

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because Jesus Loves Me, I Am Loved

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1; John 3

WORD OF WONDER: Exodus 15:11c

Read [Colossians 1:15–23](#) and [John 3:16–17](#). Sometimes I have trouble believing Jesus really loves me, even though His love is all over the pages of Scripture. Instead of remembering His love, I remember ways I've disobeyed God or gone against His perfect plan. Then I start thinking that maybe God is mad at me. Or that God doesn't like me. Or wondering how God could love someone who's done what I've done. Do you ever feel that way?

The voice of accusation is loud and unrelenting, whether it comes from our own hearts or the devil himself. Regularly, I pray, "God, help me hear Your voice above the voice of the accuser." Amen, right? I need to hear God's big story, over and over again. I need to hear about Jesus, the rescuer who came to break the power of sin and gather the broken parts of creation back to God. Even me. And even you! He presents us to God without blemish and free from accusation. He loves us! Because Jesus loves me, I am loved. God's big story says so, and God's big story is true. Will you hold onto His love today? Will you share it with the kids you serve this week? After all, they need to hear the story too. Again and again. Jesus loves us! Amen, right?

—**Michael Rade**

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher

Contributor to Wonder Ink

JESUS LOVES THE WORLD

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus is the divine Son of God, uncreated and eternal. He is the exact likeness of God, perfectly revealing who God is because He is Himself God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is Savior of the world and Lord of creation.

WHAT?

Jesus came to save the world, bringing life to those who believe. Jesus loved the world and, by dying on the cross, He made the way to reconcile all things to God. Through Jesus' death, God made peace with people, bringing them back to Himself.

WHERE?

Paul wrote Colossians as a letter to the church in Colossae. Colossae was located in the Roman province of Phrygia in the territory of Asia Minor. The Gospel of John may have been written in Ephesus, which was about 100 miles east of Colossae.

WHEN?

These passages discuss who the Son of God has been from all eternity, before the beginning of creation. They also discuss what happened when the eternal Son took on flesh and became a man, dying on the cross in approximately AD 30.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus' death and resurrection is the central event of history. Through Jesus' death on the cross, the same God who created all things redeemed all things—defeating death and breaking the power of sin, making way for a new heaven and a new earth.

Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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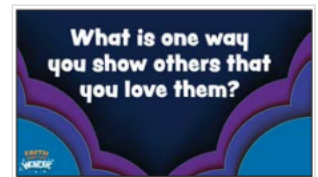
WORD OF WONDER: [Exodus 15:11c](#)

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Jesus Loves Welcome Question Slide](#)

Before kids arrive, display the Jesus Loves Welcome Question Slide, or write the following question on a whiteboard: “What is one way you show others that you love them?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome kids by name. Show them the Welcome Question. Invite kids to illustrate their answers if they choose. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

At your start time ...

Welcome the kids and ask them to turn to someone else and welcome that person by name. Remind them to introduce themselves if needed. Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **What is one way you show others that you love them? Wow! You are all so full of love and have some great ways of showing love to others! Today we're going to talk about how Jesus shows His love to us. But first, it's time to be curious.**

Curiosity Questions

Ask the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious ...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

I’m curious ...

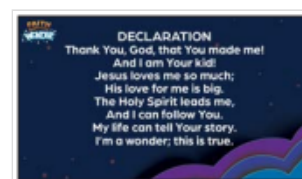
- **Think about these two statements: “I love pizza” and “I love my family.” What is similar about them? What is different?**
- **If someone asked you to define the word love, what would you say?**

Leader Tip: After listening to the kids, share this definition of love and ask them what (or who) comes to mind when they hear it: “Love is not just a feeling but selfless actions that show that we put others before ourselves.”

Declaring God’s Wonder

What You Need – Declaration [Slide](#)

What You Do - Show the Declaration [Slide](#) and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.



What You Say -

Thank You, God, that You made me! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March in place like you’re following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").

God's Big Story

What You Need – Bible(s)

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from two books of the Bible: Colossians and John. Open a Bible and show them where the passages are found.

- **Bible Time Rhyme**

**This is sooo cute! I'd love for this to become a regular thing we do!- Pastor Mer **

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

What You Say -

I open my Bible and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

Let's start by reading part of God's big story from the Bible books of Colossians and John.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read [Colossians 1:15–23](#) and [John 3:16–17](#) from the Bible.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

What You Need – [Jesus Loves Wonder Truth Slide](#)

What You Do - Display the [Jesus Loves Wonder Truth Slide](#). Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:



What You Say - Our Wonder Truth today is **BECAUSE JESUS LOVES ME, I AM LOVED.**
Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Through Jesus' death and resurrection, the same God who created all things defeated death and broke the power of sin. Because of Jesus, one day there will be a new heaven and a new earth. At that time, God will fix everything that is broken by sin once and for all!

Word of Wonder

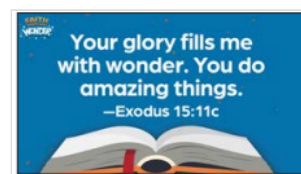
What You Need – Bible, Word of Wonder [Slide](#)

WORD OF WONDER

**Your glory fills me with wonder. You
do amazing things.**

—Exodus 15:11c

What You Do - Show the Word of Wonder [Slide](#).



What You Say - The Word of Wonder for the Faith Begins with Wonder series is [Exodus 15:11c](#). Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together. Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **YOUR GLORY FILLS ME**—Hold hands up above your head, then move them down to your sides.
- **WITH WONDER.**—Burst hands to the sides above your head.
- **YOU DO**—Point up.
- **AMAZING THINGS.**—Jump up and burst hands out to the sides as wide as you can.
- **EXODUS 15:11C**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Now we're going to take turns saying the verse one word at a time. When I point to you, you can say the next word until we're all done saying the verse. We might say the verse a few times!

Have the kids sit in a line. Point to one kid at a time to prompt each one to say the next word. The kids may need you to say the word with them, or they can also repeat the word after you. You can simply go down the line of kids as you point to them, or you can mix up the order.

Discuss these questions:

- **What amazing things does God do?** (If the kids need help, offer ideas such as: making the world, beating death and sin, or forgiving us.)
- **How do you know Jesus loves you?** (If the kids need help, offer ideas such as: the Bible tells me, my parents tell me, He made me, Jesus died on the cross for me.)

Discussion Questions

What You Need – ball, music (you can play appropriate music quietly from your phone!)

What You Do - Gather the kids to sit in a circle and show them the ball.

What You Say - We're learning about how Jesus loves the world so much. Our world is round, so we're going to use a ball to help us remember that Jesus loves the world. We're going to pass a ball around the circle. To show love to each other, we're going to pass the ball gently. I'll play some music. If the music stops while you're holding the ball, you get to answer a question.

Begin the game with the ball by handing it to one kid. Play music as the group passes the ball around. Then pause the music from time to time for the kid holding the ball to answer a question. Students may need some help/encouragement when answering the questions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What did God do way back in the very beginning?** *(He made the world; He made people.)*
- **How did God feel about His creation?** *(He loved everything that He made; He said it was good.)*
- **What happened when the first people disobeyed God?** *(They sinned; they messed up God's perfect creation; sin came into the world; people were separated from God.)*
- **How did Jesus show us God's love?** *(God sent Jesus to earth so we can be saved; He died and came back to life. He forgives us.)*
- **When you think about Jesus' love for you, how does it make you feel?**
- **Share about someone who loves you and how you know that person loves you.**
- **Can you think of someone who needs to know about Jesus' love?**

Today in God's big story, we learned about Jesus' love for us. God shows us His love by creating the world, sending Jesus to die on the cross, and making the way for us to be close to Him.

Game: Story Timeline Review

What You Need – Timeline Images

What You Do - Show each of the [Timeline Images](#) from God's Big Story around your room. Mix them up and have the kids put them in order.

What You Say - In today's part of God's big story, we discovered that because Jesus loves us, we are loved. We know that Jesus loves us because He made the world, He died and rose again, and He's the King over everything. These are the story pictures from God's Big Story. Let's put them in order as a group!



Have kids work together to put the images in the correct order. Invite the kids to recall what each image means from the God's Big Story time.

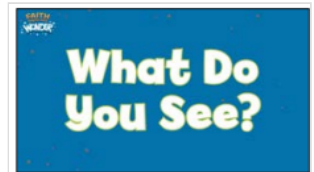
This is the order of the pictures and a reminder of what each image means:

1. Creation—God made people.
2. Heart—God loves people. Because Jesus loves me, I am loved.
3. Sin—People made wrong choices and disobeyed God.
4. Jesus Dies and Rises Again—Because He loves us, Jesus died and came back to life.
5. Jesus as King—Jesus is God and made all things. He's the King over everything.

Responding in Worship: What Do You See?

What You Need – handheld mirrors (1 per 8–10 kids plus 1), red dry-erase marker, [What Do You See? Slide](#),

What You Do - Use a red dry-erase marker to draw a large heart on each handheld mirror. Leave one without a heart and keep it in your lap. Spread the mirrors out amongst the group.



Display the [What Do You See? Slide](#) and gather kids together. Show them the mirror you are holding. **When you look in the mirror, what do you see?** Pause for kids to answer. **That's right! You may see lots of different things, but mostly you see yourself.**

If there were a mirror in front of you all the time, would it ever show your face looking sad? Show me those sad faces! Give the kids a chance to look sad while you pass the mirror in front of them. **Would the mirror ever show an angry face? Show me!** Pass the mirror in front of the kids while they make angry faces. **Wow, those are some angry faces!**

What other kinds of faces might the mirror show you making? Give kids a chance to respond. **If that mirror was in front of us all the time, we would see some good reflections of ourselves, and some not-so-good ones. You might see yourself being helpful, or you might see yourself being selfish. You might see yourself obeying your parents and teachers, or you might see yourself disobeying. You might see yourself telling the truth, or you might see yourself telling a lie.**

Look in the mirror. **When I look in the mirror, I don't always see someone who seems very lovable. But the Bible tells me that Jesus loves me. I am loved.** Use the dry-erase marker to draw a large red heart on the mirror so that it frames your face when you look into it. Show it to the kids. **And so are you!**

The heart on this mirror is a reminder of Jesus' love for us. As you look at your face in the mirror, remember today's Wonder Truth: Because Jesus loves me, I am loved!

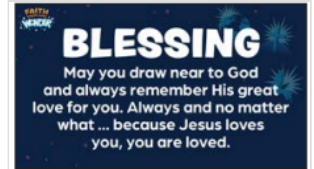
As each kid takes a turn looking into the mirror, have the leader nearby say to each kid, "Jesus loves you, [insert name of kid]. You are loved!"

When all the kids have had an opportunity to look in a mirror, turn down the music. **We can be secure in Jesus' love. That means Jesus will never take His love away from us. No matter what. Because Jesus loves us, we are loved.**

Blessing Your Kids

What You Need – [Jesus Loves Blessing Slide](#)

What You Do - Show the [Jesus Loves Blessing Slide](#). Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals.



Blessing: May you draw near to God and always remember His great love for you. Always and no matter what ... because Jesus loves you, you are loved.