

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because the Holy Spirit Leads Me, I Am Led

SCRIPTURE: [John 14](#)

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

Read [John 14:15–21, 25–26](#). People today have so many voices competing for their attention. Social media and news media. Talk radio and podcasts. Ads on the internet. Ads on the interstate. It feels like everything everywhere is always shouting: “Look at me” or “Go this way” or “Trust this,” they say. I think that’s why people sometimes latch onto the wrong things. When life feels chaotic, it’s natural to long for an anchor in the storm, and it’s easy to grab after whatever’s making the most noise.

Followers of Jesus are not exempt from the chaos, but Jesus hasn’t left us without help in the world. We have an anchor that never fails—a helper who is always with us, dwelling deeply in our hearts. We have the Holy Spirit.

If you are a follower of Jesus, then God’s powerful, wise, and loving presence is leading you. The Holy Spirit is with you, comforting and encouraging you as you follow the way of Jesus. He gives wisdom and understanding. He plants the words of Jesus deep in our hearts and helps us see through every counterfeit.

What difference would it make if you trusted God’s presence today? What would you be able to do? Who would you be able to reach? Because the Holy Spirit leads you, you are led. Will you walk in step with Him today?

—**Michael Rade**

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher

Contributor to Wonder Ink

JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The Holy Spirit is one with God the Father and God the Son. He is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence, empowering believers to honor God and follow Jesus. The Spirit brings wisdom and knowledge of God's Word, guiding and encouraging God's children.

WHAT?

Before Jesus died on the cross, He comforted His disciples by promising that the Holy Spirit would come to them after He went to be with the Father. The Spirit would be their helper, teaching them all things and reminding them of Jesus' words.

WHERE?

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit's coming during His Passover supper with the disciples in an upper room of a house in Jerusalem. Shortly after, Jesus and His disciples crossed the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was arrested before His crucifixion.

WHEN?

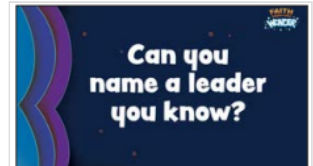
This story took place shortly before Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Holy Spirit would later come on the disciples during Pentecost, after Jesus' resurrection and ascension.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

In the book of Ezekiel, God promised to give His people new hearts by placing His own Spirit within them ([Ezekiel 36:26–27](#)). This promise was realized when the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers, empowering all believers to reject sin and walk in newness of life.

Welcome Question

What You Need: [Holy Spirit Welcome Question Slide](#)



What You Do: Warmly welcome kids by name. Show them the Welcome Question. Invite kids to share the names of as many leaders as they can. They can name people they know personally or well-known leaders they have heard about in the news, school, church, etc. Also encourage them to tell each other why they think those people are leaders. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

What You Say: **Can you name a leader you know?** As kids answer, invite them to imagine all the different places where someone might be willing to follow a good leader.

A leader is someone who guides or gives direction to those following him or her. Today we'll hear about the most important leader of all. And when we follow Him, we are led by His powerful, wise, and loving presence. But first, it's time to be curious.

Curiosity Questions

What You Do: 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.

What You Say:

I'm curious ...

- **If you had to pick between being a leader or a follower, which would you choose? Why?**
- **What makes a good leader?**

Curiosity Activity: Follow the Leader

What You Need: clear plastic water bottle, water, paper clips (several), magnet, [Follow the Leader Slide](#), [Holy Spirit Wonder Truth Slide](#)



What You Do: Gather kids together, and show the [Follow the Leader Slide](#). Hold up the filled water bottle and several paper clips. Drop the paper clips into the water and watch them sink to the bottom.

What You Say: Do you think I can lead the paper clips back to the top of the bottle without touching them or shaking the bottle? Allow kids to respond. **If yes, how?** Next, reveal the magnet. Hold the magnet against the outside of the bottle. Use the magnet to move the paper clips to the top of the bottle. If your magnet is strong enough to pull the paper clips up and out of the bottle, remove the cap and do so. Or if your magnet isn't that strong, keep the cap on and simply move the paper clips up, down, and around the inside of the bottle.



Explain some of the science behind the activity: A *magnet* is a rock or metal that can pull certain types of metal toward itself because of a force called *magnetism*. Magnets can work across distances, so a strong magnet doesn't have to be touching the magnetic object in order to pull it toward itself.

Display the [Holy Spirit Wonder Truth Slide](#). **Wow! Magnets are powerful, and our magnet sure led these paper clips all over! We are a little like the paper clips in this activity. When we believe in Jesus and trust Him as our Savior, He promises we will have the Holy Spirit to help, teach, and lead us every day. We get to follow God's Holy Spirit like the paper clips followed the magnet! The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence in our lives, and today's Wonder Truth is **BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS ME, I AM LED.****

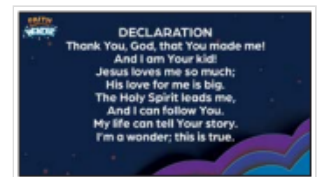


Leader Tip: If kids are unfamiliar with the Holy Spirit, explain that God is three persons but still one true God: Father, Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. This is called the *Trinity*. The Holy Spirit, who is God, lives in all Jesus-followers and is our powerful, wise, and loving helper.

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”).



Belief

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for making the way for us to have a relationship with You through Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who leads us to become more like Jesus every day. Help us grow in our understanding of what it means to follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story – Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the Bible book of John. Open the Bible and show them where the story is found.

What You Say:

Bible Time Rhyme *(this is so cute! I would love for them to do this every week to memorize!)*

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.

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 book of John in the Bible. That's a book in the New Testament.

Read [John 14:15–31](#) from the Bible.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

What You Need: Holy Spirit Wonder Truth Slide



What You Do: Display the Holy Spirit 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 THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS ME, I AM LED**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

More than 500 years before Jesus was born, God promised to give His people new hearts by placing His own Spirit within them (Ezekiel 36:26–27). When the Holy Spirit came to followers of Jesus, God's long-ago promise was fulfilled! Now the Holy Spirit lives inside all followers of Jesus, leading and helping those who are in God's family!

Word of Wonder – let's try to avoid letting the kids play with the balloon to avoid chaos lol

What You Need: Bible, balloon (uninflated), Word of Wonder Slide

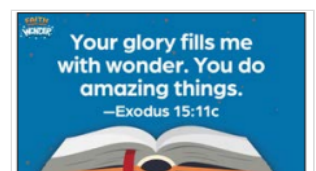
WORD OF WONDER

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

—Exodus 15:11c

Allergy Caution: Be aware of any latex allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

What You Do: Display the Word of Wonder Slide while you do the motions below.



What You Say: Today we learned about the Holy Spirit—God's powerful, loving, and wise presence who is with all Jesus-followers. What an amazing gift! Let's practice our Word of Wonder as a way of telling God how incredible He is! The Word of Wonder for the Faith Begins with Wonder series is **Exodus 15:11c**.

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.

Next, hold up an uninflated balloon. Begin to recite the verse but blow up the balloon with a puff of air after every phrase. Then tie off the balloon.

- **What are some amazing things that God has done?** (If the kids need help, offer ideas such as: creating the world, making us, taking care of us, sending Jesus, giving the Holy Spirit.)
- **How can we show God we are full of wonder at all He has done for us?** (If the kids need help, offer ideas such as: saying thank You, saying I love You, singing worship songs, loving other people like God loves us.)

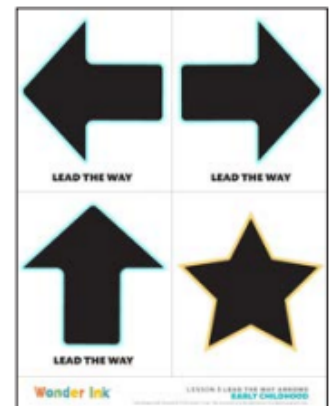
Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Discussion Questions

What You Need: [Lead the Way Arrows](#) (1 sheet per kid)

Leader Tip: Many of your kids might not be able to identify left and right, and that's OK! For this game the arrows literally show which direction the turns go. Just follow the arrows!

What You Do: Gather kids in a circle, placing the deck of cards face down in the center.



What You Say: Today we're playing a game with cards. Our deck of cards is full of arrows. The arrows will show us who draws the next card. Sometimes, there will be a card with a star. If you draw a card with a star, then you get to be the first to answer a question.

Invite the kids to take turns drawing a card from the top of the stack. If the card chosen has an arrow that points to the left, then the person sitting on the left of the one who drew the card will be next to draw a card. If the arrow on the card points to the right, then the person sitting on the right of the person who drew the card will choose next. If a card points straight, the person who chose the card can pick anyone else in the circle to draw the next card. Keep choosing cards and moving around the circle until a star is drawn. The person who gets a star will answer a question from the list. After someone has answered a discussion question, choose a child to draw the next card. This is a good time to make sure everyone is getting a chance to draw a card.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Jesus told His friends—the disciples—that He was going to leave. Where was Jesus going?** *(to be with God the Father in heaven)*
- **Who did Jesus promise God would send to the disciples to be with them when Jesus went to heaven?** *(the Holy Spirit)*
- **Jesus says that the Holy Spirit is like a friend. What do good friends do?** *(They are with you, they listen, they care, they help.)*
- **Jesus says the Holy Spirit is like a teacher. What do good teachers do?** *(They help you learn, they help you understand, they explain things, they are patient.)*
- **Jesus says the Holy Spirit is like a helper. What can the Holy Spirit help us do?** *(obey God, follow God's way)*

- **For people who trust and follow Jesus, where does the Holy Spirit live?** *(in their hearts)*

Jesus promised that God's powerful, wise, and loving presence that led Him would also be available to anyone else who follows Him.



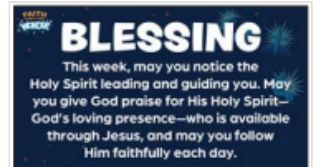
Identity

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Blessing Your Kids

What You Need: [Holy Spirit Blessing Slide](#)

What You Do: Display the Holy Spirit Blessing Slide. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals.



What You Say:

Blessing: This week, may you notice the Holy Spirit leading and guiding you. May you give God praise for His Holy Spirit—God's loving presence—who is available through Jesus, and may you follow Him faithfully each day.

GAME: COPY-CAT FREEZE

In this game, kids will copy the motions of the leader, except for the action that requires everyone to freeze. When the leader performs the “freeze action,” anyone who copies the leader instead of freezing is out!

**This game works great
with the Jesus
Promises the Holy
Spirit lesson!**

Prior to the start of the game, choose one leader who is willing to act out different motions in front of the group. The leader can be the adult or an older kid in your group. (do the first round with the adult as the game leader.) Decide on the designated motion that will signal to kids that they should freeze. For example, putting both hands on the top of her head could be the chosen “freeze action.” Any kid who does not freeze when the leader places her hands on her head is out!

Gather kids together. **Are you up for a challenge to see how well you can follow?** Pause for kids to respond. **OK ... let's do it then!** Invite your chosen leader to the front of the group area. **Your challenge is to follow every action our leader performs. However, if he does the “freeze action,” you are not supposed to copy him!** Show the kids the predetermined “freeze action.” **Instead, if you see this movement, you freeze! If you don't stay perfectly still, then you are out!**

Continue playing rounds until only one person is left. If a leader is having trouble getting kids out, suggest that he speed up his actions so that kids have less time to think before they start following. Play several rounds, as time allows, switching up the leader and “freeze action” each time. Then gather kids together.

When Jesus was on earth with the disciples, they had someone to lead and guide them—Jesus! Jesus knew He would be leaving His disciples, but He promised that He would not leave them alone; God would send them the Holy Spirit—His powerful, loving presence. People who follow Jesus today have that same Holy Spirit, who is God! In this game, you had a leader in front of you to imitate. Similarly, Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to lead us. The Spirit will never leave us and will help us to become more like Jesus.