

K5 | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 1

Bible Story: John the Baptist Is a Witness about Jesus • *John 3:22-36*

Bottom Line: Jesus must increase. I must decrease.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 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

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 (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

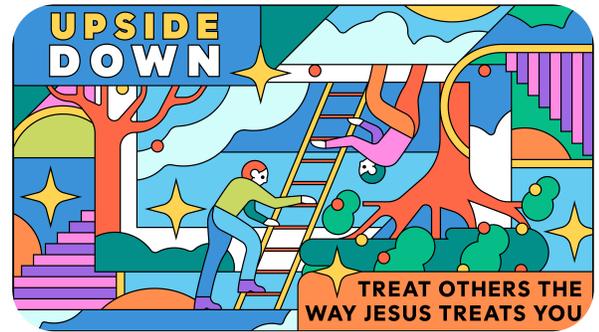
Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

- Bible Story Review: Bible Story Ring Toss (K-1st grade), Jesus Is #1 (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)
- Application Activity: Upside Down Craft (K-1st grade), Jesus at the Top (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (Preteen)
- Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Motions (K-1st grade), Memory Verse Motions (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (Preteen)
- Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade), Make It Personal with Prayer (Preteen)

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App



Bible Story

John the Baptist Is a Witness about Jesus • *John 3:22-36*

Conversation Starter

How can I show others that Jesus is better?

Bottom Line

Jesus must increase. I must decrease.

Monthly Memory Verse

Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

Opener

What You Need

	Host	1
	plastic cups (like Solo® cups)	1
	kid volunteers	1
	Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1

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.*
- *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 the cups in the main area of the floor and have 20 up and 20 down. Make sure they are mixed and not all up or down on one side.

HOST: "Hey, everybody! Welcome to a brand-new month in [your environment name]! I'm so glad you're here because we're starting a brand-new series called ... 'Upside Down!'"

"Everybody say that with me:

KIDS AND HOST: "Upside Down!"

HOST: "Nice! The full name of the series is 'Upside Down! Treat others the way Jesus treats you.'"

"Now ... I know what you're thinking. *Upside Down?* That sounds kind of weird, right? But here's the thing, Jesus taught people to live in a way that's a little different, a little unexpected ... a little upside down from what the world says.

Hold up one of the cups that's on the floor and flip it upside down.

"For example, the world might say, 'Be first! Be the best!' But Jesus says, 'Put others first.' That's pretty upside down!

Hold another cup that's on the floor and turn it right-side up.

"And that's what we'll learn this month—how to treat others the way Jesus treats us.

"To get us started, we're going to play a game that's totally upside down! It's called ... 'Cup Up/Cup Down!'"

SLIDE: Cup Up/Cup Down Title

"If you want to play our game, I need six volunteers! If you want to play, raise your hand!

Choose six volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised. Invite them to come on stage. Divide the kids into two teams of three.

"Here's how it works: when the timer starts, you'll have one minute to flip as many cups your team's way as possible. **Team 1, you are Cup Up**—you want all the cups facing up. **Team 2, you are Cup Down**—you want all the cups upside down. When the music stops, we'll see who has more cups their way!"

"Think you're ready? Let's go in 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... GO!"

Start the game and start the timer (or smartphone or countdown).

"Let's go, Team Cup Up! Team Cup Down's catching up, who's it gonna be?"

After the one-minute time is up ...

"Alright! Everyone, freeze! Let's see who's got the most cups flipped their way. Drumroll, please!

Count the cups that are face-up and face-down to determine a winner.

"And the winner is ... Team ____!"

Reset the cups evenly (so 20 are face up and 20 are face down) and play more rounds if desired.

"That was awesome! You guys flipped those cups upside down and back again superfast. You had to pay attention and decide which way to flip the cups. It was a lot of upside-down thinking!

"I'm so excited for this theme and what we are learning about today. You know the world tells us to: 'Make it all about YOU!' But Jesus showed us a different way, an *upside-down* way. He told us to think about others first, to be humble, and to make *Him* the most important.

"And that's exactly what we'll learn today, through the story of John the Baptist. John was super popular, but when Jesus came, John didn't try to be in charge or get all the attention. Instead, he realized that Jesus

11 min

Worship Option 1 | Amazing Music

3 min

Praise | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

I'm Free! | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

must increase, and he must decrease. In fact, that's our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

"Let's say that together—big voices, ready?"

KIDS AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "Jesus must increase. I must decrease!"

HOST: "Nice work! That's what it means to live upside down, to make more of Jesus and less of us. And you know what? When we do that, we actually find more joy, peace, and love than ever before!"

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

We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Orange Kids Music can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com. Amazing Music is available on APlay with Amazing+, or as an Add-On.

"Hey, everyone! Welcome to our first week of 'Upside Down!' This whole month, we're discovering how to live in an upside-down way—the Jesus way! A great way to start is by just praising Him for how good He is! Let's go!"

"Wow! You all sang that like you meant it! Now, let's sing another song that helps us remember something so important that Jesus gives us—freedom! When we follow Him, we don't have to worry or try to be the best. Jesus already loves us completely! Let's sing this one loud!"

"Wow! You all sang that like you meant it! Now, let's sing another song that helps us remember something so important that Jesus gives us—freedom! When we follow Him, we don't have to worry or try to be the best. Jesus already loves us completely! Let's sing this one loud!"

"Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here's what we can remember today—worship doesn't stop here. You can keep

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

worshipping God this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him. You can keep worshipping God all through the week!

"This whole month, we're learning how to live *Upside Down!* We're discovering what it means to treat others the way Jesus treats us. When we live with humility, when we think of others first, we show everyone that Jesus loves them.

"Our Memory Verse for this month reminds us how to do that. It's found in Philippians 2:3. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.—Philippians 2:3 NIV"

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Don't do anything only to get ahead."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Don't do it because you are proud."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Don't do it because you are proud."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Instead, be humble."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Instead, be humble."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Value others more than yourselves."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Value others more than yourselves."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Philippians 2:3!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Philippians 2:3!"

"Great job! That's such a powerful reminder that following Jesus means putting others first. When we do that, we make Jesus more important than anything else in our lives."

10 min

Worship Option 2 | Orange Kids Music

5 min

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

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WORSHIP LEADER: "Alright, everyone, let's get ready to worship! This is our chance to celebrate how good God is! He made each one of us. He

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Thank Yout God | Worship song**What You Need**

No supplies needed

Worship Closer**What You Need**

No supplies needed

24 min

**Bible Story
(Video)**

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video**What You Need**

No supplies needed

12 min

**So and So Show Bible Story |
Video****What You Need**

No supplies needed

loves us more than we can imagine, and He's always with us, no matter what we're going through.

"When we sing, we're not just saying words, we're thanking God for who He is and all the amazing things He's done. So come on, let's stand up, smile big, and sing out loud to show God how much we love Him!

"You guys sound amazing! Did you know God hears every word? He loves it when we take time to worship Him, not just with our voices, but with our lives. Let's keep worshipping together!

"Great job, everyone! I love worshipping God with you all! Here's what we can remember today—worship doesn't stop here. You can keep worshipping God this week by the way you live, the way you treat people, and the way you trust Him. You can keep worshipping God all through the week!

Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But

43 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

INTRODUCTION

What You Need

No supplies needed

to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!

If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." (Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the rest of the story of Scripture!) We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!

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

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).
- Put the pile of 20 DUPLO blocks on the table.

STORYTELLER: "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! This month, we're starting a new series, it's called: 'Upside Down: Treat others the way Jesus treats you.

"All month long, we're going to learn what it means to live *Upside Down!* Living *Upside Down* means we do things God's way, even when it looks different from what everyone else is doing.

"This week, we'll hear a story about someone who lived that way. His name was John the Baptist. Lots of people thought John was amazing, but when Jesus came along, John realized something really special. He knew: **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.**

"And we're going to find out what that means for us today! But before we start our story, let's remember something really awesome we're doing this year. We're going through the whole Bible together!

"Why? Because part of the reason God gave us the Bible is because it helps us get to know Him. Every story we read helps us see who God is and how much He loves us."

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

SLIDE: God's Big Story

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

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

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

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on Earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

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

STORYTELLER: "So we're continuing our journey through the Bible. We're right at the part of the Bible when Jesus was on Earth. He came to Earth to show us who God is! So let's see what He had to teach us about living upside down!

"To get started, let me ask you a question for you to think about: Have you ever been part of something where you wanted to be the one who got noticed? Maybe you worked really hard on a school project and

5 min

EVERYTHING COMES FROM GOD

What You Need

No supplies needed

hoped everyone would notice, or maybe you scored a goal and wanted people to cheer your name. Has anyone here ever wanted that?

"Yeah, that's pretty normal! It feels good when people notice us, right? But today's story shows us something *Upside Down*, something that might feel backwards at first. It's about what happens when we stop trying to make *ourselves* the biggest ... and instead, make *Jesus* the biggest.

"I brought something to help us picture that. These DUPLO blocks are going to help us see what our Bottom Line means: **[Bottom Line] 'Jesus must increase. I must decrease.'** (*Gesture to the pile of DUPLO blocks on the table.*)

"Let's build a tower, and let's pretend this tower represents *you and me*. It's like all the things that fill up our lives. School, sports, games, hobbies, friends, and all the things we like.

Start stacking 8 DUPLO blocks to form a tower. This will be the "ME" tower.

"Now I'm going to start building another tower. This other tower is going to represent *JESUS*. When we first start learning about Jesus, it might feel like He's just a small part of our lives.

Place one DUPLO block to start the "JESUS" tower. Then build a tower with 4 DUPLOs, so it is shorter than the "ME" tower.

"But as we spend more time with Jesus—when we pray and talk to Him all of the time, when we learn His words, and follow His ways—Jesus grows in importance. He becomes greater in our hearts.

Add 2 more DUPLO blocks to the "JESUS" tower, making it 6 blocks tall.

"And when that happens, something *Upside Down* starts to take place. *Take 2 blocks off the "ME" tower as you add 2 blocks to the "JESUS" tower, so the "JESUS" tower is clearly bigger.*

"Jesus increases, and *I* decrease. It's not that we disappear or stop being who we are, it just means we choose to make *Him* the most important.

"See the difference? That's what today's story is all about—it's about a man named John the Baptist who understood this truth. John didn't want people to follow him; he wanted everyone to follow Jesus."

STORYTELLER: "Let's see what the Bible tells us about what happened with Jesus and John the Baptist.

Open the Bible to John 3:22-24 (NIRV) and read.

After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the countryside of Judea. There he spent some time with them. And he baptized people there. John was also baptizing. He was at Aenon near Salim, where there was plenty of water. People were coming and being baptized. This was before John was put in prison.

"After spending time in Jerusalem for the Passover, Jesus and His disciples traveled out into the countryside of Judea. They began teaching and baptizing people there. Not too far away, John the Baptist was also teaching and baptizing. John had baptized Jesus earlier.

"When John had baptized Jesus, something amazing had happened! Heaven opened up, and God said:

Open the Bible to Matthew 3:17 (NirV) and read.

"This is my Son, and I love Him. I am very pleased with Him" (Matthew 3:17 NirV).

"So John knew exactly who Jesus is—God's promised Rescuer!

"Crowds were still coming to John, listening to him and learning how to follow God. But soon, people started talking about Jesus too. Word was spreading fast! Jesus was healing people and teaching about God's love, and before long, more and more people started following Him. Then the Bible says this happened:

Open the Bible to John 3:25-26 (NirV) and read.

Some of John's disciples and a certain Jew began to argue. They argued about special washings to make people "clean." They came to John and here is what they said to him. "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River is baptizing people. He is the one you told us about. Everyone is going to him."

"John's followers were upset. They said, 'John! Everyone is going to Jesus now!' They thought John was losing his importance!

"Let's use these towers to help us picture what was happening.

Remember our tower? Let's say it's John's tower too. *(Tap the shorter tower.)* And this tower represents *Jesus*. *(Tap the taller tower.)*

"John's followers thought, 'Wait, John's tower used to be taller! Everyone was paying attention to him! But now Jesus' tower is bigger!' They didn't understand that this was actually a *good thing*.

Add another 2 more DUPLO blocks to the "JESUS" tower to make it even taller.

Open the Bible to John 3:27 (NirV) and read.

John replied, "A person can receive only what God gives them from heaven."

"John reminded his followers that *everything* we have comes from God! John wasn't worried about losing attention on himself, because his job was never to be the most important. His job was to point people to *Jesus*. *Add 1 block to the "JESUS" tower. Remove 1 block from the "ME" tower.*

"John knew that God had given him a special role to help people get ready for Jesus, and now that Jesus was here, it was time for everyone to start following *Him*. That didn't make John sad. It made him *glad*! Because it meant God was at work and the plan He had told everyone about for such a long time was finally coming true!"

STORYTELLER: "John could see that his friends were upset, but he wanted them to understand something bigger. So he reminded them what he had already said before.

5 min

JOYFULLY POINT TO JESUS

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

HE INCREASES, I DECREASE**What You Need**

No supplies needed

Open the Bible to John 3:28 (NirV) and read.

"You yourselves are witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah. I was sent ahead of him.'"

"John reminded his followers, 'Remember what I told you, I'm not the Rescuer. I'm not the Savior. God sent me to get everyone ready for Jesus.' John's job was to point people toward the One who would save them, not to be the one everyone followed.

Point to both DUPLO towers.

"Remember our towers? The people thought John's tower needed to stay the tallest. But John knew the opposite was true.

Add 1 more block to the "JESUS" tower. Remove 1 block from the "ME" tower.

"John was happy to step back because that meant people were seeing Jesus more clearly. John said this:

Open the Bible to John 3:39 (NirV) and read.

"The bride belongs to the groom. The friend who helps the groom waits and listens for him. He is full of joy when he hears the groom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete."

"In Bible times, weddings were a really big deal! The groom was the most important person at the celebration. The groom's friend helped plan everything, but once the wedding started, he stepped back and celebrated with joy because it wasn't about him, it was about the groom.

"John said he was like that friend. His job was to help people get ready for Jesus. And when Jesus finally arrived, John was full of joy! He wasn't jealous at all. He was happy that everyone's eyes were finally on the one true Savior.

Add another block to the "JESUS" tower.

"John was saying, 'This is what I've been waiting for all along! My job was to help people see Jesus, and now they finally do!'"

STORYTELLER: *"John's followers were finally starting to understand what he meant. But then John said something powerful, something that sums up the whole story.*

Open the Bible to John 3:30 (NirV) and read.

"He must become more important. I must become less important."

*"Those few words explained everything John believed. John wasn't trying to make a name for himself. He wasn't trying to be famous or to have the biggest crowd. He was saying, **[Bottom Line] 'Jesus must increase. I must decrease.'**"*

Add 1 more block to the "JESUS" tower so it's now much taller. Remove 1 more block from the "ME" tower, making it clearly smaller.

"See the difference? When we make our lives all about Jesus, He becomes greater, He increases, and we become less. That's humility! It doesn't mean we aren't valuable or loved. It means we trust that God's plans are better than our own.

"The Bible also shares this amazing truth that John spoke!

Open the Bible to John 3:31 (NirV) and read.

5 min

JESUS GIVES ETERNAL LIFE

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

"The one who comes from above is above everything. The one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks like someone from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above everything."

"John said, 'Jesus comes from heaven. He's above everything.' John wanted his followers to understand that Jesus wasn't just another teacher, He's God's own Son! Jesus is from heaven and is the King of heaven! That's why Jesus *deserves* to increase. That's why everyone should follow Him."

STORYTELLER: "John wanted everyone to know exactly *why* Jesus should be the most important. Jesus isn't just another great teacher or prophet. John explained that Jesus came from heaven, that He was God's Son, and that He brought something no one else could ever give.

Open the Bible to John 3:32-36 (NirV) and read.

"He is a witness to what he has seen and heard. But no one accepts what he says. Anyone who has accepted it has said, 'Yes. God is truthful.' The one whom God has sent speaks God's words. That's because God gives the Holy Spirit without limit. The Father loves the Son and has put everything into his hands. Anyone who believes in the Son has eternal life. Anyone who does not believe in the Son will not have life."

"John said, 'Jesus was sent by God, and He speaks the very words of God.' That means when Jesus teaches, we're hearing God's truth! We are hearing the very words of God since Jesus is God! Wow. John told everyone that God the Father loves His Son, Jesus, and gave Him power over everything. John said that anyone who believes in Jesus will have *eternal life*, life forever with God! That means that anyone who believes in Jesus will be friends forever with God!"

"Now it all makes sense. John's job was to help people see that Jesus isn't just important, He's *everything*.

Add one last block to the "JESUS" tower to make it super tall. Leave the "ME" tower smaller and off to the side.

"Our tower, which was also John's tower, might have started taller, but by the end of the story, Jesus' tower is the tallest, because Jesus is greater. That's what John wanted everyone to understand. He wasn't sad about being smaller. He was joyful that people were seeing *Jesus* clearly. Jesus is the King!"

STORYTELLER: "When John's friends were worried about losing attention, John reminded them that everything he had came from God. He found joy in pointing others to Jesus. And he knew that Jesus, not him, is the One who gives eternal life.

"It's not that the other parts of our lives—friends, sports, school, fun things—disappear. It's just that Jesus becomes the most important part of everything we do. When He increases, everything else falls into its

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

Closing

right place. **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.** That's our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Jesus must increase. I must decrease. Say that with me."

Host enters and joins in.

KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "Jesus must increase. I must decrease."

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

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about who God is!

"This week, we talked about a very important person in Jesus' life—Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist! John the Baptist taught us so much about Jesus. His whole life was an arrow that pointed to Jesus! One of the important ideas that John the Baptist taught was this: 'Jesus came from heaven, and He tells us all about heavenly things.' That's a big reason why God sent Jesus. Jesus came to show us who God is and what God is like! He came to teach us heavenly things. And while Jesus was here on Earth showing us what God is like, Jesus also lived a perfect life. He did not sin at all. Then He gave up that perfect life to break the awful curse of sin that we were under. The King of heaven died and rose again to set us free, so that we could be close friends with God again—forever!

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

SLIDE: Week 1 Timeline Image

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

"This week we learned from John the Baptist how Jesus must increase and we must decrease!"

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "So what about us? What's *our* part in this story?"

"The reality of life is this: No one else is more important for people to know or see than Jesus. Jesus offers to be each person's Savior—their rescue forever—and their forever friend. So make a big deal of Jesus in your life. Try to point to Him in everything you do. People will see His love when you are kind and helpful. People will see His forgiveness when you forgive. People will see His justice when you're fair.

"You can also talk about Jesus and speak His name whenever you have the chance, so people make the connection between the goodness you're showing and the Jesus you love. You're not just being kind, you're being like Jesus. You're not just being merciful, you're being like Jesus. And this good God who is your friend wants to be their friend too.

"John made less of himself—and he made a big deal of Jesus. Because of this, people started to see, love, and follow Jesus! When you make a big deal of Jesus, you're showing the world the Jesus who loves them too!

'So make your life a big arrow that points to Jesus!'

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Let's take a moment to talk to the God who loves you so much together. Everyone, bow your heads and close your eyes so we can focus on Him."

"Dear Jesus, we want to live with humility. We want to make more room for You in our hearts and lives every day. When we start to think too much about ourselves, remind us to focus on You. When we want to be first, help us to choose You instead. We want our lives to be an arrow that points to You! Thank You for loving us so much. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

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

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Getting Ready | K5

Large Group

GETTING READY

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
- 40 plastic cups (like Solo® cups)
- 6 kid volunteers
- Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- "Cup Up/Cup Down 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.
- 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.

- *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 the cups in the main area of the floor and have 20 up and 20 down. Make sure they are mixed and not all up or down on one side.

2. Worship and Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Praise"- available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "I'm Free" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "O Praise" - available on store.thinkorange.com
- "Thank You God" - available on store.thinkorange.com

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos for Orange Kids Music

- "O Praise" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "Thank You God" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

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>
- If you are utilizing **the Orange Kids Music** suggestions, simply purchase and download from store.ThinkOrange.com! You can upload these into APlay for easy use with your 252 curriculum.
- Dance Motion Videos and Lyrics Videos are available for Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- *Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a*

separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:

*"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe
©2000 Good Music Co.
CCLI License # 0000*

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table
- 20 DUPLO® blocks

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Theme Slide

Optional for God's Big Story:

- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- God's Big Story Slide
- Week 1 Timeline Image Slide
- We recommend that you create a timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed Timeline Images in order, week by week. We'll provide a Timeline Image for each week of the curriculum. There are two versions of each Timeline Image—a slide and a print version. A digital God's Big Story poster is available as well in the Orange Store.

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).
- Put the pile of 20 DUPLO blocks on the table.

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 YouTube-style show full of humor and lots of zany fun.

Additional environment enhancements, including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

Supplies

Opener	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. plastic cups (like Solo® cups)	1
3. kid volunteers	1
4. Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)	1