

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

LEADER PREP PAGE 2

Sunday, August 23rd **PLEASE READ!**

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.



Curiosity

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD
PreK/Kindergarten

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

Play Stations – Can use to get kids settled at the beginning of class or use as rotations during the Prayer Walk activity.

WHAT YOU NEED: painter's tape, table tennis balls (I have small soft balls), wooden blocks or dominoes, coloring utensils, [Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

WHAT YOU SAY: You can play at any of these stations to help you prepare for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

1. Play Station: Roll-a-Way Maze

Set up: Use painter's tape to create a large path on the floor. (I think this would work best in the hallway.) You can make the path by using one single strip of tape that twists and turns across the open area of your room. Or you could use two parallel strips of tape to create the boundaries of a path. The path should be large enough that multiple children can play on it simultaneously.

Play: Invite kids to roll table tennis balls along the path from beginning to end. They can experiment with rolling the ball quickly versus slowly and keeping the ball in their reach versus pushing it farther away.

***NOTE:** You will use this same maze for two other activities later in the lesson, so do not remove the tape.

2. Play Station: Fall-O the Leader Blocks

Set up: Provide an assortment of wooden blocks or dominoes. (We have a lot of jenga blocks!)

Play: Encourage kids to arrange the blocks so they are standing up in a row like dominoes. The blocks should be close but not touching. Ask the kids to set up the blocks in a way where if one block falls, it also knocks over the other blocks.

3. Play Station: Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit Coloring Sheet

Set up: Print one copy per kid of the [coloring sheet](#) and set out the coloring utensils.

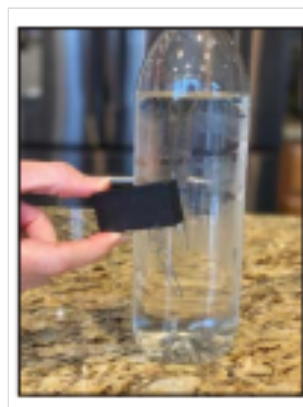
Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a simple maze. Have them start by marking starting and ending points on their paper and then ask them to connect the two points with a swirling and turning line.

Curiosity Activity: Where You Lead Bottle

WHAT YOU NEED: paper clips (several), clear plastic water bottle, water, magnet, table

WHAT YOU DO: For this activity, you'll be placing several paper clips into a full water bottle and demonstrating how a magnet on the outside of the bottle can move the paper clips. Ahead of time, practice the activity to ensure your magnet is strong enough to move the paper clips. Many science magnets (such as wand magnets available from online retailers) can pull the paper clips up and even out of the bottle. Average kitchen magnets can move the paper clips but may not be strong enough to pull the paper clips out of the bottle. Either will work for this activity! After practicing, remove the paper clips from the bottle, refill the bottle with water, and put the cap back on. Set up a table at the front of your teaching area.

Hold up the filled water bottle and several paper clips. Drop the paper clips into the water and watch them sink to the bottom, then screw the lid on the bottle tightly. **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 they think you can, invite them to share how they think you'll do it. Next, reveal the magnet. Set the bottle on the table and 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.



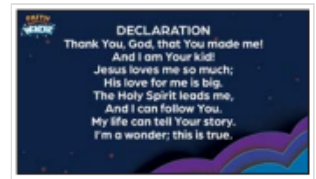
Invite a couple of kids to the front to take turns holding the magnet as the other kids shout out direction words like “up,” “down,” “right,” and “left.” The kid holding the bottle can use the magnet to lead the paper clips in the directions shouted.

WHAT YOU SAY: 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 Him 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.**

Declaring God's Wonder

WHAT YOU NEED: Early Childhood Declaration [Slide](#)

WHAT YOU DO: Show the Early Childhood 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

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, You love us and do wonderful things for us! Holy Spirit, please fill us with wonder at how amazing You are. 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: *(This is sooo cute! I would love for kids to memorize this overtime!)*

Bible Time Rhyme

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 the God's Big Story Script provided or read [John 14:15–31](#) from the Bible. (Script following...)

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

WHAT YOU DO:

Gather kids together. Can be on the carpet in the classroom or across the hall in the chapel room. Throughout the story, you will lead the kids in doing three different motions. The first motion is for when you say, "Holy;" you will put your arms straight up over your head (like your whole body is an H). The second motion is for "Spirit;" you will place your arms to the side, with one curved up like a teapot, and the other curved down so that together they make an S. The final motion will be for "leads the way;" you will place fingers, palms, and arms together and straight out in front of you like you are pointing the way. "The Holy Spirit leads the way" will be chanted along with motions five times during the story. The motions can be done in a seated or standing position.

Practice the motions with the kids.

WHAT YOU SAY: Let's listen to God's big story today. Jesus came to save everyone in the world who would believe in Him. We need Jesus because all people sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is not what God wants. Sin keeps us away from God. But God loves us and sent Jesus to the world. Jesus came to give forever life to everyone who trusts in Him. Jesus loved the world so much that He died on the cross. When we trust Jesus to save us from our sins, we are children of God. We are part of His family.

Before Jesus died on the cross, He ate a meal with His followers. His followers are called disciples. Jesus wanted His followers to know what was going to happen next. So Jesus told His disciples that He was getting ready to go be with God the Father in heaven. Heaven is where God is. Jesus wanted His followers to know they would have help after He left. God was going to send the Holy Spirit to help them. The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence. The Holy Spirit leads the way. I am going to say that again, but let's add some motions to it. Demonstrate the motions for "Holy," "Spirit," and "leads the way." Invite the kids to do the motions and say, "The Holy Spirit leads the way" along with you.

Jesus told His disciples, "If you love me, obey my commands. I will ask the Father. And he will give you another friend to help you and to be with you forever. That friend is the Spirit of truth" (John 14:15–17a). The Spirit was going to help them like a good friend would. The Holy Spirit would live in their hearts. The Holy Spirit was going to lead them. The Holy Spirit still leads the way today. Invite the kids to do the motions and say, "The Holy Spirit leads the way" along with you.

Jesus left His followers to go to the Father. Jesus was not on earth anymore. They would have the Holy Spirit with them, though. Jesus told His followers, "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father. You will know that you are in me, and I am in you" (John 14:20). Jesus told His followers about the Holy Spirit. "I have spoken all these things while I am still with you," Jesus said, "But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:25–26). The Holy Spirit leads the way. Invite the kids to do the motions and say, "The Holy Spirit leads the way" along with you.

The Holy Spirit would be their powerful, wise, and loving helper. The Holy Spirit would teach Jesus' followers what is good and right and true. The Holy Spirit would help them remember what Jesus taught. The Holy Spirit would help them follow and obey God. The Holy Spirit leads the way. Invite the kids to do the motions and say, "The Holy Spirit leads the way" along with you.

The Holy Spirit was for Jesus' first followers long ago. And the Holy Spirit is for all people who follow Jesus today. God cares for His people like a loving parent cares for a child. The Holy Spirit leads and helps God's children. When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit teaches us and leads us each day. The Holy Spirit leads the way. Invite the kids to do the motions and say, "The Holy Spirit leads the way" along with you.

Followers of Jesus can always trust these words: Because the Holy Spirit leads me, I am led.

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit God's Big Story](#)! This will be on the computer along with a worship song!



Word of Wonder

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, balloon (uninflated), Word of Wonder [Slide](#)

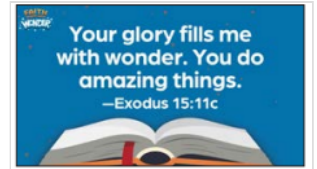
WORD OF WONDER

**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](#).



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 pause after saying the phrase “fills me with wonder” to fill up the balloon with air and tie it off. Then say the rest of the verse.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **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.)

Connecting the Wonder Truth

WHAT YOU DO: Ask the following question to help kids 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 happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Many years before Jesus was born, God promised to give His people His presence. When the Holy Spirit came to followers of Jesus, God’s promise happened! Now the Holy Spirit lives inside all followers of Jesus, leading and helping those who are in God’s family!



Faith

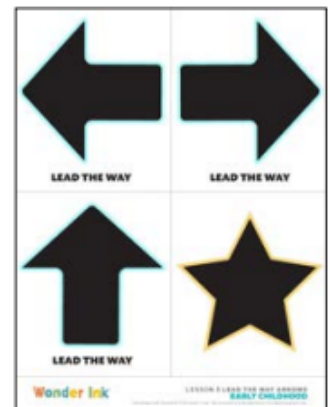
Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Circle Time: Lead the Way Game

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

(I will do this - Ahead of time, print one copy of the [Lead the Way Arrows](#) for every kid and cut on the dotted lines to make one set of cards for each kid. You will then combine all the cards into one large deck of cards. Mix up the deck so that the cards have a random sequence as you play.)

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. Let's spend some time in prayer and thank God for the Holy Spirit.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for helping them find ways to love Him and love others this week.

Game: A-MAZE-ing Way

What You Need: blindfold or bandana (1 per kid), maze from the "Curiosity" section, painter's tape (optional)

(If you did not already create a maze for the "Curiosity" section, use painter's tape to create a path on the floor. You could probably set up an additional maze in the hallway and both leaders could take a group.)

What You Say: Today we're learning that because the Holy Spirit leads us, we are led. Let's play a game where we help lead each other through the maze.

What You Do: Divide kids into pairs. Place a blindfold or bandana over the eyes of one kid. Explain that her partner should take her hand or arm and lead her through the maze. When the pair reaches the end of the maze, have them switch roles and come back to the start. Be sure everyone has a chance to be led and to lead a partner through the maze.

Great job! But I wonder, could you have made it through the maze without a friend's help? It might have been hard! But with a helper and friend leading you, you knew where to go. This is like how the Holy Spirit leads us. God cares for His people like a loving parent cares for a child. The Holy Spirit leads and helps God's children. When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit teaches us and leads us each day. The Holy Spirit leads the way.



Identity

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

Responding in Worship: Prayer Walk (kids will probably need a lot of encouragement/guidance in this!)

What You Need: maze from previous activities, painter's tape, [Prayer Hands Printable](#) (3), music on leader phone or computer

What You Do: Ahead of time, print three copies of the [Prayer Hands Printable](#). After using the maze during the Curiosity and Faith activities, add the pages to the maze by taping them to the floor. The pages should be evenly spaced throughout the maze. Maze can be done in the hallway.



What You Say: Jesus promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to lead His people after He went to be with the Father in heaven. That is a wonderful and amazing thing! Today we're going to take a few quiet moments to talk to God. We're going to walk through the maze again, but this time with no blindfold. As you walk through the maze, you'll see three pictures of praying hands. When you see each picture, it's a reminder that you can always pray and talk to God. And if you're not sure what to say, the Holy Spirit can help lead you.

Think of something in your life that you need help from the Holy Spirit for. Maybe you're having trouble in school or not getting along with a friend or sibling. Maybe you're struggling to obey rules or listen to parents. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you, help you, and guide you.

Play music. You can have children line up outside the maze or ask them to remain seated until you direct them to take their turn. One leader can take a few kids at a time while the other does rotations in the room. Whatever works best for the class you have! Demonstrate walking through the maze and pausing at each of the three copies of the Prayer Hands Printable. Explain that they can say whatever they want to God when they pray. They can say "Thank You," or say something they're wondering about, or ask for help. When a kid finishes walking the path, ask him to return to his spot and continue listening to the music.

Prayer and Blessing

What You Do: After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for the Holy Spirit.

What You Say: God, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit! Help us always be full of wonder because of all the amazing things You do for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you know that you're not alone. And may you remember that God's powerful, wise, and loving presence can lead you and help you, today and all the days of your life.

Closing Game: Way-to-Go Hopping (do if needed and if chaos can stay controlled during check out time lol)

What You Need: painter's tape

What You Do: Before you begin, use painter's tape to make X's to mark the spots instead. Be mindful to keep each spot within stepping distance of another.

Gather kids in circle.

What You Say: Let's play a game. The game is like Follow the Leader—but with a twist and a hop! Select one child to be the first leader. The dots on the floor should be close enough to each other that the leader can choose where to jump to next, since there is not one clear path. The other children should follow behind, jumping onto the same dots as the person in front of them did. Allow other children to have turns as the leader and play as many rounds as time allows.

We can remember that God sent the Holy Spirit to help His people. The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence. The Holy Spirit leads the way.