

LESSON 5

PERSEVERANCE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us through Hard Things

SCRIPTURE: James 1

GOD'S BIG STORY: James, an early church leader, encourages the church to keep going when life is difficult because God will help them persevere.

Activity: How Do You Feel?

Activity: Feelings Race

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: If You're Happy and You Know It

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: How Do You Feel?

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! How is everyone feeling today? Do you feel happy, sad, or mad? Sometimes we all feel happy and sad and mad, and it's OK to feel all of those feelings! Can you show me what your face looks like when you feel happy? Encourage kids to smile. **What does your face look like when you are sad?** Encourage kids to frown. **What does your face look like when you are mad?** Encourage kids to make a mad face.

Discuss feelings based on the ages of the kids you have present.

If you have older toddlers in your group, you might ask them for examples of times they felt each of these ways. **Can you tell me about a time when you felt happy? When do you feel sad? When do you feel mad?** Allow the kids to respond.

If you have younger toddlers, you might ask questions like: **If your mom or dad gives you a great big hug, show me with your face whether that makes you happy, sad, or mad.**

If your parent says you can't have a cookie until after dinner, show me with your face whether that makes you feel happy, sad, or mad.

If your big sister or brother won't play with you, show me with your face whether that makes you feel happy, sad, or mad.

If you have a very young group, you could just give examples and tell them which face to make.

You might feel happy when your mom or dad gives you a great big hug! Show me your happy face!

You might feel mad when your mom says you can't have a cookie until after dinner! Show me your mad face!

You might feel sad if your big sister or brother won't play with you! Show me your sad face.

God loves us and helps us no matter what we go through or how we feel.

Activity: Feelings Race

We're going to have a feelings race! When we feel happy or excited, we might run fast! Let's run to the other side of the room as fast as we can! Encourage the kids to run to the other side of the room.

When we feel sad, we might move slowly. Let's walk slowly to the other side of the room.

When we feel mad, we might stomp! Let's stomp our feet as we walk to the other side of the room.

When we feel afraid, we might tiptoe! Let's tiptoe to the other side of the room.

No matter how we feel, God is with us, and He always helps us.

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD HELPS US THROUGH HARD THINGS.

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.

GOD—Point up.

HELPS US—Point at self.

THROUGH HARD THINGS.—Make fists like you're frustrated.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Walking in Love Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today, we're learning that God helps us through hard things. Let's sing to God and thank Him for how He helps us!

Play songs from the [Walking in Love Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

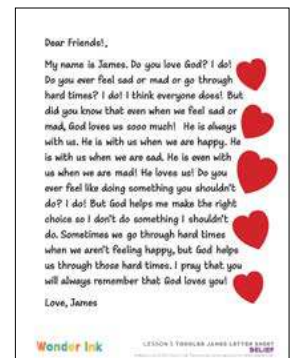
SUPPLIES: Bible, painter's tape, envelope

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Video](#), Toddler James Letter Sheet

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named James. Encourage the kids to say, "James." **Let's find out from the Bible what James teaches us.**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible or use the script provided.

Before the kids arrive, print the Toddler James Letter Sheets. Fold it and seal it in an envelope. Place the letter somewhere in the room. Use painter's tape to create a path along the floor guiding to the letter.



Do you ever help your mom or dad get the mail? It's exciting to get a letter! Let's follow this path and see if we can find a letter to read! Guide kids along the path you created on the floor to the letter. Pick up the letter and encourage the kids to sit down and listen as you read the letter.

Hi, friends!

My name is James. Do you love God? I do! Do you ever feel sad or mad or go through hard times? I do! I think everyone does! But did you know that even when we feel sad or mad, God loves us sooo much! He is always with us. He is with us when we are happy. He is with us when we are sad. He is even with us when we are mad! He loves us! Do you ever feel like doing something you shouldn't do? I do! But God helps me make the right choice so I don't do something I shouldn't do. Sometimes we go through hard times when we aren't feeling happy, but God helps us through those hard times. I pray that you will always remember that God loves you!

Love, James

James reminds us that even when we go through hard times, God loves us and is with us. God helps us go through hard times!

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

God, thank You for loving us always and helping us when times get hard. Thank You for always being with us in everything we face. 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: Even though you may face hard times in your life, may you always remember that God loves you and is with you. He loves you when you are happy, when you are sad, and when you are mad.

Activity: If You're Happy and You Know It

Sing the song "If You're Happy and You Know It" with the kids. Sing it through three times, first with happy, and then with sad, and then with mad. Encourage the kids to clap with you and to make happy, sad, and mad faces as you sing.

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you're happy and you know, then your face will surely show it. (smile)

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you're sad and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you're sad and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you're sad and you know, then your face will surely show it. (sad face)

If you're sad and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you're mad and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you're mad and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you're mad and you know, then your face will surely show it. (mad face)

If you're mad and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

God loves us and is with us when we are happy and when we are sad and even when we are mad!

God loves you!