



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

**NOTE:** This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Lights Up**  
You Are the Light  
of the World  
Matthew 5:14-16

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can shine God's light.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven."  
Matthew 5:16, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Compassion**—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

### BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

### 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**  
MIN

#### **SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction**

Early Arriver  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

#### **STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways** **WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God**

Opener  
Worship ("This Little Light" from *This Little Light*, and "Jesus Is Peace" from *My Life for You*)  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
What's Our Part in the Story?  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect**

Bible Story Review: Head, Shoulders, Knees, Bow!  
Application Activity: Light Up Your World  
Memory Verse Activity: Share Your Light  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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



WEEK  
**ONE**  
SEPTEMBER 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**K-5**  
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Matthew 5:14-16

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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can see it. Then they will see  
the good things you do. And they  
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Matthew 5:16, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Compassion—Caring enough to  
do something about someone  
else's needs

### BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way  
I want to be treated.

### LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

Leader enters, wearing a headlamp and carrying two flashlights (all switched on) . . . plus carrying/wearing any other lights you have.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

### OPENER

**LEADER:** "Hello, everyone! Happy [day of the week]! I'm positively GLOWING to see all of you here today. You're probably wondering why I'm so—well—shiny today. Well, this month we're talking about what it means to 'Live Bright' . . . in other words, how to shine Jesus' light to the world.

"I've got a BRIGHT idea! Let's kick off our time today with a deLIGHTful game! Around the room, I've hidden 10 of these lights.

*Hold up an extra tap light (turned on), or a picture of one, to show the kids what they're looking for.*

"The lights that I've hidden are NOT turned on, which will make them a bit trickier to find . . . but I believe in you!

"On each light, there's a letter. Once you've gathered all 10 lights, I'll turn off the overhead lights. Then you'll work together to unscramble the letters to spell a phrase. Are you ready? Go find those lights!

**AUDIO: FUN, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

*Encourage the kids to find the tap lights and bring them to the center.*

*When all 10 lights have been brought to the center, turn off the overhead lights and have the kids tap on the lights to reveal the letters.*

**LIGHTS: OFF (OR DIM)**



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

*Then tell the kids to rearrange the lights, unscrambling them until the phrase is revealed ("LIVE BRIGHT").*

*Note: If you mostly/only have non-readers, you can use the number on each light so the kids can get them in the correct order that way before you turn off the room lights. Then, when you turn off the overhead lights, they can tap on the tap lights to reveal the phrase, which you can read out loud to them.*

**LIGHTS: NORMAL**

"Way to go, everyone! And what an enLIGHTening game! We can 'Live Bright' by shining Jesus' light, which is what we'll be talking about all month.

"Let's start living bright right now as we worship God together! Everyone, up on your feet so we can sing and dance."



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10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

**LEADER:** "Before we start singing, let's check out this video together."

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE):** [LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL](#)

"Our Memory Verse for this month is something Jesus said, which we can find in Matthew 5:16."

**SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE**

*"Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16, NirV)*

"Jesus wanted to encourage His listeners—and us—to shine our light! That way, everyone around us can see who God is. Let's sing this song and tell everyone that we're here to follow Jesus and let our light shine!"

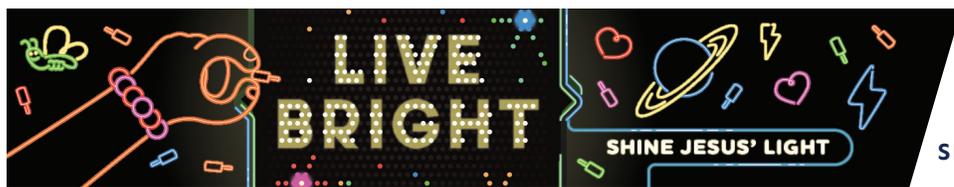
**AUDIO:** ["THIS LITTLE LIGHT" / TRACK 9 FROM THIS LITTLE LIGHT](#)

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE):** ["THIS LITTLE LIGHT" DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO](#)

"We can shine the light of Jesus because we've experienced His light in OUR lives. Because Jesus first loved us, we can love others! Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven. Because of Jesus, we can find peace. Let's sing this together."

**AUDIO:** ["JESUS IS PEACE" / TRACK 8 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU](#)

"It's always a joy to worship God with all of you. You can have a seat."



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PRELUDE      SOCIAL      **STORY**      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME

25 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*If the kids aren't already sitting on the floor, invite them to do so, pushing any chairs out of the way. Move the chair with the city drawing to the edge of the stage or in front of the kids, depending on where you plan to sit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** "Today we're looking at something Jesus said here in the book of Matthew (*Hold up the Bible.*) Matthew is one of the four books known as the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books tell stories from the life of Jesus and show us the amazing things Jesus did and said.

"The book of Matthew was written by a man named . . . Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector whose life was turned upside down by his friendship with Jesus.

"When Jesus was about 30 years old, He began to travel from town to town, teaching people about God and healing people who were sick. Everywhere Jesus went, big crowds gathered. Many sick people were hoping to be made well—and Jesus healed them! But Jesus also cared about people's hearts and minds. So He explained to them what it looks like to shine God's light . . . by loving others.

### LIGHT OF THE WORLD

**LEADER:** "One day, Jesus sat down on a mountainside to share with His followers what it means to live for God.

*Sit down, either on the edge of the stage or on the floor with the kids, sitting next to the chair that has the city drawing on it.*

"The things Jesus said that day has come to be known as the Sermon on the Mount, because Jesus was giving a sermon . . . on a mount . . . ain. Makes sense, right?

"Jesus said to His followers:

*Open the Bible to Matthew 5:14 (NirV) and read.*

*"You are the light of the world." (NirV)*

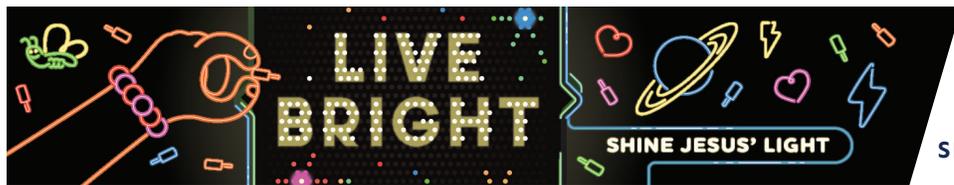
"Jesus later explained why they were the light of the world—because HE is the light of the world.

*Hold up a flashlight and a mirror and angle them toward the kids, so that they can see how the mirror reflects the light.*

"We can reflect the light of Jesus to the world around us. We can shine Jesus' light with the way we live and the way we treat people each day.

### CITY ON A HILL

**LEADER:** "Let's go back to what Jesus said on the mountain that day. He said:



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25 MINUTES

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:14 (NirV) and read.

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill can't be hidden."* (NirV)

"At that time, cities and towns were often built on high ground, where they could be seen by all the surrounding area.

*Start to walk over to the light switch on the wall.*

"Now, I think we all know that there can be a lot of darkness in our world.

*Turn off the room lights.*

**LIGHTS: OFF**

*Walk over to where you've hung the black cityscape cutout on a string in front of the black curtain (or poster board).*

"But together, those of us who follow Jesus can be like a town on a hill, shining in the darkness.

*Shine your flashlight between the cityscape and the backdrop, with the light angled toward the curtain (or poster board). This will create a glow behind the silhouette of the cityscape.*

"When we look for the needs of those around us and choose to help, that's one way we shine the light of Jesus for everyone to see.

### LET IT SHINE

**LEADER:** "Let's go back to what Jesus said, starting from the beginning.

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:14-15 (NirV) and read.

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill can't be hidden. Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl."*

*Turn on the battery-powered candle and put it on the floor in front of the kids (or beside you on the stage). Place a bowl over it for a few seconds.*

*"Instead, they put it on its stand."*

*Remove the bowl and put the candle on the candle stand.*

*"Then it gives light to everyone in the house."* (NirV)

*Hold the candle stand up and move it around to show everyone how the candle is lighting up the room.*

"That makes sense, right? We shouldn't cover up our light. We should SHARE our light and show the love of Jesus with



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25 MINUTES

the way we live and treat other people.

*Set down the candle stand.*

“Listen to what Jesus said next.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 5:16 (NirV) and read.*

*“In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (NirV)*

“Does that sound familiar to you? Yes, that’s our Memory Verse for this month, Matthew 5:16. Listen to it again.

*“In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (NirV)*

*Shine the flashlight onto the mirror again, showing the kids the light in the reflection.*

“Every day, we each have the opportunity to shine our light. God has given us love, forgiveness, joy, and a unique set of gifts. If you don’t share those things, it’s like sticking a cover over your light.

*Turn off the flashlight.*

“But when you DO choose to share what God has given you, then you reflect the light of Jesus.

*Turn on the flashlight so it reflects again in the mirror.*

“What could that look like for us? Well, maybe when your little brother or sister needs help with their homework, you can set your own plans aside for a few minutes and sit down and help them. Or if your dad forgets to pick you up after school, you can show him forgiveness. Or maybe you have a next-door neighbor who’s kind of like a grandma to you . . . and you notice she’s been sad because her son moved away. You could ask if you could invite her over to play board games with your family!

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** “When you choose to share what God has given you, and when you love like Jesus . . . it’s like you’re shining light everywhere you go. There are a million different ways you can shine God’s light. And God can help you do it!

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

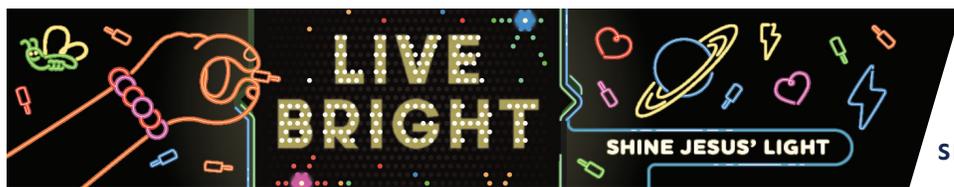
**“You can shine God’s light.** Say that with me.”

**LEADER AND KIDS: “You can shine God’s light.”**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

*Turn on the room lights, and stand up on stage as you wrap up.*



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25 MINUTES

LIGHTS: NORMAL

## WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

**LEADER:** "Jesus said that He is the Light of the World. We have His light inside us when we put our trust in Him and live the way He taught us to live. We can reflect the light of Jesus by letting our light shine.

"The first step for us to start shining His light is to pay attention to the people around us. After all, you can't help someone when you can't see what they need! We can ask God to help us see what people around us need . . . and to give us wisdom to figure out how we can help.

"When you shine your light . . . when you love like Jesus . . . you're showing compassion.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Compassion is **caring enough to do something about someone else's needs.**

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

"If you ever see someone in need, and you aren't sure how to help, remember what we always say here at [your environment's name]: **[Basic Truth] I should treat others the way I want to be treated.** When you think about it that way, it can help you think of ways to lend a hand and show someone that you care. And, of course, when you're not sure what to do, talking to God about it is a great first step! Let's go ahead and do that right now.

## PRAYER

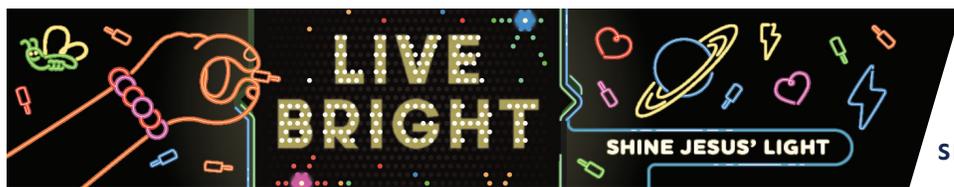
**LEADER:** "Dear God, thank You for having compassion toward us first. You saw that we needed a Savior, and You sent us Jesus, Your only Son! We want to show compassion to others and love them like You love us. Help each of us to take time this week to look around for something we can do to meet someone else's needs . . . and then give us the courage to follow through on helping them. We love You, 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



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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (25 MINUTES)

### WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

#### 1. OPENER/CLOSER

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader
- Headlamp, two flashlights, and any other lights for the Leader to wear/carry—all with batteries
- 10 tap lights, like these: <https://bit.ly/3yIhLX> (plus an extra one for illustration, or a printed picture of one)—all with batteries
- Wide, white electrical tape (or white gaffer's tape)
- Pencil
- Sharp scissors
- *Optional: Black permanent marker (if you need to number the tap lights for non-readers)*

##### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

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

##### LARGE GROUP VISUALS

- Theme Slide

##### OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH THE 252 MEDIA PACKAGE):

- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme Intro

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- 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.*

- These graphic motion loops are included in the package. For more information, visit [Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://www.thinkorange.com).
- Use a pencil to lightly trace the 10 individual letters for "LIVE BRIGHT" as block letters on the wide white tape—with each letter being slightly smaller than one of the tap lights. Then use the scissors to cut out each one. Place one letter on each tap light, so that when you turn on the light, the letter is revealed. (*Note: If you mostly/only have non-readers, you can also use a permanent marker to write a number on each light so the kids can get them in the correct order that way.*)
- Hide the 10 lights around the room, leaving them turned off.

#### 2. WORSHIP

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

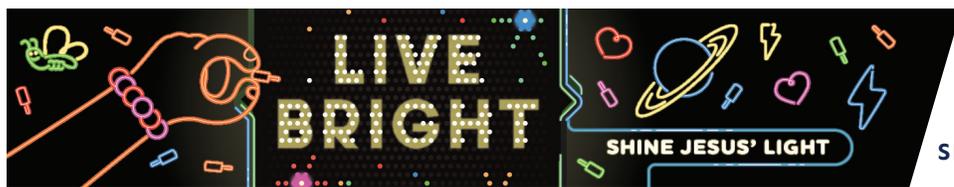
- Leader(s)

##### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "This Little Light" from *This Little Light*
- "Jesus Is Peace" from *My Life for You*

##### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Memory Verse Slide



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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- "This Little Light" Dance Moves Music Video (available through the 252 Media Package)

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use. *Note: Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International ([www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:  
"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe  
©2000 Good Music Co.  
CCLI License # 0000*
- Dance Moves Music Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com).
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. The *Live Loud* faith skills video and the Dance Moves Music Video for the monthly worship song are included in the package. For more information, visit [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com).

## 3. BIBLE STORY

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader
- Bible
- Flashlight
- Hand mirror
- Black construction paper, cut into a simple cityscape outline (see "What You Do")
- Black curtain (or black poster board) to use as a

backdrop behind the cityscape outline (see "What You Do")

- Two chairs
- String or yarn
- Tape
- Battery-powered candle
- Bowl (big enough to fit over the battery-powered candle)
- Candle stand (large enough to hold the battery-powered candle)

### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

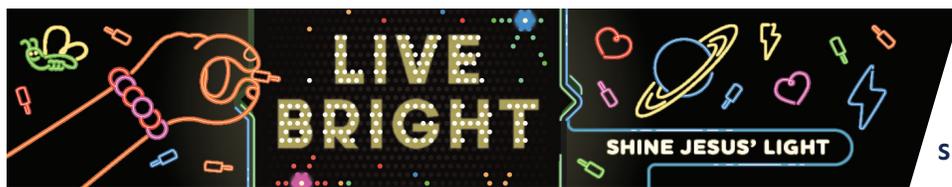
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide

### OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH THE 252 MEDIA PACKAGE):

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

### 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).
- For the cityscape silhouette:
  - Cut out a simple cityscape outline on the black construction paper (a few buildings).
  - Set up a black curtain (or black posterboard) vertically against the wall.
  - Place two chairs just in front of the black curtain or posterboard—one on each side.
  - Tie a string tightly between the two chairs. The string should be a foot or two in front of the



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curtain or posterboard backdrop.

- Tape the cityscape to the string.
- When you shine the flashlight between the cityscape and the backdrop—with the light angled toward the backdrop—it will create a glowing effect behind the silhouette of the city. Be sure to stand to the side when you shine the light so the kids will be able to see it!
- If you'd like to see photos of how this could look in action, contact your Orange Specialist ([findmyos.com](http://findmyos.com)).

### VIDEO ENHANCEMENTS FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT

AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AT [STORE.THINKORANGE.COM](http://STORE.THINKORANGE.COM).

**FEATURE PRESENTATION:** Everything you need to pull off a dynamic video storytelling experience, including video Bible presentations to complement 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum.

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):

- In *StoryLab*, two inquisitive young Hosts invite kids to engage with the month's Virtue, setting up a simple and direct telling of the Bible story by a professional Storyteller.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

- In *The So & So Show*, two Hosts and a Communicator walk you through a contemporary and comedic presentation of the Bible story. This YouTube-style show sets up the story and also connects it to the weekly Key Question for preteens.

**GET REEL:** Videos and graphics to enhance your 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum environments. Four videos each month that will help kids learn basic faith skills. Use these videos in your FX (Family Experience), Large Group,

or midweek programming, or share them with families in your church according to the terms of the 252 Enhanced Licensing Agreement.

*Discovery*—Listen to God's words (HEAR)

*Dear God*—Dialogue with God (PRAY)

*One Thing*—Articulate your faith (TALK)

*Live Loud*—Worship with your life (LIVE)

#### ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENT ENHANCEMENTS INCLUDING:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Themed audio transitions
- Virtue and monthly widget promo videos (Melv and Greg)
- Countdown videos (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)
- Dance moves music video for an additional worship song related to the monthly virtue
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday

### SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AT [STORE.THINKORANGE.COM](http://STORE.THINKORANGE.COM).

#### MONTHLY WIDGET\*: LIVE BRIGHT SUNCATCHER

Each month, we offer a unique item that helps kids and families apply what they're learning at home. Available at [Store.ThinkOrange.com](http://Store.ThinkOrange.com).

**\*widg-et [wij-it]** –noun

1. Something unspecific whose name is either forgotten or not known.
2. A device that is very useful for a particular job  
*Origin:* 1925-30; perhaps an alternative form of gadget

Kids can put this suncatcher in their window, reminding them to shine Jesus' light by treating others with compassion. Each set includes a suncatcher and five markers that kids can use to color in the dots. Includes a strip of tape to attach the suncatcher to the window. Dimensions: 6 inches wide by 5 inches high.