

K-5 | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 1

Bible Story: Easter (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18–20:23*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 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 (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: Build the Story (K–1st grade), Picture Plates (2nd–3rd grade)

Application Activity: Buckets of Questions (K–1st grade), Jesus Went Away and Came Back (2nd–3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Motions (K–1st grade), Torn Paper Cross (2nd–3rd grade)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Easter (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18–20:23*

Conversation Starter

How do you celebrate Easter?

Bottom Line

You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

Monthly Memory Verse

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! • Philippians 4:4 NlrV

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

Opener

What You Need

👤	Host	1
👤	kid volunteers for each round you do (ask for new volunteers at the start of each round)	8
👤	large, plastic Easter eggs	8
👤	pool noodles	2
👤	Floor Tape	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.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

(Host enters with energy and excitement.)

Optional Video: Countdown

Optional Video: Theme Intro

Optional Video: Theme Loop

(Things to have ready: Floor tape placed as starting line. Eight large, plastic Easter eggs lined up at the starting line in two groups of four. Two pool noodles on the floor next to the Easter eggs. Game slide. Bottom Line slide.)

OPENER

HOST: "Happy Easter, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today because this is one of the biggest celebration days ever. Today is all about joy,

hope, and the best news in the whole world! Jesus is alive! We're starting a brand-new series called 'Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends.' And honestly, what better way to start off our month talking about joy than Easter?

"Since today is all about celebrating, we're kicking things off with a super-fun game.

SLIDE: Roll with It Title

"And trust me ... you'll understand the name in about 10 seconds.

(Gesture to the Easter eggs.)

"These will be your official racing eggs. And nope, you're not allowed to pick them up with your hands. You're going to guide them using ... drumroll please ...

"Pool noodles!

(Hold up a pool noodle.)

"Today, we're doing an Easter egg relay like you've never seen before.

"Each team will line up behind these four giant Easter eggs at the starting line. When I say 'Go,' the first person on each team will use ONLY the pool noodle to roll one egg from the starting line to the finish line. Once you cross the finish line, run back to the start line—you can leave your egg at the finish line—hand the pool noodle to the next teammate, and then it's their turn to roll an egg. Keep going until all your team's eggs make it across the finish line. The first team to get all their eggs across the finish line wins!

"Before we start, we have a couple of very important rules. First, no kicking the eggs. Your feet are not egg launchers. Second, no using your hands—even if your egg decides to run away. If it rolls the wrong way, which it probably will, just go chase it. And finally, no whacking each other with the pool noodles. Today is Easter, not Pool Noodle Battle Day.

"All right, I'm going to need some volunteers. Who would like to play? If you'd like to play, raise your hand!

(Select eight volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and divide them into two teams of four. Line up each team in a single file line at the start line.)

"Alright teams, go ahead and grab your pool noodles and stand behind your Easter eggs! Perfect! These eggs look ... extremely unpredictable. Even better.

"When I say 'Go,' start rolling the Easter eggs! One ... two ... three ... GO!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

(Play the game. Make sure the kids are using only the pool noodles to roll the Easter eggs and not their hands or feet. Cheer for the teams and involve the audience.)

"Oh no, that egg is rolling like it's late for school! Someone catch that runaway egg! You've got this! Let's go, teams!"

(Play the game until one of the teams rolls all their Easter eggs across the finish line.)

"And stop! We have the winning team! Great job, everyone!"

(Repeat the game for as many rounds as time allows. Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round.)

"What a party! I love that we all get to be together on Easter! Easter is the day we celebrate the best news ever: Jesus is alive. And because Jesus is alive, we can have joy that never ends.

"Let's check out our Bottom Line for today!"

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "You can have joy because Jesus is alive!"

"Can you say that with me?"

KIDS AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "You can have joy because Jesus is alive!"

HOST: "Great job, everyone! WOOHOO! Jesus is alive!"

11 min

Worship Option 1 | Amazing Music

3 min

Alive | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Living Hope | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

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.

(Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Happy Easter, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today. Today is a super-special day because we get to celebrate that Jesus is alive. Because Jesus is alive, that means we can have joy that never ends. And one of the ways we show our joy is by worshiping, singing to God, and telling Him how much we love Him.

"We're going to start with a song called 'Alive.' This song helps us remember that Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. He rose again! So let's all stand up and get ready to sing and dance with joy.

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

"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!

"That was amazing! I love hearing you sing. Now we're going to sing a song called 'Living Hope.' Jesus gives us hope. He helps us when we feel sad or worried, and He reminds us that we're never alone. You can close your eyes if you want or lift your hands. Let's worship Him together.

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

"You all did such an amazing job singing those songs! I love seeing your smiles and hearing your voices."

"This month, we're learning all about joy, real joy that comes from Jesus. And today is Easter—the perfect day to talk about joy, because we're celebrating that Jesus is alive! When Jesus rose from the dead, He gave us a joy that doesn't disappear when things are hard. Jesus defeated death and conquered sin because He loves us! Our Memory

What You Need

No supplies needed

10 min

Worship Option 2 | Orange Kids Music

5 min

I've Got Joy | Orange Kids Music

What You Need

No supplies needed

Verse reminds us that joy is something we can choose every single day because we belong to Him.

"Our Memory Verse is found in Philippians 4:4. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: *"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4 (NIV)."*

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

WORSHIP LEADER: *"Always be joyful."*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"Always be joyful."*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"Because you belong to the Lord."*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"Because you belong to the Lord."*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"I will say it again."*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"I will say it again."*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"Be joyful!"*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"Be joyful!"*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"Philippians 4:4!"*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"Philippians 4:4!"*

WORSHIP LEADER: *"You all did such an amazing job learning the verse. When you go to school, when you're playing at home, and when you're with your friends, Jesus is alive, and His joy goes with you. Let this verse be a reminder all week long: you can always choose joy because Jesus is alive, and He loves you so much."*

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

5 min

Start The Party | Worship song

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

"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!

SONG: "I've Got Joy" available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

"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!

SONG: "Start the Party" available on Store.ThinkOrange.com

"You all did an amazing job singing today! I love seeing how excited you are to celebrate Jesus. When I look around and see your smiles and hear your voices, it reminds me how special Easter really is. Jesus is alive, and you're showing your joy in the way you worship. God loves hearing you sing, and it makes my heart so happy to celebrate with you.

38 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

INTRODUCTION

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

If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session 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).
- Print the "Sad Face" printable and the "Question Mark" printable that are provided.
- Using the marker, write "Friday" on one box, "Saturday" on one box, and "Sunday" on one box in big, bold letters.
- Blow up the balloons with helium, tie some ribbon to each one, and tie the balloons to the balloon weights.
- Put the dark tissue paper in the "Friday" box.
- Put the "Sad Face" printable and the "Question Mark" printable in the "Saturday" box.
- Put the balloons and balloon weights in the "Sunday" box.
- Line up all the boxes on the table in the order of the teaching (the order is "Friday," "Saturday," and "Sunday.")

(Things to have ready: Table on the stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. All three boxes filled, ready, and on the table.)

STORYTELLER: "Hey everyone, I'm so super-glad you're here today! We're going to talk about one of the most important things to ever happen in the whole wide world today!
"It's Easter! Happy Easter! Easter is such an important day! When we talk about Easter, we're not just talking about a holiday or a celebration.

What You Need

👤	Storyteller	1
👤	Host	1
👤	Table	1
👤	cardboard boxes labeled "Friday," "Saturday," and "Sunday" (See "What You Do" on how to prepare them.)	3
👤	big marker	1
👤	sheets of dark-colored tissue paper (enough to fill the "Friday" box)	Several
👤	Sad face visual and question mark visual that are provided ("Sad Face" printable and "Question Mark" printable)	1
👤	balloons (however many fit in the "Sunday" box)	3
👤	Ribbon (enough to tie some to each balloon)	1
👤	Balloon weights (enough for each balloon)	1
👤	Bible	1

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)**What You Need**

No supplies needed

We're remembering that something awesome started because of what Jesus did on the cross, and ... spoiler alert ... because He died and rose back to life, for you and me! Jesus loves us so much that He gave His life to rescue us! And then, He rose back to life! Hooray!

"But before we get into the most amazing event in the entire Bible, let me tell you about something awesome we're doing this year!

"We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants to be our close, close friend. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is to learn more about God!"

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

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far! (*If you have them up, feel free to point to the Timeline Images as you talk about them.*)

"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

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

FRIDAY

out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"After God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they disobeyed God—again and again and again. Even the kings God gave them rebelled! So, God split the nation 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!

"Jesus lived a perfect life, and we will see today the most amazing thing He did with that perfect life! God has loved us for a long, long time.

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

STORYTELLER: "Today, we're continuing our journey through the Bible. And we're at one of the most important events in the whole entire Bible—Easter!

"I want to show you something special I brought to help us with our Easter story today! I brought three boxes with me. We're not going to open them yet, but each one has a word on it. This one says, 'Friday' ... this one says, 'Saturday' ... and this one says 'Sunday.' These three days are really important in our story.

"Now, I want you to stop for a moment and think about something: Have you ever had a day that felt a little sad or heavy? Maybe something didn't go the way you hoped. How did your heart feel on that day?

"Have you ever had a day when you had to wait for something? Maybe you didn't know what was going to happen, and you just had to hold on and wait. That can feel a little confusing, can't it?

"In our story, Jesus' followers felt all of those things. Sadness ... waiting ... a lot of wondering. But then ... something happened that filled their hearts with SO much joy. Each box will help us understand what those days were like. We'll open them as we go along.

STORYTELLER: "Jesus and His friends were in Jerusalem celebrating Passover. Passover was a special time when God's people remembered how He had rescued them long ago. While they were celebrating, Jesus

What You Need

No supplies needed

knew the time was coming for Him to rescue us too. He knew God had a plan to save lots and lots of people through Him.

"Jesus shared a meal with His friends, talked with them, and prayed with them. After dinner, He went to a quiet garden to keep praying. Jesus knew what was coming next, even though His followers didn't understand yet. And then Friday came.

"Early in the morning, Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, arrived with a group of soldiers. They carried torches and weapons. They had come to arrest Jesus. Before we go any further, let's open our first box. This is the Friday box. Get ready to count with me. One ... two ... three ... open!

(Open the "Friday" box. Hold up the piece of darkly colored tissue paper.)

"Do you see what's inside? It's dark paper. Friday was a dark day. Jesus' followers felt sad and scared.

"Let's read what the Bible said happened:

(Open the Bible to John 18:4-5a NIV and read.)

Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to him. So he went out and asked them, "Who do you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said.

"Jesus was saying He is the 'I am,' the same name God used when He introduced Himself to Moses at the burning bush. Jesus was sharing that He is God, and that truth was so powerful, it knocked the soldiers down. But even so, Jesus allowed the soldiers to arrest Him. They tied Him up and took Him to Annas, the father-in-law of the high priest.

"Let's read some more.

(Open the Bible to John 18:19-21 NIV and read.)

Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus. He asked him about his disciples and his teaching.

"I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I didn't say anything in secret. Why question me? Ask the people who heard me. They certainly know what I said."

"Jesus was eventually taken to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. After talking with Jesus, Pilate couldn't find any reason to punish Him.

(Open the Bible to John 19:4 NIV and read.)

5 min

FRIDAY LEADS INTO SATURDAY**What You Need**

No supplies needed

Once more Pilate came out. He said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing Jesus out to you. I want to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him."

"But the crowd shouted for Jesus to be put to death. Even though Jesus had never done anything wrong, Pilate handed Him over to be crucified.

(Open the Bible to John 19:14-16 Nlrv and read.)

It was about noon on Preparation Day in Passover Week.

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"

"Should I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

Finally, Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be nailed to a cross.

"The soldiers led Jesus to a hill called 'the Skull.' They nailed His hands and feet to a wooden cross. Even while He was hurting, Jesus cared for the people He loved.

(Open the Bible to John 19:26-27 Nlrv and read.)

Jesus saw his mother there. He also saw the disciple he loved standing nearby. Jesus said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son." He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, the disciple took her into his home.

"At last, Jesus knew He had finished everything He came to do.

(Open the Bible to John 19:30 Nlrv and read.)

After Jesus drank he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and died.

STORYTELLER: *"After Jesus died on the cross, His friends were heartbroken. They wrapped His body with care and placed it in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the entrance, and everything felt quiet and still.*

"Friday was a sad day. A dark day. Everyone who loved Jesus felt heartbroken. They didn't understand that God was still working, even when everything felt dark. They didn't know the story wasn't over yet.

(Open the Bible to Luke 23:55-56 Nlrv and read. Note: This passage is a switch from John to Luke to show the events of Saturday.)

5 min

SUNDAY**What You Need**

No supplies needed

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee ... saw the tomb and how Jesus' body was placed in it. Then they went home. There they prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath day in order to obey the Law.

"And then came the next day ... Saturday.

"Let's open our Saturday box together. Count with me. One ... two ... three ... open!

(Open the "Saturday" box. Hold up the sad face and question mark papers.)

"Look at this. It's a sad face and a question mark. Saturday felt exactly like this. Jesus' friends were sad because Jesus had died. They missed Him so much. And they were confused. They didn't know what God was doing. They didn't understand how this could be part of God's plan. Saturday felt like one big, sad question.

"Since it was the Sabbath, Jesus' friends had to rest, just as God had told His people to do. They couldn't visit the tomb. They couldn't check on anything. They couldn't fix anything or change anything. All they could do was wait.

"Imagine how that must have felt. Everything had happened so fast. One day, Jesus was teaching them, walking with them, loving them. The next day, everything felt quiet and empty. Their hearts were full of sadness and questions.

"But even though they couldn't see it, God was still working. Jesus had told them He would rise again, but they didn't understand it yet. Saturday felt silent and confusing, but God had not forgotten His promise.

"Saturday was a day of waiting ...

"But Sunday was coming."

STORYTELLER: "Very early on Sunday morning, something amazing was about to happen. Before the sun was even up, one of Jesus' friends, Mary Magdalene, went to the tomb. She wanted to bring spices to care for Jesus' body. But when she arrived, she saw something surprising. The stone was rolled away. The tomb was open. Jesus' body was gone.

"She didn't know what it meant. So she ran to tell Peter and John, two of Jesus' closest friends. They both ran to the tomb as fast as they could. When they looked inside, they saw the strips of cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in, but Jesus wasn't there.

"Mary stayed near the tomb, crying. She didn't know where Jesus was. She didn't know who took His body. Everything felt confusing and scary.

"But Sunday wasn't a sad day. Sunday wasn't a confusing day. Sunday was a joyful day—the most joyful day ever!

"It's time to open our Sunday box. Are you ready? Count with me. One ... two ... three ... open!

(Open the "Sunday" box. Pause as balloons float up.)

"Look at these balloons! Sunday is the day Jesus came back to life. The sadness of Friday and the questions of Saturday were answered with the happiest news the world has ever heard.

"Two angels dressed in white appeared to Mary at Jesus' tomb. Let's see what they said to her.

(Open the Bible to John 20:13-16 NIV and read.)

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said. "I don't know where they have put him." Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener. So she said, "Sir, did you carry him away? Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

"When Jesus said her name, Mary knew it was Him. She turned around and saw Jesus alive. Really alive. Jesus had beaten death. He had kept His promise.

"Let's read what Jesus told her.

(Open the Bible to John 20:17 NIV and read.)

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me. I have not yet ascended to the Father. Instead, go to those who believe in me. Tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

"Mary ran to tell the disciples the happiest news in the world.

(Open the Bible to John 20:18 NIV and read.)

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news. She said, "I have seen the Lord!"

"Imagine that moment. Mary ran as fast as she could to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive. Everything He had said was true. God had done the impossible.

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Sunday was a day of joy. Joy that filled the whole world. God loves you so much that Jesus gave His life to rescue you—then He rose from the dead! Because Jesus is alive, we can have joy no matter what we face. Not just today on Easter ... but every single day. God loves you every single day!"

STORYTELLER: "Friday was a hard day. Saturday was a quiet day. But Sunday ... Sunday changed everything. Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. He came back to life! He defeated sin and death! He is alive forever, and nothing can ever stop that!"

"When Jesus rose again, His friends were filled with joy. And we can have that same joy today.

"What Jesus' friends didn't realize quite yet was that something else amazing had happened. When Jesus died, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. He paid for something called sin. Sin is when we choose our way instead of God's way, and it pulls us away from God. But Jesus wants us to be His close, close friends! So Jesus gave His perfect life and paid for sin! And now, when we accept what Jesus did for us, we can be close to God again! Jesus loves us so, so much that He gave His life for us!"

"Now, when you decide to follow Jesus, you can be close with God again! And because Jesus defeated death, that friendship that starts now will last forever and ever and ever! As a follower of Jesus, you are a forever friend of the great King.

"Jesus is alive! He defeated death! You will be God's friend forever! And there's nothing more joyful than that!"

"This is why we celebrate Easter. This is why today is full of joy ... because Jesus is alive!"

"Let's take a look at our Bottom Line for today.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "You can have joy because Jesus is alive!"

"Let's say that together, everyone!"

(Host enters and joins in.)

KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "You can have joy because Jesus is alive!"

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

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we covered two whole pictures in this map of God's Big Story! We talked about the picture that says, 'The Cross' and the picture that says, 'The Resurrection!' (*Gesture to timeline.*)

"Friends, this week, we talked about the central point of God's great rescue plan! Since the fall in the garden, (*gesture to the picture, if you have it*) God had promised that He was going to restore the closeness that was broken by sin. He was going to make a way for people to be His close friends forever. Years ago, God had said, 'I am going to rescue you.' 'I want you close.' 'This distance will not do.' And throughout His Big Story (*wide gesture to the other images in God's Big Story, if you have them*), He faithfully, faithfully, faithfully was working to keep that promise to break that curse of sin that kept people from being close to Him.

"So Jesus, God's very own Son, came. He lived a perfect life, and then gave that perfect life to pay the price for sin. Because He never did anything wrong, Jesus was able to take on our sin. With His own life, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. He broke the curse of sin we were under. He set us free. With the curse broken, with sin paid for, we could be close to God again!

"What God had been working on in His Big Story was finally coming true! And then Jesus did something else amazing! He rose back to life! Jesus beat death! Our Rescuer who loves us is alive and with us forever and ever!

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 the incredible news: Jesus died and rose again. Jesus loves us so much that He gave His life to rescue us, and then He rose back to life again! And because Jesus is alive, we can have life and joy!"

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "Now that we've heard this amazing Easter story, let's talk about what it means for us today.

"What Jesus' friends didn't know that day, but that we know now, is that when Jesus gave His life, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. He paid for sin. With sin paid for, we could be

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER**What You Need**

No supplies needed

close to God!

"You can be friends with the God of the universe because of what Jesus did on Easter!

"And that friendship is better than any friendship. Jesus is alive, even today, and as your forever friend, He goes with you through every single thing you face. Everything you face, you face with Him as His much-loved friend.

"You are loved, so loved, by God.

"Happy Easter, everybody! Jesus loves you!

"Let's pray and thank Jesus for what He's done."

STORYTELLER OR HOST: "Jesus, thank You for loving us so much. Thank You for coming to rescue us and for giving Your life for us. And thank You for rising again on Easter morning. Help us make our whole lives about growing our forever friendship with You that You purchased on Easter. We love You so much, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

(Dismiss kids to their small groups.)

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
- 8 kid volunteers for each round you do (ask for new volunteers at the start of each round)
- Floor tape
- 8 large, plastic Easter eggs
- 2 pool noodles

Music and Sound Effects:

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- "Roll with It 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 starting line and a finish line with floor tape.
- Line up eight Easter eggs (four for each team) on the starting line.
- Put two pool noodles (one for each team) on the floor next to the Easter eggs.

2. Worship and Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Alive"- available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Living Hope" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "I've Got Joy" - available on Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "Start the Party" - available on Store.ThinkOrange.com)

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos for Orange Kids Music

- "I've Got Joy" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "Start the Party" 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
- 3 cardboard boxes labeled "Friday," "Saturday," and "Sunday" (See "What You Do" on how to prepare them.)
- 1 big marker
- Several sheets of dark-colored tissue paper (enough to fill the "Friday" box)
- Sad face visual and question mark visual that are provided ("Sad Face" printable and "Question Mark" printable)
- 2 or 3 balloons (however many fit in the "Sunday" box)
- Ribbon (enough to tie some to each balloon)
- Balloon weights (enough for each balloon)

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to play as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Theme Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- "Sad Face" Printable
- "Question Mark" Printable

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.

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

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 "Sad Face" printable and the "Question Mark" printable that are provided.
- Using the marker, write "Friday" on one box, "Saturday" on one box, and "Sunday" on one box in big, bold letters.
- Blow up the balloons with helium, tie some ribbon to each one, and tie the balloons to the balloon weights.
- Put the dark tissue paper in the "Friday" box.
- Put the "Sad Face" printable and the "Question Mark" printable in the "Saturday" box.
- Put the balloons and balloon weights in the "Sunday" box.
- Line up all the boxes on the table in the order of the teaching (the order is "Friday," "Saturday," and "Sunday.")

Supplies

Opener	Quantity
1. Host	1
2. kid volunteers for each round you do (ask for new volunteers at the start of each round)	8
3. large, plastic Easter eggs	8
4. pool noodles	2
5. Floor Tape	1

INTRODUCTION	Quantity
1. Storyteller	1
2. Host	1
3. Table	1
4. cardboard boxes labeled "Friday," "Saturday," and "Sunday" (See "What You Do" on how to prepare them.)	3
5. big marker	1
6. sheets of dark-colored tissue paper (enough to fill the "Friday" box)	Several
7. Sad face visual and question mark visual that are provided ("Sad Face" printable and "Question Mark" printable)	1
8. balloons (however many fit in the "Sunday" box)	3
9. Ribbon (enough to tie some to each balloon)	1
10. Balloon weights (enough for each balloon)	1
11. Bible	1