

252 GROUPS

Curriculum Materials for 2nd and 3rd Grades

CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT:

What are you wrapped up in? Use wrapping paper to decorate in addition to your normal Christmas trees, greenery and twinkling lights. As an unexpected surprise, you may even wrap up things that are always on your stage and in your hallways. You can wrap up the front of pictures and hang them back up on the wall with a bow. You also might want to set up a mantle of sorts (this could be used in week two to hang your lists) and hang giant stockings with names they'd recognize (to be used in weeks one and three).



**BEFORE KIDS LEAVE THE 5TH GRADE,
WE WANT THEM TO UNDERSTAND 3 BASIC TRUTHS:**

FAITH I can trust God no matter what.

WISDOM I need to make the wise choice.

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

Chief Executive Officer

Reggie Joiner

Creative Team

Kristen Ivy
Cara Martens
Elloa Davis
Brandon O'Dell
Jon Williams
Greg Payne
Phil Pierce
Elizabeth Hanson

Contributing Writers

Marcia Banks
Lauren Bowman
Sharon Carey
Adam Duckworth
Tarrin Henry
Lauren Terrell

Copy Editors

Elloa Davis
Dana Wilkerson
Wendi Zebell
Jennifer Davis

Illustrations & Graphic Design

Mike Davis
Dan Scott
Brian Bascle
Joe Goode

Technical & Web Support

Hadley Brandt

Orange Specialists

Amy Grisham
Joy Bowen
Diane Runge
Misty Phillips
Susan Richards
Becky Kizer
Courtney Templeton
Stephanie Porter

User Agreement

Orange gladly grants permission to churches, schools, and other licensees to tailor 252 Basics® materials to fit their unique leadership requirements, locale and format preferences, and physical environment needs. However, if you wish to edit the content substantively, including Bible stories, learning activities, scripts, and any other content in which biblical principles and concepts are presented, you are obligated to do so within the doctrinal guidelines we've expressed in our Statement of Faith. These resources are intended to be downloaded and printed for use by the subscribing entity only and may not be electronically transferred to or duplicated by other non-subscribing entities. Any unauthorized reproduction of this material or incorporation into a new work is a direct violation of US copyright laws. ©2011 Orange. All rights reserved. 252 Basics® and the 252 Basics® logo are trademarks of Orange. ©2011 Orange. All rights reserved. www.whatisorange.org/252basics

©2011 Orange.

All rights reserved. www.whatisorange.org/252basics



252 GOOD-TO-KNOW TERMS

SMALL GROUP LEADER

One consistent leader for the same 8-10 children all year

- We suggest you start and end in small group so kids connect relationally with one leader and other similar-aged peers.
- If you have multiple small groups meeting in one room, try using circle area rugs to give each group their own spot.
- Offer as many of the activities as your time, space, and resources allow.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

ABOUT GOD

God is the one and only true God, yet He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, so everything belongs to Him and is under His control. God is holy, so He is righteous, majestic, and loving. God is all knowing and purposeful, so He's at work to bring about His will. No person, thing, or idea compares to God.

ABOUT PEOPLE

People are made in God's image and for His pleasure. But everybody falls short of God's intention, or ideal, for people. In other words, everyone has sinned. As a result, we are all separated from Him, even though He wants an intimate relationship with each of us.

ABOUT THE BIBLE

God reveals Himself to us through the Bible, and it is 100% accurate, reliable, and authoritative.

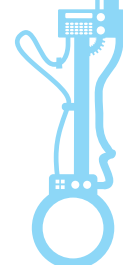
ABOUT SALVATION

That's why Jesus—God's Son—came and lived on this earth, died, and rose again. God offers His free gift of salvation to all who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior—the only way to be forgiven and reconciled to God. Anyone who accepts this gift is adopted as a son or daughter into God's family and will live with Him forever in heaven.

Scripture marked "NIV" is taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of Biblica.

Scripture marked "NirV" is taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version™. Copyright ©1995, 1996, 1998 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from THE MESSAGE. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.





Virtue:

GENEROSITY

Making someone's day by giving something away.

**FOR LEADERS ONLY****GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GENEROSITY AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY**

James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights." So, we know that God is the Giver of all good things. But we also know that God's generosity has a purpose.

God gives generously to us so that we may be generous toward others. The Bible says, "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." *2 Corinthians 9:11, NIV* In other words, God gives generously to us so we will have time, emotional energy, patience, and a wealth of resources to give to others. Then, when we are generous with all we have been given, others will see us and be thankful to God.

So many times we think that our ability to be generous is connected to our riches. We are afraid to give because we don't know if we have enough, and we think generosity is

for those who have more than we do to give. But the cool thing about generosity is that we're not generous because we are rich, we are rich because we are generous. When we choose to give generously to others, we are blessed with everything that really matters in life.

This month, let's think about how:

- (1) *We can show generosity because of what God has done.*
- (2) *God instills generosity in us as we respond to His goodness.*
- (3) *God uses generosity in us to influence our families, friends, and neighbors.*

Remember: A virtue is something God does in us to change the world around us.

This week, we're discovering:

Wise men know how to be generous. Three men come to visit a young Jesus in our Bible story, **Matthew 2:1-12**. They go to great efforts and travel a long distance in order to be generous—making someone's day by

giving something away. The generosity of the wise men demonstrated to Jesus and to His parents how much they valued Him.

This last week in December, we want to show the importance of getting wrapped up in others. We will focus on all the ways the wise men gave to Jesus—not just the three gifts, but their time, energy, money, and intentionality. Bottom Line: **When you give, it shows others how valuable they are.**

Other people should be valuable to us because they are valuable to God. When we give to others, it shows God that we value the people He loves so much that He sent His Son. Basic Truth: **I should treat others the way I want to be treated.** Our monthly memory verse challenges us that there are many ways to be generous besides giving gifts that cost money. How will you **"be rich in good deeds ... be generous and willing to share?"** 1 Timothy 6:18, NIV

252 GROUPS

Curriculum Materials for K-5th Grades

DEC

WEEK
4

SMALL
GROUP
2-3

HERE'S A SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING IN 2ND AND 3RD GRADE THIS WEEK:



PLUG IN

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES TO FOCUS THE ENERGY

- Ideas for Early Arrivers
- Wrapper Up!



POWER UP

INTERACTIVE LARGE GROUP EXPERIENCE
TO ENGAGE THE HEART

- Opener
- Worship
- Opener (Cont'd)
- Bible story
- Prayer and Worship
- Closer



CATCH ON

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES TO MAKE THE CONNECTION
(CHOOSE TWO OR MORE OF THESE ACTIVITIES)

- Magi Tag
- Mix and Match
- Memory Decode
- Prayer

DISMISSAL

- Prayer, share and reflect on today's lesson before leaving

Virtue: GENEROSITY

Making someone's
day by giving
something away.

BIBLE STORY

Three Men and a Baby (wise men visit Jesus) •
Matthew 2:1-12

BOTTOM LINE

When you give, it shows others how valuable
they are.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be rich in good deeds ... be generous and willing
to share." 1 Timothy 6:18, NIV

BASIC TRUTH:

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

Virtue:

GENEROSITY

Making someone's day by giving something away.



**WEEK
4**

PLUG IN
10-15 min

POWER UP
20-25 min

CATCH ON
25-30 min

GETTING READY**PLUG IN: FOCUS THE ENERGY** *(Choose one or both of these activities.)***Early Arriver**

- An interesting offering container

Wrapper Up!

- Wrapping paper
- Small jewelry boxes w/ lids that can be wrapped separately
- Scissors
- Tape

CATCH ON: MAKE THE CONNECTION *(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)*

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activities #1 and #2. Activity #1 is also particularly good for children who need to move around in order to stay engaged (not just for boys).*

Magi Tag *(application activity / great for boys / review the Bible story / a classroom-wide activity)*

- 6 beanbags: 3 blue, 3 red
- 2 home bases, one blue and one red
 - These can simply be red and blue sheets of construction paper.
- Area blocked off as Herod's Castle; you'll need a 10-foot by 5-foot area
- A baby doll (to represent Baby Jesus)
- Using tape, mark a line down the middle of the "playing field."

Mix and Match *(application activity / great for boys)*

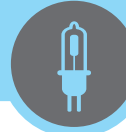
- "Mix and Match" (Activity Page); one set of cards for each group; cut the cards apart and attach the "people" cards to a nearby wall
- Wrapped boxes from Plug In

Memory Decode *(memory verse activity)*

- Bibles
- "Memory Decode" (Activity Page); this document is editable, so adjust it to fit your Bible translation needs

Virtue:**GENEROSITY**

Making someone's day by giving something away.

**WEEK
4****PLUG IN**
10-15 min**POWER UP**
20-25 min**CATCH ON**
25-30 min**Prayer**

- All supplies from the "Mix and Match" activity
- Jewelry boxes wrapped during "Wrapper Up!" activity
- Craft supplies like glue, glitter, beads, yarn, ribbon, etc.

Additional Resources:

- Make copies on cardstock of this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Give or tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv**, **CUE Box**, or the **Parent Cue app**. To find out more about these great resources, go to <http://www.Studio252.tv/leaders>.

Virtue:

GENEROSITY

Making someone's day by giving something away.

**WEEK
4****PLUG IN**
10-15 min**POWER UP**
20-25 min**CATCH ON**
25-30 min

BIBLE STORY:

**THREE MEN
AND A BABY**

Matthew 2:1-12

BOTTOM LINE:

When you give, it shows others how valuable they are.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Be rich in good deeds ... be generous and willing to share."
1 Timothy 6:18, NIV

BASIC TRUTH:

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

PLUG IN: FOCUS THE ENERGY

Focus the energy on today's Bible story in a Small Group setting with an engaging discussion question and an interactive opening activity.

Before students arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your class for the first time. Pray that God would begin or continue to show the kids in your Small Group just how valuable they really are to Him—and to you! Pray that God would give you lots of energy to pour into them during this time—really paying attention to them and responding in loving ways so they feel treasured.

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

What You Need: an interesting offering container

What You Do:

Ask the kids, "What makes you feel valuable? What makes you feel like someone loves you? Is it a hug? A high-five? A nice note?"


2. WRAPPER UP!

What You Need: wrapping paper, jewelry boxes, scissors, tape

What You Do:

Let the kids work together to wrap up each of the boxes. (Make sure the kids wrap the lids separately from the boxes.) If your kids aren't yet able to wrap neatly, that's okay. Let them do their best to cover the boxes in wrapping paper. While kids are wrapping up their boxes, have a discussion about ways that they showed generosity that month. *(Was it easy to be generous? Was it difficult? Is it easy to be generous to some people and not others? Why? Etc.)*

What You Say:

"Generosity is making someone's day by giving something away.  **Let's head off to Large Group to hear the last piece of the Christmas story and another great example of generosity!"**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

**Apply**
go and do**Impress**
impress this upon their minds**Personalize**
a personal story from the heart**Recycle**
important things to say over and over**Transition**
making a transition from one leader to another

Virtue:

GENEROSITY

Making someone's day by giving something away.

**WEEK
4****PLUG IN**
10-15 min**POWER UP**
20-25 min**CATCH ON**
25-30 min

BIBLE STORY:

**THREE MEN
AND A BABY**

Matthew 2:1-12

BOTTOM LINE:

When you give, it shows others how valuable they are.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Be rich in good deeds ... be generous and willing to share."

1 Timothy 6:18, NIV

BASIC TRUTH:

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

CATCH ON: MAKE THE CONNECTION

Make the connection of how today's Bible story applies to real life experiences through interactive activities and discussion questions.

*** 1. MAGI TAG** (*application activity / great for boys / review the Bible story / a classroom-wide activity*)

What You Need: 6 beanbags, "home bases," prepared playing area, baby doll

What You Do:

Divide your classroom into two groups: Red Magi and Blue Magi. Small Group Leaders are Herod's Guards. The object of the game is to find all three gifts of the Magi (which are hidden in the playing field), the Baby Jesus, and then to get back to their home base without being tagged by one of Herod's Guards. If Herod's Guards tag a runner, the runner is taken to Herod's Castle and held there until they answer a review question correctly. (Use the following questions as a jumping-off point. Add your own, and feel free to make up some silly "bogus" questions as well!) The game ends when all of the team's Magi gifts and Baby Jesus reach one team's home base.

1. How many men came to visit Jesus at His house? (*Three*)
2. How were the men able to find Jesus? (*They followed the star.*)
3. Did the men visit Jesus right after He was born, or a long time after? (*Long time after*)
4. Why did Herod not like Baby Jesus? (*He felt like a Messiah would threaten his power.*)
5. Did the men report back to Herod like the king had instructed them to? (*No*)

**Apply**
go and do**Impress**
impress this upon their minds**Personalize**
a personal story from the heart**Recycle**
important things to say over and over**Transition**
making a transition from one leader to another**What You Say:**

"The Magi knew that **!** when you give, it shows others how valuable they are, so it made sense that they would risk it all to show Jesus how valuable He is!



Remember to show others generosity the whole year long by making someone's day EVERY day!"

Virtue:

GENEROSITY

Making someone's day by giving something away.

**WEEK
4****PLUG IN**
10-15 min**POWER UP**
20-25 min**CATCH ON**
25-30 min*** 2. MIX AND MATCH** (*application activity / great for boys*)

What You Need: "Mix and Match" (Activity Page)

What You Do:

On a wall nearby, tape the titles of people in the kids' lives. Hand out one of the other cards to each kid, and let them (one by one) share which of the people could be blessed with the "gift" they are holding. For example: the title, "Teacher" could be matched with the gift "Obedience," by saying that a child could make a promise to do what the teacher asks without any fuss.

What You Say:

"One of the ways that Jesus can live through us is by blessing other people through our words, attitudes and actions.

Generosity is making someone's day by giving something away and we can do that every day if we just decide to! Remember that **! when you give, it shows others how valuable they are."**

3. MEMORY CODE (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles, "Memory Decode" (Activity Page)

What You Do:

Kids will have to navigate the Bible to decode a verse. Allow kids to work together or separately based on your group's skill level.

What You Say:

! "When you give, it shows others how valuable they are. God knew that when He gave us the Bible. He must have thought we were pretty important when He gave us His Word. The Bible is like a stack of God's letters to us telling our family's big story over time and inviting us to be a part! **Give God your time this week by reading the Bible and show Him how valuable He is to you by learning more about Him and this big story!"**

PRAY AND DISMISS

What You Need: supplies from "Mix and Match" activity, wrapped jewelry boxes, plus glue, glitter, beads, yarn, ribbon, etc.

What You Do:

Bring the application from the "Mix and Match" activity to life by asking kids to wrap up a word and present it to a person of their choice. For example: A child would wrap up the word *Obedience* and give it to their parents as a gift. Or wrap up the word *Listening* and give it to their teacher. Allow kids to decorate their word or write it in their own handwriting.

Virtue:


GENEROSITY

Making someone's day by giving something away.

**WEEK
4****PLUG IN**
10-15 min**POWER UP**
20-25 min**CATCH ON**
25-30 min

Then, instruct them to write HOW they will give this gift on the back. For example: "Mom, I am going to try hard to do what you ask the very first time." When they are done, have them wrap their gifts (place the lids on them and tie with yarn or ribbon) and take them home. Close the activity with a brief prayer asking God to help the kids remember to give their gifts of obedience, listening, etc.

What You Say:

"It's one thing to talk about being generous here at church, but it's another thing to actually do it at home!  **Let's follow through with our words, attitudes, and actions in real life.** Because **! when you give, it shows others how valuable they are.** I hope you feel valued today as you go home, open presents, and celebrate the birth of Jesus! Have a wonderful Christmas day, everybody!"

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent Cue cards as adults arrive to pick up their child(ren).