

LESSON 4
LIVING IN PEACE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us Love and Forgive Others

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3

GOD'S BIG STORY: Paul reminds believers we're called to love and forgive others and that our faith in Christ and His presence in us through the Holy Spirit helps us do both.

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

- Play Stations:
 - Put on Love
 - Draw and Erase
 - Living in Peace Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NirV)
- Circle Time: Let's Shake on It
- Craft: Live in Peace Handprints
- Game: Put on Love Relay Race
- Responding in Worship: Guided Prayer
- Closing Game: Love Tag



[Walking in Love Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



INVITATION

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

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WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us Love and Forgive Others

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3

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

Forgiveness. Now there's a word that's easier said than done. When someone does something that hurts or offends us, we have a decision to make: to forgive or not to forgive. Why is that so hard?

The funny thing is that as we read through the Gospels, we see Jesus setting the example of love and forgiveness. Then in Colossians 3:1–2, Paul reminds us to set our hearts and minds on things that are in heaven rather than be distracted by worldly things. Yet sometimes, the things of the world can feel so big and sound so loud. Maybe it's the temptation to hold onto resentment or to pay back gossip with more gossip. But God has something better in mind.

It's important to remind ourselves that we don't live the way we used to live before beginning a relationship with Jesus. We're not that person any longer. Jesus changes us. He has forgiven us. Because of this, we can set aside unforgiveness and exchange it for love.

Take a few moments to read Paul's two lists in Colossians 3:5–14: The things to put off and the things to put on.

What do you need to put off and put on this week? Remember, God is the One who empowers you. You need only to submit your heart and mind to Him; He does the rest!

—Tom Bump

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

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

There were Jews who lived in Colossae, but the recipients of the letter of Colossians appear to be mostly Greek and non-Jewish Christians. Paul builds them up by contrasting their former way of life—following pagan religious standards—to their new way of life in Christ.

WHAT?

Christians in Colossae were facing mixed religious teaching (see especially Colossians 2:16–23). But in contrast to the empty promises of mysticism, God’s hidden purposes have already been revealed in and through Jesus.

WHERE?

Colossae was a small city in Phrygia. As part of the Roman Empire, its residents looked to Rome as their source of peace, wealth, and security. The letter to the Colossians paints fruitfulness and hope in heaven as far greater than these things (1:3–6).

WHEN?

There seems to have been a major earthquake in the Lycus Valley where the city of Colossae was located, perhaps around AD 60. It makes sense to think that Paul would have been writing to the city and its Christian church before this tragedy.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

The glory of God that once filled the temple has now filled the people of God. Followers of Jesus are God’s temple (1 Corinthians 3:16–17). The indwelling Holy Spirit makes God’s people holy—set apart for God. Their conduct is meant to reflect this.

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: dolls with clothes (could be paper dolls, magnetic wooden dress-up dolls, or toy baby dolls), chalk and chalkboards or dry-erase markers and whiteboards, erasers or paper towels, coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [Living in Peace Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to RBKids! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?"

Play Station: Put on Love

Set-up: Provide a variety of dolls with clothes, such as paper dolls, magnetic wooden dress-up dolls, or toy baby dolls.

Play: Share with the kids that in God's big story today, we will learn that we should "put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes" (Colossians 3:12). Encourage the kids to play together with the dolls and put different clothes on the dolls.

Play Station: Draw and Erase

Set-up: Set out small chalkboards with chalk or whiteboards with dry-erase markers as well as erasers and paper towels.

Play: Show the kids how to draw and erase. Encourage them to try drawing shapes or writing letters or numbers. When the kids erase, make a comment about how their drawing has been wiped away and the board looks new and clean.

Play Station: Living in Peace Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw an outfit they like to wear.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, small posterboards (3), megaphones and shakers/cheer pom-poms (optional)

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)

Ahead of time, prepare three small posters. On one poster, draw a simple cross to represent faith. On the next poster, draw praying hands (or trace your own hands) to represent hope, and on the third poster draw a heart to represent love. Show the posters to the kids and tell them what each picture represents. To learn and practice the Word of Wonder, line the kids up in a few lines all facing the same direction and invite three kids to each hold a poster. If they are available, pass out megaphones and pom-pom shakers to kids.

"Have you ever seen people cheer at a football game or basketball game? What do they do? Allow the kids to respond. They use motions and loud voices to encourage the team. Let's say the Word of Wonder like a cheer! If you have one of the posters, lift it when we say the words faith, hope, and love." Say the verse several times and allow different kids to hold the posters, megaphones, and shakers each time.

Leader Tip: As kids discuss faith, hope, and love, refer to these definitions as needed:

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). To have faith is to trust with our hearts; this trust is shown through our actions.

Hope is a confident expectation that God will do what He said He will do. It's more than wishful thinking—it's certainty that God will come through.

Love is not just a feeling but selfless actions that put others before ourselves. Love is who God is. As Jesus-followers, we can be filled with God's love so that Christlike love becomes what describes us best!

God's Big Story / Snack

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Colossians 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 read part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Colossians in the Bible. Colossians is in the New Testament."

Read Colossians 3:8–15 from the Bible.

Make It Inclusive!

Kids with sensory sensitivities may not enjoy or want to participate in loud activities. If kids are bothered by loud noises, just say the verse at a normal volume instead of using the optional megaphone.

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

- **THE THREE**—Hold up three fingers.
- **MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO HAVE**—Make a “check mark” motion in the air.
- **ARE FAITH,**—Make prayer hands.
- **HOPE**—Hold hands out with palms upward.
- **AND LOVE.**—Place hand on your heart.
- **BUT THE GREATEST OF THEM**—Hold up pointer finger as number one.
- **IS LOVE.**—Place hand on your heart.
- **1 CORINTHIANS 13:13**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How do you know God loves you?**
- **How do you show love to your family and friends?**

Circle Time: Let's Shake on It

"Have you ever given anyone a handshake? Allow the kids to respond. **You probably see grown-ups shake hands. Did you know that handshakes began as a way to communicate peacefulness? It was a way people greeted each other to show they were friendly. Today, I'll come to one of you and shake your hand, and then you can answer a discussion question."**

Go around the circle shaking kids' hands and giving them the opportunity to answer a question from the list below.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who wrote the letter to the Colossians?** *(Paul)*
- **What did Paul say we should think about?** *(things in heaven; godly things)*
- **Paul said that we should "put on tender mercy and kindness as if they [are our] clothes"** (Colossians 3:12). **You can put on a jacket or a pair of shoes, but how can you "put on" mercy and kindness?**
- **We are "God's chosen people," and we are "dearly loved"** (Colossians 3:12). **How does that make you feel?**
- **How can we live in peace?**
- **Is there anyone you need to forgive and make peace with?**
- **Has anyone ever forgiven you? How did it make you feel?**

"Paul told the Colossians to love and forgive others the way God loves and forgives us. And there is more good news! Knowing God changes us, and through His Holy Spirit we can love and forgive. Let's thank God for helping us do what we can't do on our own. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"

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 love and forgive others.

Head to Large Group!

Responding in Worship: Guided Prayer

Gather kids together and explain that you will be leading them in a guided prayer. **"We'll say a prayer together as we think about how God forgives us and helps us forgive and love others. Can you repeat after me? Say the words I say and mimic the motions I make."**

Dear God, *(Kids repeat.)*

Because You *(point up)* **are forgiving, I** *(point to yourself)* **can forgive.** *(Kids repeat.)*

Pause and encourage the kids to continue repeating after you and mimicking the motions. Pause between each statement.

Because You *(point up)* **are loving ... I** *(point to yourself)* **can love.** *(Kids repeat.)*

Because You *(point up)* **are merciful ... I** *(point to yourself)* **can show mercy.** *(Kids repeat.)*

Because You *(point up)* **are kind ... I** *(point to yourself)* **can be kind.** *(Kids repeat.)*

Because You *(point up)* **are gentle ... I** *(point to yourself)* **can be gentle.** *(Kids repeat.)*

Because You *(point up)* **are patient ... I** *(point to yourself)* **can be patient.** *(Kids repeat.)*

Because You *(point up)* **are peaceful ... I** *(point to yourself)* **can be peaceful and live at peace with others.** *(Kids repeat.)*

While kids are still in a prayerful moment, suggest they quietly think of someone they need to forgive or love and ask God to help them with that. Close the prayer time by thanking God for His great love, forgiveness, and peace.

Leader Tip: Some kids may have trouble keeping their eyes closed during prayer. That's OK! You can tell the kids that when we pray, God hears us no matter if our eyes are opened or closed! We close our eyes to help us focus on God.

Craft: Live in Peace Handprints

SUPPLIES: light-colored construction paper (1 sheet per kid), glue sticks, writing utensils, red paper hearts (1 per kid, about 2" each), washable paint or washable ink pads (optional), wipes (optional)

Ahead of time, collect supplies and precut red paper hearts. Have wipes nearby if you use the paint or ink option. Pass out a sheet of construction paper to each kid.

"Today, we're going to make a craft that will remind us of peace, love, and forgiveness. First, put your hands flat and on your sheet of construction paper. I will come to you and help you trace your hands.

Trace around each kid's hands on the paper, leaving space between the handprints, or use washable paint or ink to make handprints on the papers. **Next, you can glue a paper heart to your paper between the handprints. Then write the word peace on the heart.**

Assist the kids in writing the word peace on the hearts. The kids can decorate the hearts or papers with their handprints.

Great job, everyone! What do the hands make you think of? Allow time for responses. **The hands make me think of prayer and peace. We can pray and ask God to help us live in peace with others by loving and forgiving them. Speaking of love ... which part of your craft reminds you of love?** Allow time for responses. **Yes! The heart makes me think of love. We can thank God for peace, love, and forgiveness!"**



Leader Tip: Make accommodations for varying skill levels when writing the word peace. Some kids may need hand-over-hand assistance, some may need the word written in highlighter so they can trace it, or some may just need you to spell the word aloud for them.