willing to forgive others. Not because they deserve it. Not because what they did was okay. But because God forgave us first. When we receive God's forgiveness but refuse to give it to someone else, that unforgiveness doesn't trap the other person—it traps you.

"Thank you, volunteers! You can all take a seat!"

(Collect the four cloud prints from the volunteers as they take their seats, and put them on the table.)

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Every single one of us has sinned against God. We have done and said things that go against God and His ways—that includes rules that God gave because He made us and loves us and knows the best way for us to live. God is so amazing and perfect and holy that any sin creates a giant debt, like that money the first servant owed the king.

"But God is like the good king who completely forgave the huge amount of money. When we trust that Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and choose to follow Him, God wipes out our sin debt. We were completely tied up in our sin ... we couldn't pay the debt back ... but now, we're free!

"Because God has forgiven us of such a giant sin debt, He wants us to pass that forgiveness on to the people around us. Like Jesus told Peter, we can continue to forgive without putting limits on it.

"Know that forgiving someone doesn't mean what they did was okay or you should let them keep doing it. It doesn't even mean you have to keep being friends with them. If someone hurts you or makes you uncomfortable, tell a grown-up you trust!

"When Jesus told this parable, He wasn't pretending that people don't hurt us. He wasn't saying, 'Just get over it.' He was showing why forgiveness matters. When we operate in forgiveness, our hearts get freer, and we show our world what God is like.

(Pick up the cloud print that says, "Anger," and hold it up.)

"Some of you know exactly what this one feels like. Someone said something, or posted something, or did something that really hurt you. And instead of fading, the anger stays. You carry it into the next day ... and the next week.

(Put down the cloud print that says, "Anger." Pick up the cloud print that says, "Bitterness," and hold it up.)

"Bitterness is what grows when anger sits too long. It makes you expect the worst from people, even people who didn't hurt you. It changes the way you see the world.

(Put down the cloud print that says, "Bitterness." Pick up the cloud print that says, "Hurt," and hold it up.)

"This one might be the most real for some of you. Someone broke a promise, betrayed you, embarrassed you, or disappointed you. Forgiving someone doesn't erase what happened. But unforgiveness keeps the wound open.

(Put down the cloud print that says, "Hurt." Pick up the cloud print that says, "It's not fair." and hold it up.)

"This cloud feels logical. You think, 'They didn't apologize. They didn't fix it. They don't deserve forgiveness.' And maybe all of that is true. But unforgiveness doesn't punish them. It punishes you.

"And here's the part that gives me hope: You aren't stuck with these clouds. You aren't trapped under them. You can ask God for help. You can tell Him exactly how much it hurts. You can let Him remind you of the forgiveness He has already given you and ask Him to help you forgive too."

10 min

Closing

5 min

LANDING

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

What You Say:

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "When Jesus told this story, He wanted people to understand something way bigger than money. He wanted them to see that forgiveness isn't just something we do, it's something that sets us free. The unforgiving servant stayed trapped even after he was forgiven because he refused to let go of what someone else owed him. And that's what unforgiveness does. It keeps us stuck.

"But Jesus made it clear: When we choose to forgive, even when it's hard, even when it doesn't feel fair, something powerful happens. The clouds lift. Our hearts clear. We show the world what the King is like. And He will do great kingdom things when we forgive.

"In fact, that's what our Bottom Line is about today. Let's take a look.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God's kingdom grows when you forgive. Can you say that with me?"

What You Say:

PRAYER

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's pray together, friends.

"God, thank You for forgiving us, completely, even when we could never pay You back. That kind of forgiveness is incredible, and we don't want to keep it to ourselves. We want to follow in the same way You forgave us. Help us let go, help us forgive, and help us trust that You will take care of what we can't fix on our own. Give us the courage to forgive from the heart, the way You forgave us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

AUDIO: Play calm music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

Getting Ready | Preteen Large Group

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with **APlay!** [JoinAPlay.com](https://www.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.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (25 minutes)

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Game Slides 1-11: Would You Rather? (provided)

Music and Sound Effects:

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- "Would You Rather? Summer Edition! Title" Slide
- Game Slides 1-11: Would You Rather? (provided)
- Bottom Line 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.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.

2. Worship and Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Closer" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Over & Over Again" - available on APlay with Amazing Music

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

What You Do:

- If you are utilizing the suggested songs from **Amazing Music-**, search for your desired video resource for each song under the Worship section on APlay and add to your service!
- You can access Amazing Music's Dance Motion, Lyric, and Instrumental Videos in APlay under the Worship section.
- Amazing Music Song Trainings are available in Amazing Leaders and FREE on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@AmazingKidsMusic>
- *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 \

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3. Bible Story**What You Need:**

- Communicator
- Bible
- Table
- 5 kid volunteers
- Teaching Printables 1-4 (provided) (Clouds that say: "Anger," "Bitterness," "Hurt," and "It's not fair.")
- *Optional: Laminator and lamination sheets*

Music and Sound Effects:

- Calm music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Conversation Starter Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Theme Slide

Optional Video:

- Theme Loop

Optional Video: (available in 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 variety show full of humor and biblical truth.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

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).
- Print the 4 clouds that say, "Anger," "Bitterness," "Hurt," and "It's not fair." (Teaching Printables 1-4). Cut them out, and laminate them if you'd like to.
- Place the four cloud prints on the table for the Communicator to use during the teaching.

Supplies:

- Host
- Game Slides 1-11: Would You Rather? (provided)
- Music and Sound Effects
- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music for the game
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Slide
- "Would You Rather? Summer Edition! Title" Slide
- Game Slides 1-11: Would You Rather? (provided)
- Bottom Line Slide
- Optional Videos
- Theme Loop

- Countdown
- Theme Intro
- Worship Leader(s)
- Music and Sound Effects
- "Closer" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Over & Over Again" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Communicator
- Bible
- Table
- 5 kid volunteers
- Teaching Printables 1-4 (provided) (Clouds that say: "Anger," "Bitterness," "Hurt," and "It's not fair.")
- Optional: Laminator and lamination sheets
- Music and Sound Effects
- Calm music to use as kids exit the room
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Background Slide
- Conversation Starter Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Theme Slide
- Optional Video
- Theme Loop
- Optional Video: (available in APlay)
- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

WEEK

FOUR

Preteen | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: The Story of the Widow Who Would Not Give Up • *Luke 18:1-8*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up.

Conversation Starter: What do you need to keep doing?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

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-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

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

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

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



Bible Story

The Story of the Widow Who Would Not Give Up
• *Luke 18:1-8*

Bottom Line

God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up.

Conversation Starter

What do you need to keep doing?

Monthly Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17 NIV

10 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

Setting the Tone for the Experience

What You Say:

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, 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: "Hi, everyone! You made it! Welcome back to Kingdom Quest!

"Seriously, look around. This room is full of people who could be at the pool, asleep, or eating popsicles for breakfast. But instead, you're here... and I'm really glad you are.

"This whole summer, we've been going on a Kingdom Quest and discovering more about what it means to live in God's kingdom. The full name of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

"But what is God's kingdom? Well, God's kingdom is anywhere where God reigns! He is loving, joyful, kind, trustworthy, holy, and righteous—and all of these really great things. God's kingdom is good because the King is good. And we want God to spread this good kingdom everywhere because it is so good!

"Okay, quick pulse check: Raise your hand if summer has already gone way faster than you wanted.

(Pause while kids raise their hands.)

"Yeah. Same. One minute, you're on break, and the next minute, someone mentions 'school shopping' and ruins the vibe. Not today, though. Today, we're keeping the summer energy alive!

"I want you all to do something really quickly. Turn to someone near you, and tell them the most random thing you've done so far this summer. Go!

(Pause while kids talk to each other.)

"Awesome! Okay, you guys, it's of course time for a game now!

5 min

Large Group Game | Speed Sculpt!

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Say:

Today's game is called 'Speed Sculpt!'

SLIDE: Speed Sculpt! Title

AUDIO: Upbeat music

"Remember those Pre-K days, when you used lots and lots of Play-Doh®? Well, today, we're bringing it back! I need three brave volunteers who aren't afraid of Play-Doh® under their fingernails. Raise your hand if you'd like to play!

(Pick three volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised, and invite them to stand behind the table. Give each volunteer a lump of Play-Doh®.)

"Each of you has a lump of Play-Doh®. Here's your mission: I'm going to tell you something to sculpt, and you'll have 30 seconds to make it. Sound good?

"Alright, sculptors, hands ready."

10 min

Worship | Amazing Music

5 min

Closer | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

King Of My Heart | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

Inviting People to Respond to God

What You Say:

AMAZING MUSIC

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! I'm so excited to worship with you today! I want to remind us why we worship in the first place. We don't worship because the songs are cool or because everyone else is doing it. We worship because God deserves it. Because He is the King of kings.

"We worship because God is strong when we're not. Because God is faithful when everything else changes. Because God is good, all the time—even when life doesn't feel good. So as we worship, let's keep God number one. Let's sing together!

SONG: "Closer" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"You guys sound great! The next song, 'King Of My Heart,' is all about declaring who God is. He is good. He is constant. He is trustworthy. When we call Him King, we're recognizing His authority over our lives.

"So as we sing this next song, set your mind on God's character. Think about how He's been faithful, how He's been present, and how He's never stopped being good. Worship isn't about how we feel—it's about who God is. Let's worship together.

What You Say:

SONG: "King Of My Heart" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"Amazing! Stay focused on God this week, and keep reminding yourself who is on the throne.

"I want to pause and look at the Memory Verse we're learning this month. This verse tells us that God's kingdom is full of good things because the King is good!

"Our Memory Verse is found in Romans 14:17. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: *"God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV).*

"Now, let's all say it together, nice and loud!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV).*

WORSHIP LEADER: "I love this verse because it teaches us something crucial: as we spend time with God through His Spirit, we'll experience good things because the King is good! As we wrap up this month, keep this verse close. Let it guide the way you think, the way you choose, and the way you follow Jesus in the middle of your everyday life.

"Thanks for worshipping with me today, friends!"

15 min

Bible Story

5 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

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).
- Set the three small objects on the table to use during the Introduction.
- Print out the Prayer Card Printables, enough for each kid in your group to have one.
- Set the Prayer Card Printables on the table with the pencils. Have enough pencils for each kid in your group to have one.
- Pre-determine a few leaders to help pass out a Prayer Card Printable and a pencil to each kid at the end of the teaching.

5 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

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).
- Set the three small objects on the table to use during the Introduction.
- Print out the Prayer Card Printables, enough for each kid in your group to have one.
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- Pre-determine a few leaders to help pass out a Prayer Card Printable and a pencil to each kid at the end of the teaching.

5 min

Bible Story (Live)**What You Need**

No supplies needed

What You Say:**BIBLE STORY (COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT)***SLIDE: Theme Background*

(Things to have ready: Set up the table at the front of the teaching area so the Communicator can place their Bible on it and read from it. Three small objects that would be hard to balance on your finger on the table. Prayer Card Printables and pencils for each kid on the table.)

Introduction

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everyone! Welcome back to our Kingdom Quest! All summer long, we've been talking about God's kingdom. Our theme this month is: 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

"But what is God's kingdom? Well, God's kingdom is where He is King! It's where He reigns, and where His ways—His love, His faithfulness, His truthfulness, and His goodness—are the way things operate. God's kingdom is a good, good place that we want everyone to be a part of! We want more people to see how awesome God, the King, is and join His kingdom!

"As we talk about God's kingdom, I need three volunteers who think they have phenomenal balance. Like ... Olympic-level finger strength. Raise your hand if you'd like to volunteer!

(Pick three kids from the ones who have their hands raised, invite them to the front of the teaching area, and give each kid one of the small objects to balance on their finger.)

"Your mission: Balance this on your finger for three whole seconds. That's it. Three seconds. Easy ... right?

"Contestants, take your positions. "Round 1, here we go. Ready ... set ... **BALANCE!**

(Kids try to balance objects—they should fall instantly.)

"OH NO! That was fast. Like ... insanely fast. Let's pretend that round didn't happen.

"Round 2! Deep breaths. Focus. And ... balance!

(Kids try to balance objects—they should fall instantly.)

"Oh, wow. Um, okay, let's say this is your redemption round. Ready? Three ... two ... one ... balance!

(Kids try to balance objects—they should fall instantly.)

"Well, that was very ... interesting! Props to you all for trying!

"You know what I noticed? Some of you were determined. Some were frustrated. Some immediately accepted your destiny as a non-balancer. And honestly? I get it.

"You guys can take a seat—thank you for volunteering!

"We all have moments when something feels harder than we thought. Even little things. And sometimes, you don't know whether to keep trying ... or just stop."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "You ever notice how some things in life happen instantly ... and other things take forever?

"You can access a movie you want to watch in seconds, but waiting for your microwave popcorn feels like a lifetime. Or you finish your test early, but the clock refuses to move. Or you're waiting for someone to text you back, and the three little dots just ... never appear.

"And it's not just small stuff. Some things in life take a long time to fix or figure out. Maybe you've been trying to get better at something—like a sport, a class, or a friendship—and it feels like progress is happening in slow motion. Or maybe you've been hoping for something to change, but every day looks pretty much the same.

"And when that happens, you start asking questions like, 'How long is this gonna take?' or 'Should I even bother anymore?'

"And here's the thing: Jesus knew people felt that way—not just back then, but now. He knew life would hand us moments that take longer than we want, moments when we're not sure if anything is happening at all, moments when giving up feels easier than hanging on.

"So one day, He told a story about someone who had every reason to give up ... but didn't."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Jesus had been teaching His followers all kinds of things about God's kingdom—how it works, what it's like, and what kind of people live in it. But He also knew something about His disciples that's still true about us: We get discouraged easily. We lose focus. We forget. We wonder if what we're doing even matters.

"Jesus wanted to help His disciples understand something important about not giving up and the importance of prayer. Let's see what He said.

(Open the Bible and read Luke 18:2-3 NIRV.)

He said, "In a certain town there was a judge. He didn't have any respect for God or care about what people thought. A widow lived in that town. She came to the judge again and again. She kept begging him, 'Make things right for me. Someone is treating me badly.'"

"Now, here's what you need to know: Back then, widows had almost no protection. No money. No support. If someone treated them unfairly, they couldn't fix it on their own. They needed help. And this widow? She needed someone to step in. So she went to the one person who could fix it, a judge.

"But the judge didn't care. Not about the widow. Not about fairness. Not even about what God said was right.

(Open the Bible and read Luke 18:4-5 NIV.)

"For some time the judge refused. But finally he said to himself, 'I don't have any respect for God. I don't care about what people think. But this widow keeps bothering me. So I will see that things are made right for her. If I don't, she will someday come and attack me!'"

"I love this part. The judge finally gave in, not because he suddenly became a kind human being, but because this woman simply would. Not. Quit.

"This wasn't a one-time request. This wasn't a quiet, polite moment. She showed up again ... and again ... and again. Everyone else would have given up. She didn't.

(Open the Bible and read Luke 18:6-8a NIV.)

"The Lord said, 'Listen to what the unfair judge says. God's chosen people cry out to him day and night. Won't he make things right for them? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, God will see that things are made right for them. He will make sure it happens quickly.'"

"Here's what Jesus was doing with this story: He was comparing the worst kind of judge with the best kind of God. If even a judge who doesn't care will respond to someone who keeps showing up, how much more will God, the One who loves you, listens to you, and knows you, respond when you come to Him again and again?

"Jesus was teaching that your prayers matter because the God you're talking to actually cares.

"And then, Jesus asked a question—a personal one:

(Open the Bible and read Luke 18:8b NIV.)

"But when the Son of Man comes, will he find people on earth who have faith?"

"Why did Jesus ask this question? Because when we come to Him with what we want, it's an act of trust and faith. He wants us to believe He

can answer. He wants us to believe that the God who we're coming to is good and He will answer us. Talking to Jesus is a matter of faith. People who don't believe in God don't talk to Him. Jesus values when people believe in Him and His abilities and share their hearts and desires with Him because they do.

"The widow kept going to the judge because what she needed mattered. And Jesus is saying the same to you: what you're bringing to Him matters. He loves you, and He cares about what you want. So don't let go of it. Don't stop showing up. God hears you every single time. And trust Him with the answer, whatever that may be. He might not answer in the way you expect. But trust Him. And know that God has your best interest in mind."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "We've just heard Jesus' story about a widow who refused to give up, even when everything around her told her to. And now, it's your turn to actually practice that same kind of persistence.

(Pre-determined leaders give each kid a Prayer Card Printable and a pencil.)

"We're going to pass out some prayer cards to everyone. On these cards are four boxes. These boxes represent four things you're going to commit to pray for, not once, not twice, but again and again. Persistence doesn't come naturally. It's something you choose. And today, you can choose it.

"Let's start with the first box. Think of a person you want to pray for. Maybe it's someone who needs encouragement, healing, strength, or help. Maybe it's a friend who's having a rough time. Maybe it's someone in your family. Maybe it's someone who doesn't even know you're praying for them. Just write their name in the first space.

(Pause as kids write.)

"In the second box, write down a situation. Something going on around you that needs God's help. It could be something happening at home. Something going on at school. Something in the world that breaks your heart a little. If there's something you think, 'God, please fix this,' that's what goes in the second space.

(Pause as kids write.)

"Now look at the third box. This one is a little closer to home. Write something that's happening inside you. Maybe it's a fear you've been carrying. A habit you want to break. Something you've been struggling with. Something that feels too big to fix on your own. God already knows what it is, but writing it down is your way of saying, 'God, I'm trusting You with this.'

(Pause as kids write.)

"And finally, the last box is for a dream or a goal. Something you hope for. Something you want to accomplish. Something you want God to shape in you or help you become. It doesn't have to be huge—even a small dream matters. Just write a word or phrase that reminds you of it.

(Pause as kids write.)

"Now, look at your prayer card. These four things matter. They're worth praying for. They're worth bringing to God again and again. And this little card? It's the beginning of your persistence. When you take it home, put it somewhere you'll see it. And every time you notice it, pray. Even if it's just one sentence. Talk to the God who loves you and wants to hear from you. And trust God for the answer, whatever that may be."

10 min

Closing

5 min

LANDING

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

What You Say:

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "In the story Jesus told, the widow had every reason to quit. The judge didn't care about her. He didn't listen to her. He didn't respect her. But she kept showing up. She kept asking. She didn't let silence stop her. And eventually, even *that* judge made things right.

"And Jesus' point wasn't that God is like the judge. The point was the opposite. If a judge who doesn't care will eventually respond, how much more will a God who loves you, knows you, and listens to you respond when you keep coming to Him?

"God isn't annoyed by your prayers. He's not bothered. He's not too busy. He's the God who invites you to keep coming close. And every time you pray—even when His answer feels slow, even when you don't see anything changing—you're choosing to believe. You're coming to Jesus because you believe in Him. And that means so much to Him.

"God wants us to talk to Him and talk to Him and talk to Him about what we want and need. And He promises that He will do great kingdom things when we do!

"That reminds me of our Bottom Line for today. Let's see what it says.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up. Can you say that with me?"

What You Say:

PRAYER

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's pray together, friends.

"God, You care for us so well. You listen. You see us. And You never get tired of us coming to You. Today, we wrote down things that matter to us—people we care about, things that feel heavy, things we hope for. Help us keep praying for those things, even when it takes time or when You answer in a way we didn't expect. Give us the strength to keep going. Give us the patience to trust You. And give us faith like the widow—faith that keeps showing up. We love You, and we trust You with every one of these prayers. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

(Dismiss kids to Small Groups.)

AUDIO: Play calm music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

Getting Ready | Preteen Large Group

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

APlay

APlay is your all-in-one presentation, preparation, and curriculum ecosystem that saves you time and money. APlay is free with your curriculum subscription! APlay offers powerful tools that build media playlists, compile curriculum documents, auto-update supply lists by child count, cast media to screens, and so much more.

Built to work in harmony with your curriculum, APlay Service Builder allows leaders to drop in, toggle on and off, or customize teaching plans, worship elements, and media assets in seconds. For even more value, upgrade to Amazing+ to unlock the parent app, Parent+.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (25 minutes)

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Table
- 3 tubs of Play-Doh®

Music and Sound Effects:

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- "Speed Sculpt! Title" 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.
- Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.

- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software, such as ProPresenter, includes a built-in countdown clock that can be overlaid on a still image.*
- Set up a table in the game area.
- Place the three tubs of Play-Doh® on the table.

2. Worship and Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Closer" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "King Of My Heart" - available on APlay with Amazing Music

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

What You Do:

- If you are utilizing the suggested songs from **Amazing Music-**, search for your desired video resource for each song under the Worship section on APlay and add to your service!
- You can access Amazing Music's Dance Motion, Lyric, and Instrumental Videos in APlay under the Worship section.
- Amazing Music Song Trainings are available in Amazing Leaders and FREE on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@AmazingKidsMusic>
- *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 \

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3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Table
- 3 small objects: a ping-pong ball, marker cap, mini-eraser (or other small objects that would be hard to balance on your finger)
- Prayer Card Printables, one per kid (provided)
- Pencils, one per kid
- A few pre-determined leaders to help pass out the Prayer Card Printables and pencils

Music and Sound Effects:

- Soft underscore
- Calm music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Conversation Starter Slide
- Theme Slide

Optional Video:

- Theme Loop

Optional Video: (available in 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 variety show full of humor and biblical truth.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

What You Do:

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- Set the three small objects on the table to use during the Introduction.

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- Set the Prayer Card Printables on the table with the pencils. Have enough pencils for each kid in your group to have one.
- Pre-determine a few leaders to help pass out a Prayer Card Printable and a pencil to each kid at the end of the teaching.

Supplies:

- Host
- Table
- 3 tubs of Play-Doh®
- Music and Sound Effects
- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use for the game
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- "Speed Sculpt! Title" Slide
- Optional Videos
- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme Intro
- Worship Leader(s)
- Music and Sound Effects
- "Closer" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "King Of My Heart" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Communicator
- Bible
- Table
- 3 small objects: a ping-pong ball, marker cap, mini-eraser (or other small objects that would be hard to balance on your finger)
- Prayer Card Printables
- Pencils
- A few pre-determined leaders to help pass out the Prayer Card Printables and pencils
- Music and Sound Effects
- Soft underscore
- Calm music to use as kids exit the room
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Conversation Starter Slide
- Theme Slide
- Optional Video
- Theme Loop
- Optional Video: (available in APlay)
- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video