TODAY’S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

I can thank God for good things.
EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT
JAMES 1:17; GENESIS 1

MEMORY VERSE

“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.”
PSALM 107:1, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who is good?

BOTTOM LINE

God is good.

BASIC TRUTH

God made me.

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

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.
Good, Good Gifts
Thankful Trees
Tree Making

LARGE GROUP

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God’s truth in engaging ways
“Special” and “Just Wanna Say Thank You”
Bible Story
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.
Memory Verse With Motions
Our Thankful Tree
Dot to Dot Trees
Monthly Song
My Thankful Tree
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Parent Cue App
TODAY’S BIBLE STORY
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MEMORY VERSE
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KEY QUESTION
Who is good?

BOTTOM LINE
God is good.

BASIC TRUTH
God made me.

LARGE GROUP
ENGAGE CHILDREN’S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP
WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Psalm 107:1, NIV. You need a music player and this month’s worship song, “Special,” which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves video for “Special” is available on the Orange Store, the Love Like Jesus Dance Moves DVD, or in your Media Package if you subscribe. You also need “Thankful,” which is available on the Hip Hip Hooray CD, iTunes®, and Spotify®. The dance moves video for this song is available on the Hip Hip Hooray Dance Moves DVD or the Orange Store.

WORSHIP LEADER: “Hello, friends! It’s time to worship. We worship God when we sing and tell Him how much we love Him! And guess what? We can worship God because He is GOOD. When I ask, ‘Who is good?’ you say, ‘God is good.’ Who is good?”

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: “God is good!”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Yes, He is! God made me and you, and He loves us. His love is special. Let’s sing this together. Lead children in singing “Special,” this month’s worship song.

“Beautiful job! We’ll sing that song all month long. Who is good?”

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: “God is good!”

WORSHIP LEADER: “That’s right! God is good! The Bible tells us to ‘Give thanks (clap on each word) to the Lord (point up) for he is good,’ (two thumbs up) Psalm 107:1. (Open hands like a book.) That means we can thank God for every good thing! Let’s learn our memory verse together. Are you ready? Say it with me.

Say the verse and do the motions together several times.

“You know, we can be thankful to God for so many things He’s done. He loves to give us good things. Let’s sing ‘Thankful’ together today.

Lead children in singing “Thankful.”

“I’m so thankful that God gives us food to eat. God gives us everything we need. Why? Because God is good.”
INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: A table, an artificial tree (like a ficus tree), gift wrap, a big bow, a large gift bag or box, die cut paper leaves, markers, a notecard, and clear tape

WHAT YOU DO: Wrap the tree loosely with the gift wrap and attach the bow. On the notecard, write “Here is a special gift for you. Remember all you have, and say, ‘Thank You!’ Love, Ollie.” Preset the wrapped tree and table on stage. Put the rest of the items in the gift bag/box and place on the table.

NOTE: Save the tree and leaves for next week.

Host enters, notices the tree, and walks around it.

HOST: “Oh, wow! Oh, wow! OH, WOW! (noticing audience) Oh, hi! Welcome to [your environment name]. I’m [your name], and I just found this gift (turn to see the gift bag/box on the table) and THIS gift—all these gifts—right here in [your environment name]. Should I open them? (Pause.) Okay!

Pull bow and paper off the tree.

“It’s a TREE, inside [your environment's name]. But I wonder what could be in here?

Open the gift bag/box and start pulling out the following items, one at a time.

“There’s paper leaves, tape, markers, and a note!

Take out the note and read it aloud.

“Here is a special gift for you. Remember all you have, and say, ‘Thank You!’ Love, Ollie.

“WOW! It’s from Ollie. Remember all you have and say, ‘thank you.’

Pause. Look at the paper leaves then the tree.

“Oh my goodness! Ollie gave us everything we need to make a Thankful Tree! We write what we’re thankful for on these paper leaves then hang them on the tree. What a great idea! I’m thankful for so many things.

“I’m thankful for sunshine, so I can be outside!
“I’m thankful for good food to eat, especially chocolate cake. That’s my favorite!
“I’m thankful for coats and hats and gloves to keep me warm when the weather gets colder.

“I’m thankful for SO many things. I need a lot of leaves. I think I’ll make a list of all the things I’m thankful for and start writing them down. See you guys in a few.”

Host exits with gift bag. Storyteller enters with four prepared gift bags and a Bible.
BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: A Bible marked at Genesis 1; four gift bags holding one of the following items per bag: a small globe, a plastic or real flower, an orange, and a plastic frog or other plush animal

Optional: Story Images

NOTE: Keep one gift bag, the flower, orange, and frog or plush animal. You will use them again for Bible story in Week 5!

STORYTELLER: (setting the gift bags in a row along the table) “Hello, friends! (Open Bible to marked spot.) Our true story from the Bible starts in the very beginning, when God made a super-amazing gift. Raise your hand if you like gifts. (Raise your hand.) I know I do!

“You can put your hands down. When someone who loves you MAKES you a gift, it’s even more special. Well, in the beginning, God made something really big and amazing. Do you want to know what it is? If you do, count one, two, three on your fingers and say, ‘One, two, three open pretty please!’”

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: (counting on fingers) “One, two, three open pretty please!”

(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)

STORYTELLER: (Pull the globe out of the gift bag.) “What’s this? (Pause.) Yes, it’s the earth! Now, who made the earth? Do you know? (Pause.) Yes! GOD made the earth—the place where we live—because God is good. Who is good?”

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: “God is good!”

STORYTELLER: “But that’s not all God made.

Pick up the next gift and shake the bag a little.

“God also made this! Hmmm, this sounds interesting. Would you like to see what it is? (Pause.) Say, ‘One, two, three open pretty please!’”

CHILDREN: “One, two, three open pretty please!”

(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)

STORYTELLER: (Pull the flower from the bag.) “What’s this? (Pause.) That’s right, it’s a flower. Who made the flowers? (Pause.) Of course! God made the flowers and the blue sky full of sunshine to help those flowers grow. God made the flowers, sky, trees, and grass because God is good. Who is good?”

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: “God is good!”

STORYTELLER: “But that’s not all God made.

Pick up the next gift and shake the bag a little.
“God also made this. Any guesses on what this could be? (Pause.) Let’s open it and see. Say, ‘One, two, three, open pretty please!’”

**CHILDREN:** “One, two, three open please!”

(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)

**STORYTELLER:** (Pull the orange from the bag.) “What’s this? (Pause.) Yes, it’s an orange! Who made oranges? (Pause.) You got it! God made sweet, juicy, oh-so-yummy oranges for us to eat. Why? Because **God is good. Who is good?**”

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** “God is good!”

**STORYTELLER:** “But that’s not ALL God made!

*Pick up the last gift and shake the bag a little.*

“I wonder what this could be. Say, ‘One, two, three, open pretty please!’”

**CHILDREN:** “One, two, three open pretty please!”

(Option: Display Story Image W1 04)

**STORYTELLER:** (Pull the frog or plush animal from the bag.) “What is this? Yes! God made frogs, raccoons, and butterflies; deer, squirrels, dogs, and cats; and bears, too. (If you have a different plush animal, name that, too.) Who made all these animals? (Pause.) You got it!

“God made animals because **God is good. Who is good?**”

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** “God is good!”

**STORYTELLER:** “Yes, He is! The Bible teaches us that God made the whole world and everything in it. Everywhere we look, we see good gifts that God made because—say it with me . . .”

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** “God is good!”

**STORYTELLER:** “Let’s pray and thank God for being so good to us.”

**PRAYER**

**STORYTELLER:** “Heavenly Father, thank You for all the GOOD things You made, like beautiful flowers, puffy clouds, sunshine, and friends. We know You made these good things because **YOU** are good. Thank You for loving us and for being so, so good. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters. Storyteller exits.*
OUTRO SKETCH
What You Need: Box with paper leaves, markers, and tape from Intro Sketch

HOST: “You know what? God made ALL the things I’m thankful for! That is awesome. I’m going to make my leaves and hang them up right here on my tree so I don’t forget.

Start writing on leaves to place on the tree.

“I’m thankful for puppies and flowers and sunshine, too. I’ll see you guys next time! Have fun in your small groups.”

Dismiss children to their classrooms.
GETTING READY
HERE’S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship, the introductory sketch, and the Bible story. The Stage Script is written for those who gather their preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible story. If you are pulling your children to a rug to one side of your preschool space, you may benefit from using the Rug Script.

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)
A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD’S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (10 MINUTES)
Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be “told” and not “read.” Advanced preparation is necessary.

1. WORSHIP
WHAT YOU NEED:
• Leader(s)
• Live instruments
• A music player
• “Memory Verse Card” paper-clipped in your Bible at Psalm 107:1
MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:
• This month’s worship song, “Special,” which is included in your monthly files
• “Thankful” available on the Hip Hip Hooray CD, iTunes®, and Spotify®

2. INTRO/OUTRO SKETCH
WHAT YOU NEED:
• A table
• An artificial tree (like a ficus tree)
• Gift wrap
• Big bow
• A large gift bag or box
• Die cut paper leaves
• Markers
• A notecard (see directions below)
• Clear tape
WHAT YOU DO:
• A Loosely wrap the tree with the gift wrap and attach the bow.
• On the notecard, write “Here is a special gift for you. Remember all you have, and say, ‘Thank You!’ Love, Ollie.”
• Preset the wrapped tree and table on stage.
• Put the rest of the items in the gift bag/box and place on the table.
NOTE: Save the tree and leaves for next week.

3. BIBLE STORY
WHAT YOU NEED:
• Bible
• Four gift bags holding one of the following in each bag:
  • Small globe
  • Plastic or real flower
  • Orange
  • Plastic frog or other plush animal
LARGE GROUP VISUALS:
• Story Image W1 01
• Story Image W1 02
• Story Image W1 03
• Story Image W1 04

Orange Store)

WHAT YOU DO:
• Download songs and have them ready to use.

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SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

WONDER, LOOK AT GOD’S STORY: First Look offers weekly introductory sketches and Bible stories on the DVD titled Wonder, Look at God’s Story. This DVD is available for purchase at OrangeStore.org or as part of your monthly Media Package.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE
Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. https://bit.ly/FirstLookPinterest