

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 15:11b

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

Sunday, August 16th – **FOR LEADERS, READ THIS!**

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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Declaring God's Wonder

What You Do: Display the [Jesus Loves Declaration Slide](#). Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you. Repeat this as time allows.

Thank You, God, that You are good! *(Kids repeat.)*

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. *(Kids repeat.)*

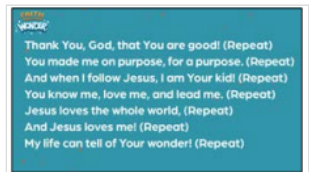
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! *(Kids repeat.)*

You know me, love me, and lead me. *(Kids repeat.)*

Jesus loves the whole world, *(Kids repeat.)*

And Jesus loves me! *(Kids repeat.)*

My life can tell of Your wonder! *(Kids repeat.)*



God's Big Story

What You Need– SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), sticky notes (1 per kid), printed Jesus Loves Title Slide



What You Do - Show the [Jesus Loves Title Slide](#). Tell kids that today they're going to listen to words written by two Jesus followers: Paul and John. Invite them to put a sticky note on [John 3](#) and then open their Bibles to [Colossians 1](#). Encourage volunteers to help kids find the passage.

What You Say - Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible.

Read [Colossians 1:15–23](#) aloud as the kids follow along. If you have some stronger readers, invite a kid to read [John 3:16–17](#).

Connecting the Wonder Truth

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



What You Do - Show 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!

In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What did you discover about God through His big story today? Allow time for kids to answer.

What makes Jesus' love good news for you and me? Invite kids to share their thoughts.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

**Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory,
working wonders?**

—Exodus 15:11b (NIV)

**You are majestic and holy. Your glory fills me with wonder. You
do amazing things.**

—Exodus 15:11b (NirV)

What You Need – SUPPLIES: Bible, paper (1 sheet per kid), tape, Word of Wonder Slide [NirV](#)

What You Say - Today we've seen how Jesus loves each of us. Because Jesus loves us, we can always know that we are loved. How amazing it is to be loved by such an amazing God! Our Word of Wonder reminds us of this.

What You Do - Open your Bible to [Exodus 15:11b](#). Show the Word of Wonder Slide. Read [Exodus 15:11b](#) several times together group.

Invite kids to make a simple megaphone by rolling a sheet of paper into a cone shape, with a small opening at one end and a large opening at the other. Secure kids' megaphones with tape. Make one for yourself as well.



Next, ask the kids if they've ever heard an announcer at a big sporting event. Speaking into your homemade megaphone, demonstrate how the announcer's voice echoes. Explain that we are going to celebrate God's glory by adding an echo to each word in our Word of Wonder. Invite kids to stand up and repeat each word you say of the verse into their megaphones four times, getting softer each time (to create the echo effect). Example: Leader shouts "You!" and the kids can echo "You, You, You, You." At the end of the Word of Wonder, invite the kids to shout and cheer to God.

Elementary Questions

- What came into the world and separated people from God? (*sin*)

- **What did Jesus do to break the power of sin?** *(He died on the cross.)*
- **What did Jesus do to break the power of death?** *(He rose from the grave.)*
- **How has Jesus shown you that He loves you?**
- **When you think about Jesus' love for you, how does it make you feel?**
- **Who can you tell about Jesus' love?**

Today in God's big story, we learned about Jesus' love for us. He showed us His love by creating the world, dying on the cross, and making the way for us to be close to God. When we pray, we get to have a conversation with the person who loves us most of all—Jesus! Let's pray now.

More Questions if you need to add time or keep the conversation going...

- **Starting with the first man and woman, people have sinned. What is sin?** *(Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God and goes against His perfect plan.)*
- **What did Jesus do to break the power of sin over us and over creation?** *(He died on the cross.)*
- **Jesus makes us holy in God's eyes. What does that mean?** *(It means that we are without any flaw and free from the blame of sin.)*
- **Jesus loves you always, even when you do something wrong. How does that make you feel?**
- **How can knowing Jesus loves you affect how you respond when things are going badly? How about when things are going well?**
- **Is there someone at school, in your neighborhood, or in your family who needs to hear that Jesus loves them? Who?**

Maybe you've heard that Jesus loves you all your life. Or maybe you're hearing those words for the first time. No matter what, they are some of the most important words you will ever hear. Sometimes, people in our lives might not behave in a loving way. But you are always loved because Jesus loves you. Let's spend some time now talking in prayer to the One who loves us most of all!

Small Group Prayer Time

Ask kids if there is anything happening in their lives that they want to pray about. Remind them that we can pray about problems we need help with, and we can pray to thank God for the good things He has done. Either way, we are talking to someone who loves us so much! Consider inviting willing volunteers to pray aloud for the requests that were shared.



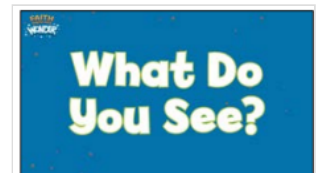
Identity

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

Responding: What Do You See?

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

What You Do - Ahead of time, use a red dry-erase marker to draw a large heart on each handheld mirror, leaving only one without a heart. Space the handheld mirrors throughout the students. Hold a mirror in your hand.



Plan to speak the Wonder Truth over each kid near the end of the activity.

Show the [What Do You See? Slide](#) and gather kids together. Show them the mirror you are holding.

What You Say - 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. In a moment, you are going to have a chance to go to one of the mirrors in the room. 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, say to each kid, "Jesus loves you, [insert name of kid]. You are loved!"

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.

Encourage kids that every time they look in the mirror to be reminded that Jesus loves them.

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. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.



What You Say -

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.