



LESSON 1

GOD'S AMAZING LOVE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8; 1 John 3

GOD'S BIG STORY: Paul and John remind the early Christians that no matter what hardships they face, God loves them. As Jesus-followers, we can know that nothing can separate us from God's love.

WORD OF WONDER: The three most important things to have are faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love. —1 Corinthians 13:13 (NirV)

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8; 1 John 3

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NirV)

Have you ever considered the power in the word *nothing*? No, just me? OK, let me explain why I think the word *nothing* is powerful.

First, read Romans 8:33–39.

Paul's words in Romans 8 were meant to encourage the early Christians to stay strong in their faith. He wanted them to realize that God was with them even in the hardest of times. Paul understood the power of the word *nothing*.

Let this lesson's Wonder Truth really sink in: *Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love*.

Nothing. Maybe you're having a week where you wish you could separate yourself from certain situations (or even people!). Yet, even those things can't separate you from God's love.

Not troubles, not hardship, not persecution or famine, nakedness, danger, or sword. *Nothing* can separate us from God's love. Replace the words in this list with things from your own life and context. Perhaps your list sounds something like this: "Not volunteer or budget shortages, not falling short on goals, not lack of recognition. *Nothing* can separate me from God's love." Read your list out loud as a declaration of faith.

Paul experienced the power of *nothing* firsthand, and my prayer for you today is that you too understand just how connected you are to the Father's love—so connected, in fact, that *nothing* can separate you from Him!

Rest in the power of the word *nothing* this week. Receive God's overwhelming, inseparable love for you, and share it with the kids you lead.

—Tom Bump

Children's Ministry Leader, Author, and Coach
Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Under the Roman Empire, many people joined clubs and voluntary associations devoted to common religious, economic, or social causes. Early Christians followed some of this pattern when they formed “assemblies” in homes. The same Greek word is often translated as *churches*.

WHAT?

Paul mentions the threat of natural disasters. Ancient Rome had a housing density beyond even the densest modern cities. Cities were plagued by food shortages, infectious diseases, fires, and building collapses. Average life expectancy was under 30.

WHERE?

Christians in the capital of Rome faced many difficulties. The emperor Claudius expelled Jews from Rome around AD 50 (see Acts 18:2), and this would have included Jewish Christians such as Priscilla and Aquila, close friends of Paul.

WHEN?

Paul wrote his letter to Rome before being brought there as a prisoner in the early AD 50s. There are a wide range of dates proposed for 1 John. The books of Romans and 1 John reflect a concern for the first generation of churches.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus told His followers to place a radical trust in the heavenly Father's daily provision (Matthew 6:25–34). The church community endures trials together. Come what may, God sustains the church, and He will not allow it to fall to the powers of darkness (Matthew 16:18).

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

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Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Leader: Hi, Tac! How's it going?

Tac the Cat: (in a sad voice) Oh, hey. I'm OK ... I guess.

Leader: Tac, you don't sound OK. What's wrong, friend?

Tac the Cat: Well, I have a really good friend I like to play with, but he hasn't been around lately. I haven't been able to play with him!

Leader: Tac, I'm sorry you're missing your friend.

Tac the Cat: Yes! And now I don't know if my friend even wants to be my friend anymore. What if he doesn't love me anymore?

Leader: Oh, Tac, what makes you think that?

Tac the Cat: Well, we used to do everything together—play with string, chase balls, and watch the birds fly outside! But now he's never around. I just don't think he loves me and wants to be my friend anymore.

Leader: Tac, you know what? I bet your friend might have something going on that is keeping him busy, and I'm sure he misses you very much!

Tac the Cat: Yeah, I guess so.

Leader: But, even if your friend isn't around, and you feel separated, there is someone else who is always around and always loves you—no matter what!

Tac the Cat: There is?

Leader: Yes, Tac. The Bible tells us that God loves us so much and that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. We are going to learn more about God's love today!

Tac the Cat: (in a happy, excited voice) Oh boy! I'm so glad you told me that nothing could ever separate me from God's love! I can't wait to hear more. I'll see you soon. I'm going to go look for my friend! Bye!

Leader: Bye, Tac!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: who are some people who love you? Allow the kids to respond. Whom do you love? Allow the kids to respond. How do you know that God loves you? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God will never stop loving you?"

Leader Tip: Kids may have family situations that include divorce, foster care, or temporary guardianship. Help each child recognize that she has someone who loves her and cares for her, even if it is you as her leader.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE**. Today, we'll discover how nothing can separate us from God's love!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say it with you and do the motions.

Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat.)

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

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat.)

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.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat.)

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

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat.)

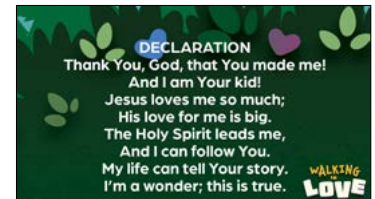
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat.)

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

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



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: **Dear God, thank You for this day when we can come together and learn more about You. Please lead us as we look at Your Word. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to reveal Your love for us in today's part of Your big story. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today, we'll learn about how nothing can separate us from God's love. Let's sing about God's amazing love together!

WORSHIP VIDEOS: BREAKER ROCK BEACH, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the books of Romans and 1 John in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

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? (*Hands together then opening palms up, like opening a book.*)

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

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the books of Romans and 1 John in the Bible."

VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, painter's tape, scissors (prep only)

RESOURCES: [Stop Signs Sheets](#)

Before the kids arrive, create an obstacle course using painter's tape on the floor. Include straight, zigzag, and curved lines. Print the Stop Sign Sheets and place the Stop Signs in order at various places along the course.

Gather kids into a line at the beginning of the obstacle course. Instruct them to follow you while the story is told.

"We'll walk a path and learn from the Bible. As we walk, at each stop, we'll say our Wonder Truth for today to help us remember that there is truly not anything that can separate us from God's love. The early church met in houses instead of church buildings. Different people gathered to learn, worship, and become more like Jesus. Stop at the first Stop Sign and read the prompt: **The early church did not meet in buildings. Even though the people didn't have buildings to meet in for church, they loved God and knew that nothing could separate them from His love.** Have the kids repeat, "Nothing can separate us from God's love!"

The early Christians faced many troubles, but they knew that God loved them and was with them. They shared their food and prayed for each other during troubled times. Stop at the second Stop Sign, read the prompt (Some people did not have enough food to eat), and have kids say, "Nothing can separate us from God's love!"

Paul, an apostle who led the early church, wrote to remind the people that nothing could separate them from God's love. Not trouble or hard times. Stop at the third Stop Sign and read the prompt (Some people experienced trouble because they were followers of Jesus) and repeat the steps above. **Not harm or hunger.** Stop at the fourth Stop Sign and read the prompt (Some people are hurt or sad) and repeat the steps above. **Not danger or war.** Stop at the fifth Stop Sign and read the prompt (Sometimes there is danger or fighting happening) and repeat the steps above. **Nothing you can see or touch can take away God's love.** Stop at the sixth Stop Sign and read the prompt (Sometimes people have unfair things happen to them) and repeat the steps above.

Paul said no evil or enemy of God could take away God's love. Stop at the seventh Stop Sign and read the prompt (Sometimes God's enemy, Satan, lies, and bad things happen because of sin) and repeat the steps above. **Paul reminded them God's love will never change.**

Another follower of Jesus, John, called God's people the children of God. He told early Christians that God's love changes people and helps them make right choices. God's love is meant to be shared.

Jesus showed us amazing love when He died to save us all. We can love others by showing compassion and helping one another. This shows God's love to others. We can remember that no matter what happens, nothing can separate us from God's love."

Note: Keep the path up and set the signs nearby as you will use them again the in the Closing Game.



Leader Tip: Today's lesson is focused on God's love. Recognize that kids, even young preschoolers, may have experienced emotional or physical hurt. Look for ways you can connect God's love in a personal way to the kids in your ministry.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Jesus put God's amazing love into action by dying for us on the cross. Jesus also taught us to trust our heavenly Father to care for our daily needs. God takes care of the birds in the sky, and He takes care of us! God's love for us is amazing!" (See Matthew 6:25–34.)

Prayer and Blessing

Pray over kids, thanking God for loving us all the time—through the good times and the bad times. Use your own words, with these as a guide if needed.

Dear God, thank You for loving us no matter what happens in our lives. Thank You for Your promise that nothing can ever separate us from Your great love. Help us remember this and trust in You even when things are hard. 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. Use your own words, with these as a guide if needed.

Blessing: May you feel God's great love for you this week, and may you remember to show God's love to others. Whatever might happen, know that nothing can ever separate you from God's love!