

LESSON

MY LIFE CAN TELL OF GOD'S WONDER

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Invites Us into His Family

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4; Romans 7

GOD'S BIG STORY: God created a good world. Most special of all, He made humans in His image, but sin kept people from living as God made them. But Jesus changes everything. Through Him, we are invited into God's family!

WORD OF WONDER: You are God's special treasure. —1 Peter 2:9a

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

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





INVITATION

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

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This summer our family spent a fair amount of time at animal parks. My middle child loves animals, and her souvenir of choice was a stuffed animal. Not surprising for a 6-year-old. What did surprise us was the amount of time she spent choosing each new member of her stuffed family.

She examined every style of creature, evaluating its pose, its stitching, if the face looked friendly or fierce, if the eyes were even, what the huggability was for each one. She was dedicated to finding The One. And sure enough, eventually she would look at a stuffed animal and know “this is it!”

Did you know God chooses you with the same dedication and attention? He doesn’t spend time evaluating your worth based on your faults. Rather, He focuses on your identity. Who you are. The fact that you ARE!

1 Peter 2:9 says we are God’s special treasure, chosen by Him to be part of His family. Then we can tell the world of God’s goodness and wonder!

But first, God invites us into that family. He doesn’t force us or demand ... He simply invites. It’s up to us whether or not we’ll accept the invitation.

Remember, God sees something special and beloved when He looks at you.

—**Laura Koesterer**

Kidmin Director

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Paul encountered Jesus through a revelation which changed the direction of his life (Galatians 1:13–17). His zeal for preserving Jewish traditions was transformed; he went from persecutor of the church to Jesus' apostle to the Gentiles. His letters show the development of early Christianity.

WHAT?

Paul says the Jewish law is good (Romans 7:12), but it does not redeem from sin. Paul introduces a metaphor—legal adoption—to show God's unprecedented offer through Jesus. Because of Jesus' redemptive actions, no one has to remain enslaved to sin any longer.

WHERE?

Galatians is sent to multiple congregations in the region of Galatia (modern-day Turkey). Paul had first brought the message of Jesus to these Gentiles. Romans touches on some similar themes and is addressed to various house churches in the city of Rome.

WHEN?

Galatians could be Paul's earliest letter, normally dated a few years before Romans and perhaps around 50 AD. Paul wrote his letter to the Romans before being brought to Rome as a prisoner in the early 50s.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Israel is called God's child many times in the Old Testament, and Paul gives new meaning to this image. Anyone with faith in Jesus becomes a child of God, part of His family. Paul uses the Aramaic word *Abba*, as Jesus does in prayer (Mark 14:36).



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.

Curiosity Activity: Group and Gather

Gather kids into a circle. **"Today we're going to play a game called Group and Gather. Families are often groups of people who gather together and share some things in common. Let's see what you all have in common too! I'll call out a statement, and you'll group yourselves according to what I called out. Let's practice. Make a group with people who are the same age as you.**

Allow kids time to move around the space, figure out their groups, and stand together. Some kids may need help determining some of the categories. Offer help as needed. Once they're grouped, invite kids to share more about how they are grouped (example: red shirts, blue shirts, patterned shirts). Continue with other statements:

- Same shirt color
- Same hair color
- Same eye color
- Born in the same month
- Same number of siblings (remember, zero is a number!)
- Same kind of pet

Invite kids to have a seat in the circle again. **It was fun to see some of the things we have in common as well as things that make us unique. Our families don't define us, but they do help make us who we are. While we typically think of family as the group of people we live with, family is also a place to belong. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD INVITES US INTO HIS FAMILY.**"**

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Leader: You may remember our friend Tac, the Curious Cat. He's always asking questions. He has a question for you. Are you ready?

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! Do you remember me? I'm Tac. For anyone who can spell, my name is cat spelled backward! I'm always curious about everything. Do you know what it means to be curious? It means to think about things and ask questions. It's good to ask questions! I have something I've been curious about ... another cat was adopted into a family. What does that mean?

Leader: That's a great question. It means the cat has become a part of that family forever!

Tac the Cat: So if the cat does something wrong—like scratching the door—the cat will still be a part of the family?

Leader: Yes, adoption means being a part of the family no matter what! It reminds me of how God adopts us as His children when we follow Him.

Tac the Cat: I'm curious ... how can we become adopted into God's family?

Leader: When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and we trust Him as our Savior, we are adopted into the family of God, and we become children of God.

Tac the Cat: That sounds amazing! What happens then!?

Leader: Well, then the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us and lead us. The Holy Spirit changes us to help us become more like Jesus. As children of God, we have a part to play in God's story, and our lives can tell of His wonder! We'll hear more about this in our story today.

Tac the Cat: That sounds wonder-ful! I can't wait to hear more! I'm going to go find my cat friend and tell her this good news!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: have you ever heard the word adopted? Allow kids time to respond. What do you think it means to become a child of God? Allow kids time to respond. We are children of God, and we can share His wonder with the world! Let's find out more about what this means.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **MY LIFE CAN TELL OF GOD'S WONDER**. Today, we'll discover this truth and learn how our lives can tell of God's wonder!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

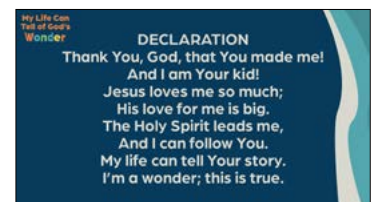
Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

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: **God, thank You for the opportunity to learn more about You. Holy Spirit, help us understand what it means to be invited into God's family and to walk in the truth that we are His kids! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll learn about how we can be a part of God's family and become children of God who share His wonder. Let's sing about it! We can praise God as we declare that we are known, loved, and led, and we can share God's wonder!

WORSHIP VIDEOS: You Are With Me, House of the Lord

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show it to the kids. Tell them today's story comes straight from the Bible and is from the books of Galatians and Romans, which are in the New Testament. Even if kids can't read, or don't have a Bible of their own, you can open the Bible and show them where to find the passages.

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 open palms, like opening a book.)

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

Let's start by reading part of God's big story from the Bible.

VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: mirror, black dry-erase marker, eraser

RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Images](#)

Ahead of time, print or prepare the God's Big Story Images and set a mirror, black dry-erase marker, and eraser where they are not obvious but easily accessed. During the storytelling, set out the mirror and draw on it with the dry-erase marker. Determine the best spot to set the mirror so kids can see it.



"In the beginning, God created the heavens (show Image #1—a solar system—and pause for a moment) **and the earth** (show Image #2—earth—and pause). **God created everything that exists, whether distant galaxies all the way across the universe or the tiniest speck** (show Image #3 and pause) **that we cannot see with our eyes. God created every living creature** (show Image #4 and pause). Pause to allow kids to absorb the complexity of God's creation.

Most special of all, God created humans in His own image (show Image #5—children—and pause). **Every person, whether the person knows it or not, was created by God for a purpose.** Bring out the mirror and hold it so kids can see themselves in the mirror. **God created humans to be like a reflection always pointing back to God** (show Image #6, which is solid black).

But sin—the wrong that we do—gets in the way. Set the mirror upright. Use the black dry-erase marker to draw a big mess of lines all over the mirror. **Sin messed everything up so people couldn't be in a relationship with God.** Hold up the mirror and demonstrate that we can't see ourselves in the mirror anymore. **We don't stand a chance of doing the right things and being free from sin if we don't have God's help. We needed a rescuer, and God sent one!**

Prop the mirror where it won't slip, and the kids can still see the mess of black lines on the mirror.

God put His plan in action. God sent Jesus to earth—His own Son.

Jesus became human. He was tempted by sin like everyone else, yet He didn't give in to sin. Jesus never did anything wrong! And when He was arrested and killed on the cross, Jesus paid the price for our sin and broke sin's power over us. After Jesus died, the Spirit of God raised Him from the dead; this is called the resurrection. When a person trusts Jesus as Savior and becomes a child of God, the Holy Spirit goes into that person's heart.

Retrieve the mirror and begin erasing the lines, leaving bits of lines to block the reflection. **Just like joining a human family comes with good things, joining God's family does too! God's children look forward to eternal life in the future. That means someday we will get to be with God forever.**

Even here and now, God's kids have a new life. Instead of being trapped into doing wrong things, God has set His kids free to do what is right. The children of God get to be messengers to the world. Through their words and actions, they say, "Jesus is really King! God's amazing creation is transformed!"

Joining the family of God is the most wonderful thing that a person can do. When we ask God to let us become His children, to be filled by the Holy Spirit and freed from sin, we live the way God

created us to be.

Erase the remaining bits of black lines and write “God’s Kids” in the middle of the mirror. Allow the kids to look into the mirror and see themselves with the “God’s Kids” label and the clean reflection.

As children of God, we get to be messengers to the world pointing people to our loving Father.

Write “Messengers” on the mirror. **Through our words and actions, others can see what God is like. All of our lives can tell of God’s wonder! We can know that God invites us to be a part of His family!”**

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 **GOD INVITES US INTO HIS FAMILY. How can we be a part of God’s family? And what is good about being a part of God’s family? Allow kids to answer freely.**

Many times in the Old Testament, the nation of Israel is called “God’s people.” In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul explains that now anyone with faith in Jesus becomes a child of God—part of His family. Jesus Himself calls God Abba, which means father, and as God’s kids, we get to call Him Abba too! God invites us into His family!” (See Mark 14:36.)

Prayer and Blessing

Let’s pray and talk to God and thank Him for how He loves us and invites us into His family!

God, thank You for Your great love for us. Thank You for inviting us to be adopted into Your family and allowing us to be forgiven and live as children of God. We love You! 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: **God knows you through and through. He loves you with a love that’s deep, wide, and strong—stronger than life itself. May God help you always follow Him joyfully, today and all your days. Go with God and let your life share His wonder with the world.**and let the kids finish the statements.