

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**

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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 is and 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.

Activity: Heart Poster

What You Need – SUPPLIES: butcher paper or posterboard, marker, heart-shaped stickers (several per kid)

What You Do - Ahead of time, lay the large sheet of butcher paper or a posterboard on the floor or a table. Draw a large heart shape in the center.

What You Say - **We're learning about Jesus' love today. This heart reminds us of love. Let's decorate this poster and think about how much Jesus loves us!**

Let children cover the heart shape on the paper or posterboard with heart stickers. Encourage them to say or shout, "Jesus loves me!" each time they put a sticker down. Save this poster to use again in the last activity.

Wasn't that fun? I am so happy that Jesus loves me. And guess what? Today we'll learn our Wonder Truth, which says that **BECAUSE JESUS LOVES ME, I AM LOVED.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

BECAUSE JESUS—Hold your arms out to sides (like Jesus on the cross).

LOVES ME,—Put your hands on your heart.

I AM LOVED—Give yourself a hug.

Activity: Sensory Bin (as kids arrive...)

What You Need – SUPPLIES: bin(s); crinkled paper to fill bin(s); different sizes of heart shapes (foam, paper, or stickers)

What You Do - Ahead of time, place filler and heart shapes into a bin. Make sure the heart shapes are large enough to avoid being a choking hazard.

What You Say - **Welcome! I'm so glad you're here. Come see what we have today! I wonder what you can find in this bin.**

Encourage kids to dig around in the bin and show you what they find. As they are playing, ask the kids what (and who) they love.

These hearts remind me of God's love. God's love for us is so special and so big. Today we'll learn in God's big story how Jesus loves us so much.

God's Big Story

What You Need – SUPPLIES: Bible, toy people or dolls (2) (you can use 2 Little People dolls from the shelves)

What You Say - Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about Jesus.

Encourage the kids to say "Jesus." **Let's learn about Jesus from the Bible!**

These are my friends. Say, "Hi, friends!" Encourage toddlers to say "Hi." Then interact with the dolls by talking with them and pretending they're talking back to you. You will read all the parts, just as if you were interacting with a hand puppet.

Leader: Hey, friends! Did you know that God made you? God created all people!

Dolls: Wow! That's amazing.

Leader: And God loves all people.

Dolls: That is so incredibly amazing! **Leader:** But—oh, no!—something bad happened.

Dolls: Oh, no!

Leader: People didn't obey God, and they messed up God's perfect creation. That's called sin.

Dolls: (Pretend to cry.)

Leader: It's OK, friends! God loves the world.

Dolls: He does?

Leader: God loves people so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to the world.

Dolls: Yay!

Leader: Jesus is more powerful than anything. Jesus died and came back to life. God loves the world. Always. His love has the power to make all things right. And God's love can make all things new.

Dolls: Wow!

Leader: And guess what? Jesus is King over everything. When we trust in Jesus to save us, we can live forever with God someday in heaven. Sin does not win. Jesus wins! God can forgive us and make us new.

Dolls: Wow!

Leader: Jesus loves the world with a big love! How big do you think His love is?

Set down the dolls and hold your hands out to your side. Each time you ask one of the following questions or say one of the statements, spread your arms farther and farther apart and speak louder every time: **Is Jesus' love *this* big? How about *this* big? Maybe it's *this* big! Wow, look at how much Jesus loves you! Because Jesus loves me, I am loved. Let's say that with our BIG voices!** Encourage kids to say with you, "Jesus loves me!"

The Bible says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him" (John 3:16–17). Jesus is

God's Son. God sent Jesus to save all people who trust in Him! Jesus beat death and came back to life. Jesus is more powerful than sin. When we trust Jesus to save us, God forgives our sins. Then we can live forever as part of God's family. That is how much God loves us.

Jesus loves you so much. He knows you and loves you. Trust and remember this good news. Share this good news. All who trust Jesus can trust in God's love and remember: Because Jesus loves me, I am loved.

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [Jesus Loves the World God's Big Story!](#)

(Let me figure out how to get this to play in the 2s/3s room...)



Word of Wonder

What You Need – SUPPLIES: 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 kids 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 say 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.

Activity: Heart Ball Bounce

What You Need – SUPPLIES: soft bouncy balls (several), Heart Poster from the Heart Poster activity

What You Do - Put the Heart Poster on the ground and invite the kids to gather around it.

What You Say - In our story today, we learned that God made all people. He cares about all the people He made. God loves people so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to the world. Jesus loves you so much! To help you remember this, we're going to play a game where we bounce a ball onto a heart. Hearts remind us of Jesus' love.

You're going to try to bounce the ball onto the heart! When you bounce the ball on the heart, you can shout, "Jesus loves me!" Let each child take a turn bouncing a ball onto the heart and saying, "Jesus loves me!"

Prayer and Blessing

What You Say - Let's pray together. God, thank You for loving us with Your big love! Holy Spirit, help us really know deep down inside what it means to be loved by You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands 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 feel the love of God this week. May you know deep down inside how much Jesus loves you.