



Annual Theme Scope & Cycle

What if the story we were telling wasn't just about *me*—but about *we*?

The Bible doesn't start with us. It doesn't begin with our dreams, our struggles, or even our faith. It starts with Jesus.

It's His story first. The story of what God has done through His Son—through His life, His death, His resurrection. The story of how love moved toward the world, even when the world pushed love away.

But here's the beautiful thing: the story doesn't end with Jesus alone. It keeps going—through His people. Through a family formed by grace, not by genetics. A people called the Church. A *we*.

The Bible tells the story of Jesus—and then the story of the people who follow Him. It's a story full of broken people and unexpected heroes. Of failure and forgiveness. Of God sticking with His people, even when they wander.

It's not just a story we read. It's a story we're *in*. Because following Jesus was never meant to be something we do by ourselves. It's not a solo climb or a private journey. It's a life we live together.

We belong to each other.
We grow alongside one another.
We carry one another's burdens.
We cheer each other on.

This is why we matters. Because faith was always meant to be shared. Not just my story of what God is doing in me—but our story of what God is doing through us. The life of Jesus leads to the life of His people.

The story of *me* always finds its place inside the bigger story of *we*.
And that's where the real beauty begins.

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

One Priority

“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

MATTHEW 22:37-39, NIV

Three Relational Motives



Move kids to **love God** by inciting wonder.



Move kids to **love life** by provoking discovery.*



Move kids to **love others** by fueling passion.

*In the High School Phase, the **PASSION** dial is turned all the way up.

Nine Core Insights

Design of God’s Creation

What I see around me reveals a Creator who cares about me.

Identity based on God’s Image

I am created in the image of God and have unique potential and worth.

Connection because of God’s Love

I live in pursuit of an infinite God who desires an eternal relationship with me.

Faith in God’s Son

I believe in Jesus and will continue to trust Him even when life doesn’t make sense.

Transformation by the power of God’s Spirit

God’s Spirit is transforming my unique and imperfect life into the character of Jesus.

Truth according to God’s Message

What Jesus said and did impacts how I should respond to God’s Word in my everyday life.

Restoration through participating in God’s Story

I am designed to participate in God’s story to restore a broken and hurting world.

Compassion that reflects God’s Character

My faith in Christ is revealed by my compassion and care for others.

Community in the context of God’s Family

I choose to live in the complexities of family and community because God values them.

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

Three Basic Truths

In the high school years, teens are deepening and personalizing their faith.

I will trust what Jesus did to transform who I need to become.

I'm created to pursue a relationship with my Creator.

I exist to demonstrate God's love to those around me.

PHASE

The High School Phase

Ninth–Twelfth Grade



➔ What is a phase?

A phase is a timeframe in a kid’s life when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future.

At each phase, your job is simple . . . Know what can be expected of them and know how they think so they will hear what you say and know what to do.

It’s just a phase,
don’t miss it.

➔ Thinks like . . .

A high schooler thinks like a philosopher.

Philosophers seem to understand what is unseen and what cannot be measured.

Like philosophers, high schoolers learn best through open debate, multiple perspectives, and applied reasoning. Rather than memorizing what they think, they can be inspired to consider how they think and why they believe. That’s why providing a safe community to explore big questions about life is essential to learning.

➔ How they relate to God . . .

God’s story empowers my story.

Teenagers who think like philosophers look for principles that will give their story meaning. They relate to a God who guides their decisions, promotes love and forgiveness, empowers their freedom, enables them to live more fully, moves them toward a greater purpose, and connects them to a bigger story.

➔ Wants to know . . .

In high school, teenagers refine their unique abilities and develop a sense of purpose.

The way a high schooler resolves the “where,” “why,” “how,” and “what” questions of life provides a compass for navigating their future direction.

The best way to resolve a high schooler’s relational questions is to mobilize their potential.

Where do I belong?

Freshmen are looking for a new tribe. When adults connect teens with similar interests, teens value community.

Why should I believe? Why can’t I?

Sophomores want to challenge the limits. When adults listen carefully and respond with questions, teens clarify values.

How can I matter?

Juniors are ready to make a difference—now. When adults provide consistent opportunities to lead and serve, teens refine skills.

What will I do?

Seniors want to know where they are headed. When adults encourage experiences and simplify options, teens create vision.

2025 THEMES

Close Friends

AUGUST

Close Friends: A series about friendship and Biblical community

Make It Make Sense

SEPTEMBER

Make It Make Sense: A series about faith and science

Start Here

OCTOBER

Start Here: A series about following the Greatest Commandment by loving God, others, and ourselves

The Butterfly Effect

NOVEMBER

The Butterfly Effect: A series on influence

Not Just On Christmas

DECEMBER

Not Just On Christmas: A series about Advent

New theme art coming soon!



BEGINNING IN 2026

We believe that your faithfulness—week in and week out—plays a big role in a student's story. And we want to keep walking alongside you to reach this generation with a faith they can carry into adulthood.

Starting January 2026, Orange Students will launch a brand-new XP3 curriculum experience. We're not just refreshing a product. We're reimagining what curriculum can be—together.

[Learn More](#)

2025 THEMES

August



CORE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

Community, Restoration, Transformation

RESPONSE

Healthy Relationships

EMPHASIZED RELATIONSHIPS

Others

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times." (Proverbs 17:17)

Week One: John 13:4-5 NLT, Luke 6:31 NLT

Bottom Line: Being a friend means serving your friends.

Week Two: Proverbs 12:26 NIV

Bottom Line: The friends you choose impact the future you will have.

Week Three: Acts 15:36-38 NIV, Acts 15:39-41 NIV

Bottom Line: Being a friend means walking away friendly.

Week Four: Practice (New application format!)

September



CORE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

Design, Faith

RESPONSE

Ultimate Authority

EMPHASIZED RELATIONSHIPS

God

MEMORY VERSE

God's Son was before all else, and by him everything is held together. (Colossians 1:17 CEV)

Week One: Genesis 1:1 NIV, Matthew 22:37 NIV

Bottom Line: As you explore science, your faith can expand.

Week Two: Colossians 1:15-17 NIV; Matthew 22:37 NLT

Bottom Line: You can trust Someone before you know everything.

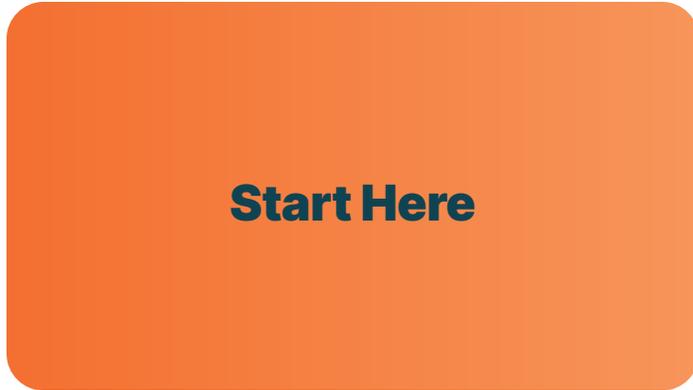
Week Three: Matthew 28:2-6 NIV, 1 Corinthians 15:14 NIV

Bottom Line: Build your faith on what matters most.

Week Four: Practice (New application format!)

2025 THEMES

October



CORE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

Design, Identity, Connection, Faith, Transformation, Truth, Restoration, Compassion, Community

RESPONSE

Authentic Faith

EMPHASIZED RELATIONSHIPS

God, Self, Others

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love you neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV)

Week One: Matthew 22:36-39

Bottom Line: God is FOR you.

Week Two: Luke 15:1-7

Bottom Line: Loving your life comes from knowing your worth.

Week Three: John 4:4-8 NLT, John 4:13-14 NLT, John 4:26 NLT, John 4:39-42 NLT

Bottom Line: Move people from a category to a conversation

Week Four: Practice (New application format!)

November



CORE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

Faith, Transformation, Truth

RESPONSE

Healthy Relationships

EMPHASIZED RELATIONSHIPS

Self, Others

MEMORY VERSE

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven. (Matthew 5:16 NIV)

Week One: John 6:1-14 NIV

Bottom Line: You have more of an effect than you think.

Week Two: Acts 2:37-47 NIV

Bottom Line: Having a big effect starts with a small group.

Week Three: Luke 7:36-48 NIV

Bottom Line: Jesus can change the effect you have on others.

Week Four: Practice (New application format!)

2025 THEMES

December

Not Just On Christmas

CORE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

Image, Connection, Restoration, Compassion

RESPONSE

Authentic Faith, Serving Others

EMPHASIZED RELATIONSHIPS

God, Others, Self

MEMORY VERSE

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6 NLT)

Week One: Jeremiah 33:14-16 NIV

Bottom Line: When there is not hope, bring it.

Week Two: Luke 2:10-12 NIV, Luke 2:14 NIV, Isaiah 9:6 NIV, John 14:27 NIV

Bottom Line: Where there is not peace, bring it.

Week Three: Luke 2:8-18 NIV, Hebrews 12:1b-2 NIV

Bottom Line: Where there is not joy, bring it.

Week Four: Practice (New application format!)