

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

- Play Stations:
 - Wax Sticks and Pipe Cleaners
 - Mirror Drawing
 - My Life Can Tell Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: 1 Peter 2:9a
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Color Dice
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Child of God Invitations
- Game: Invited into God's Family



[My Life Can Tell Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



INVITATION

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

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WORD OF WONDER: 1 Peter 2:9a

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).



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

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WORD OF WONDER: 1 Peter 2:9a

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: wax sticks in a variety of colors, pipe cleaners in a variety of colors, medium-sized mirrors (several), dry-erase markers in a variety of colors, erasers, coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [My Life Can Tell 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 church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Wax Sticks and Pipe Cleaners

Set-up: Set out wax sticks and pipe cleaners.

Play: Encourage kids to use the wax sticks and pipe cleaners to make a pretend family. Tell them they'll learn today about what it means to be invited into God's family.

Play Station: Mirror Drawing

Set-up: Set out medium-sized mirrors, dry-erase markers in a variety of colors, and erasers.

Play: Encourage kids to use the markers to draw self-portraits on the mirrors as they look at themselves. Let them know they'll learn how their lives can be a reflection of God's wonder.

Play Station: My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Ahead of time, print one Coloring Sheet for each kid. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their family.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, mirror, dry-erase marker

Ahead of time, write “Child of God” on the mirror with a dry-erase marker.

"Our verse reminds us we're loved and treasured by God. You can be a part of His family as a child of God. You're made in His image. God knows you. Jesus loves you. The Holy Spirit leads you. God's amazing story changes your own. When you choose to join God's amazing story, your story changes. We get to follow Jesus and listen to His Spirit. Because of God's story, we get to become a wonder-filled reflection of God to the world as children of God. Let's all take turns looking in the mirror and saying our verse!"

WORD OF WONDER

You are God's special treasure.

—1 Peter 2:9a

Review the verse with the kids using the motions. Then invite the kids to come look into the mirror one at a time and say the verse as they look at their reflections.

Leader Tip: It's great when kids know the words of a passage—but it's far more important for them to understand the meaning. Debriefing with questions is one way to ensure understanding; don't skimp on the time you spend with questions!

God is Creator of all. God is good, and He created us in His own image. God knows us. Remember, He made you on purpose for a purpose, and you are a special treasure to Him. Your life can share His wonder with the world and show people what He is like!

Encourage the kids to say and do it with you:

- **YOU ARE**—Point to everyone in the room.
- **GOD'S**—Point up.
- **SPECIAL TREASURE**.—Burst your arms up and over your head to your sides.
- **1 PETER 2:9**—Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What do you think it means to be treasured and loved by God?**
- **How do you know God loves you? How does it make you feel?**

God's Big Story / Snack

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."

Read Galatians 4:4–7 from an NiRV Bible and pages 324–328 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.

Circle Time: Color Dice

SUPPLIES: color dice (2), small cubes (2, optional), markers (optional)

Gather the kids and have them sit in a circle. Gather two color dice (or make your own by coloring the sides of two small cubes, each side a different color).

"Have you ever played with dice? Pause for answers. **Each side looks different, but they are all a part of one cube. It reminds me of how we all can be a part of God's family. We're all unique and can share God's wonder and His story in different ways, but there's one thing that brings us together as one, like the dice—being children of God, adopted into His family!**

We'll use the dice to help us talk about our story today. You'll each take a turn rolling a die, and whatever color it lands on, you'll answer a question that goes with that color." If your dice colors are different, tweak the colors below.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Orange—Share about your family. Who is in your family? What makes your family special?**
- **Blue—How do you know your family loves you?**
- **Red—How do you know God loves you?**
- **Yellow—How can someone become a part of the family of God?**
- **Green—If you love God, why? What is it about God that you love?**
- **Purple—What is something good about being a part of God's family?**
- **Pink—What is one way you can share God's wonder?**

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 thank God for knowing us, loving us, and leading us. God hears all our prayers!

Head to Large Group!

Responding in Worship: Child of God Invitations

SUPPLIES: envelopes (8), scissors (prep only), markers (optional), stickers (optional)

RESOURCES: [God's Family Notes\(1 per SG\)](#), songs from the [My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print the God's Family Notes, put one note in each envelope, and close the envelopes. Gather kids together. **"Because God knows, loves, and leads us, our lives can tell of God's wonder. You are invited to join God's family by trusting Jesus as your Savior! What are some good things about being a part of your family on earth?"** Allow the kids to respond. Remember and be sensitive to kids who are in different family situations.

We'll talk about what it means to be a part of God's family. There are eight envelopes with invitations inside. We'll take turns opening them, and I'll read each invitation. Imagine the invitation is from God to you. After I read each invitation, you can pray and tell God thank you! Then you can clap and cheer to thank Him for loving us so much and giving us the chance to be a part of His family."



Choose eight kids (or you can reuse the envelopes and give every child a chance to open one) to each pick and open an envelope. Allow the kids to open each envelope and bring it to you to read aloud. After you read it, encourage the kids to pray, thanking God for what you said. The envelopes do not have to be opened in a particular order. You can play a worship song from the [My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) during the activity.

The kids can also decorate the envelopes with markers and stickers as you do the activity.

The letters say:

- Dear child, you're invited to ... trust Jesus as your Savior.
- Dear child, you're invited to ... become a child of God.
- Dear child, you're invited to ... become adopted into God's family.
- Dear child, you're invited to ... have the Holy Spirit live inside of you and lead you.
- Dear child, you're invited to ... live with God forever.
- Dear child, you're invited to ... be forgiven and set free from sin.
- Dear child, you're invited to ... be a messenger of God to the world and reflect God's wonder.
- Dear child, you're invited to ... be known by God, loved by Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, and able to share God's wonder as a child of God.

Game: Invited into God's Family

Ahead of time, designate one side of the room as the "God's Family" side and the other side of the room as the "Earthly Family" side. Point out each side to the kids.

We're going to play a game where I will say a phrase, and if it describes something that's part of being in God's family, you'll run to the "God's Family" side of the room. If it describes something that's a part of an earthly family, you'll run to the other side of the room. Remember that the earthly family things aren't bad things!

Read the following phrases and pause after each phrase to encourage the kids to run to either side of the room. You can instruct them to go back to the middle of the room after each phrase, or they can simply stay where they are.

Make It Inclusive! For kids who are unable to move quickly to each side, you can have them point, or even toss a soft ball, toward each side.

- Trust Jesus as my Savior (God's family)
- Have a little sister (earthly family)
- Become a child of God (God's family)
- Go on a family picnic (earthly family)
- Become adopted into God's family (God's family)
- Holy Spirit comes into my heart (God's family)
- Celebrate a birthday with a grandparent (earthly family)
- Live with God forever (God's family)
- Have a family movie night (earthly family)